

Wellingtonia



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PP Number 100020008

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2019

'News from the President'



FRIENDS OF BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

First, I would like to thank Vice President Terry O'Brien for standing in at the August General Meeting, during my absence overseas. I understand the meeting was very successful with a large number attending.

Fernery Update. Unfortunately the long drawn out saga of the Fernery continues. Whilst the site has finally been cleared there is still no sign of the new structure being commenced. I was hoping to be in a position where I could report some positive news on the progress, but it's proving to be very difficult to get any information on the reasons for the delay. I can only speculate that it's being held up by Heritage Victoria, which contradicts earlier reports that final approval had been given.

This will be discussed with the City of Ballarat at a meeting scheduled for October 1st, together with our involvement in the landscaping of stage 1, and our potential contribution to the design of stage 2. I was hoping that these discussions would have already occurred and that documentation would

"...the site has finally been cleared (but) there is still no sign of the new structure being commenced."



Photo taken mid-September of the demolished Fernery

now be well under way, which would have enabled a smooth and timely transition for the completion of the project.

You will have noticed that part of the structure of the original Fernery still remains. The reason for this is to retain access to the Craft Cottage, otherwise the whole area would be fenced off as a construction site.

Donation Box: After quite a bit of investigation into a new donation box in the Conservatory, I am pleased to report that a replacement has now been installed. It has been incorporated into the Ambassadors bench with updated imagery, which hopefully will attract more attention from potential donors.

Also, it is intended that three new brochure holders will be mounted on the front of the bench to hold FBBG Membership Applications, Activities for You, and the Foundation brochures. After discussion with Peter Marquand it was felt that all other brochures could remain in the entrance doorway, which Peter has taken the initiative to update with new imagery.

A revolutionary new fundraising payment solution known as **"Point Tap"** will also be installed on the Ambassadors bench. This is a contactless credit card reader with a colour display and 3G mobile connection to a selected bank. By setting a pre-configured donation amount, which initially will be \$8, donations can be accepted electronically from anybody with a Visa or MasterCard. Donations are processed online with revenue deposited daily into a nominated bank account, in this case the *Botanical Gardens Foundation* account. This device will also have the ability to record the donation amount on the donor's bank account for a tax deduction.

Website Update: As previously reported the website is undergoing a make-over. All Convenors have been requested to contribute by telling the story of their respective interest groups, which will make the website far more comprehensive and meaningful. Whilst this is still work in progress it should be completed shortly.

Foundation: In order to clarify the relationship between the Foundation and the City of Ballarat, a *Memorandum of Understanding* has been drawn up. This will be presented to the City of Ballarat and discussed at a meeting, among other issues, scheduled for October 1st.

Continues page 2...

Two Special Spring Garden Tours:

Sunday, November 10 at 11 am:
Remembrance Day Tour
with morning tea. Gold Coin Donation

Sunday, November 17 at 4.30 pm
Dig for Ideas in the Western Bed
Wine and nibbles. \$10
(Bookings essential)



Patron of the Ballarat Friends:
Prof. Tim Entwisle,
Director and Chief Executive,
Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

See page 7 for new extracts
from Tim's Blog this time
focusing in passing on one
of Ballarat's oaks

Another initiative taken by the Foundation is to draw attention to **the need for continued funding of the Prime Minister's Busts** along the Prime Minister's Avenue. Discussions with the City of Ballarat and the Prime Minister's Office are on-going and are looking promising at this stage.

It is with some sadness to learn that roses authority and author, **Susan Irvine**, died in Tasmania in early September. Born in Queensland in 1928, it was only after retiring in the early 1980's that she devoted herself to horticulture, quickly establishing a reputation as an authority on roses. After creating a much acclaimed garden and nursery at Bleak House in Malmsbury, she went onto to create another garden in Gisborne and yet another in Tasmania.

She was also pivotal in saving lost roses. In the 1980's and '90's she embarked on a project to find and preserve the many Alister Clark

roses that had been lost after the breeder's death in 1949. I'm sure many members are in possession of her informative and engaging books relating to all things roses. Vale Susan.

November is shaping up to be a busy month of activities, see details further in this issue (see *page 11*). Needless to say there will be a call on volunteers during the month, particularly for **Springfest**.

I look forward to catching up with Members at the **Speakers' Luncheon** on November 15, and at our **Christmas Function** (including the 'opening' of the **Gatekeeper's Cottage**) on November 21.

Robert Selkirk.

Below: Flyer for Speakers' Luncheon, Friday, November 15

\$70/Friends \$65 Bookings essential.

www.trybooking.com/BESMT OR www.trybooking.com/539779

More info www.fbbg.org.au OR Tel. 5342 9354

Designing for small spaces and challenging sites

Sandra McMahon (Gardenscape Design) is an award-winning student of Burnley College, where she now lectures in Planting Design and is President of the Friends of Burnley Gardens. At heart a plantswoman, her business focuses on plants for structure and developing sustainable and therapeutic gardens of all sizes.



Beautiful natural water features, and the innovation behind them

Ben Harris (Ben Harris Designs) studied at Burnley College and NMIT and worked with Paul Bangay and Martin Hopkins. He is inspired by the Japanese masters and natural elements like rocks and water. In 2018 he travelled to Kyoto, Japan, to study at the Research Centre for Japanese Garden Art & Historical Heritage.



The Benefit of the Living Vertical Garden

Len Isakov (Wild Seeds) has been involved in farming and gardening industries, completing studies in horticulture and landscape design at Holmesglen. His company installs living walls, vertical gardens and green walls to fit interior and exterior sites. He has worked extensively developing vertical gardens in schools.



Vale John Vernon:

At the recent passing of John Vernon, we reflect on his contribution to the Ballarat Botanical Gardens and the Friends.



During the earliest period in the formation of the Friends, the Statue House was in a state of disrepair, unsafe and marked for demolition. John was vehement in his advocacy for its restoration and ultimate preservation.

John and wife Jenny remained staunch members of the Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens, a place John held dear to his heart.

Elizabeth Gilfillan

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Friends are pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined since the last issue of Wellingtonia:



Pat Cerra,
Daryl Smart,
Lester Brooker,
Carla & Brian Woodruff,
Stephen Reilly,
Lynne Rodda,
Judith Joyce,
Anna Watts & family, and
Laura & Joseph Van Dyke.

Total Membership is currently 369.

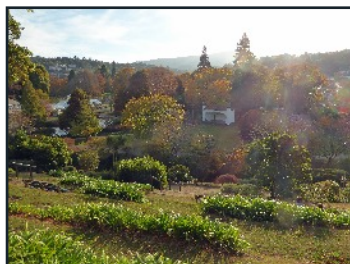
If you are unsure if you have renewed or not, please contact me at 5335 9052 or email me at rdixon578@gmail.com.

**Raoul Dixon –
Membership Officer**

GUIDING FRIENDS – *A GUIDE WENT TRAVELLING!*

In the Winter edition *Wellingtonia* featured reports on the Hanoi Flower Market, Gardens of Japan, Christchurch Botanical Gardens and Larnach Castle Gardens. These were part of exciting international tours by Sandie de Groot, Elizabeth Gilfillan and Michael Bird. Here are two more reports from Michael's NZ trip.

DUNEDIN BOTANIC GARDEN: The Dunedin Botanic Garden, established in 1863, is the oldest botanical garden in New Zealand. Like Ballarat, the DBG is divided into parts; the two parts are known simply as the upper gardens and the lower gardens. There is a vertical difference of about 60 metres between the two levels.



The lower garden includes the Winter Garden, a heated Edwardian glass house, rose and herb gardens, a duck pond, children's playground, sound shell, and a Japanese garden. The upper level's major features include a geographic plant collection, a small aviary, native plant collection and an extensive rhododendron dell.

In July 2010, the Dunedin Botanic Garden was awarded a rank of "*Garden of International Significance*" by the New Zealand Gardens Trust, becoming one of only five NZ gardens to be awarded this honour. The only other garden in the South Island of NZ with this ranking is also in Dunedin, at **Larnach Castle** (see *Winter Wellingtonia*, page 4).

WELLINGTON BOTANIC GARDENS: The Wellington Botanic Garden covers 25 hectares of unique landscape, protected native forest, conifers, specialised plant collections, colourful floral displays and views over Wellington city. The large and airy conservatory is adjacent to a well-laid out rose garden.



"As is the gardener so is the garden." Anon.

Friends' Spring General Meeting:

Over 50 members braved the wintry weather to enjoy a virtual summer tour of two significant European botanical gardens, with Lynsey Poore as our engaging and knowledgeable guide. Vice President of the *Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens* and President of the *South Melbourne Garden Club*, Lynsey's career has involved science teaching and demonstrating biology at Monash University. Her retirement has enabled her to travel to gardens throughout the world and she spoke of two of her favourites, the *Oxford Botanical Gardens* and the *Jardin Botanico Historico La Concepcion*, Malaga.

Though both gardens are centuries old, they are very different in size, origin and content. The small (1.8h) Oxford garden was established in 1631 as a Physic Garden, for medicinal plants and used to teach botany. Established on reclaimed land from the Sherwill River flood plain by the Earl of Danby, it began as a formal walled garden, with different species in rectangular beds. Its famous glasshouses enabled the growing of a wide range of plants, including palms, waterlilies, cacti and carnivorous plants.

As with many English gardens, the border planting is changed seasonally and different gardens reflect changing areas of interest. Recent developments include 'Plants that have affected the world' and wildflower meadows and sustainable gardens. As well as a place for study by many important Botanists, these gardens have inspired Lewis Carol and his

illustrator John Teniels (*Alice in Wonderland*), J.R.R. Tolkien and Evelyn Waugh (*Brideshead Revisited*).

The *Jardin Botanico Historico La Concepcion* was established in 1855 by the Marquis and Marchioness of Loring, who turned a dusty valley into a lush tropical garden by building an aqueduct. They commissioned plant hunters world-wide to find rare species and planted avenues of palms, Plane trees, Wisteria, dry and water gardens and curiosities, such as carnivorous plants. The garden was further developed by subsequent owners and statues, lookouts and water courses added. After a period of neglect from 1963, it was purchased by the City of Malaga, restored and opened to the public in 1994.

In our own Botanic Gardens, Vice President Terry O'Brien reported on progress on the Fernery, new Donation Box, website and logo and various groups' activities. Julie Bradby spoke enthusiastically about the constant use and development of the *Gatekeeper's Cottage* and the *BotaniKids* expanding programs. Carole Haines reminded members about the upcoming bus trip, Speakers Luncheon, Christmas Drinks and *SpringFest*. Terry outlined upcoming tours by the Guides and the *U3A* course in 2020 and congratulated Warwick Sellens, as our new representative on the *AAFBG*. As usual a delicious morning tea was enjoyed by all.

Susan Pilbeam

A SPECIAL BOTANIKIDS AND GATEKEEPER'S COTTAGE REPORT:

THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED BY ROBYN, ONE OF THE EDUCATORS INVOLVED WITH THE CITY OF BALLARAT HOMECARE PROGRAM. (10 SEPTEMBER, 2019)

Observation: As we approached the new home for Botanikids at the Gatekeepers Cottage we were greeted by Julie, who was off to find some leaves to make puppets.

From the start the children's minds started buzzing with ideas; Basil "How is she going to make a puppet from a leaf?" Rhen, "I know, the thing that sticks the leaf to the tree". Educator, "You mean the stem?" Rhen, "Yes, the stem, that can be used as the thing to hold the puppet!" Then the children spotted the flowers on the deck and ran over to look at them. "What kind are they?" "Nasturtiums I think". Georgia who has been learning colours said "Pink".

By the time Julie came back from her walk other Family Day Care groups had arrived and all the children lined up and Julie said, "Good morning children, and now you say 'good morning Julie'". The children said good morning to Julie and wiped their feet before entering the cottage!

We took our coats off and sat down for a story about different trees and how they change. Jaymes pointed out the window and said "I see trees there with leaves". Julie added, "and bare trees as well". We sang 'Dear sun show your face chase the clouds off into space', stood and pretended to be trees blowing in the wind as well as balancing on one leg.

Craft followed, re-purposed cardboard boxes with roofs and doors that opened, were decorated with cut out pictures and wool remnants. Requests were made for people to be created to live inside. Pride was taken in their work, Georgia pointed at her house and said "Mine, mine" and smiled.

A walk was taken to collect the leaves to make puppets. First we stopped at a large elm to look for sticks with moss. "Smell the moss" Julie said. The tree was then climbed and touched and explored and everyone was busy.

Shiny good looking magnolia leaves were put into Julie's basket and we returned to the cottage where pots with succulents were waiting.

Each child took a pot to fill with stones and bark, then peat, then a succulent (a fun word to learn to say), topped with stones and our moss covered sticks. Discussions were had about how to care for a plant and the rhyme we had learnt earlier was sung.

Afterwards everyone washed their hands and we headed indoors where bowls had been filled with fruit and pumpkin cake for morning tea.

We finished the day making our puppets, the stems were indeed attached to sticks to hold the puppet. Sticker eyes and mouths were

also used and a hole punch to make holes to thread wool onto them. Puppet play extended our stay with most children using their puppets to have conversations with not only each other but the other educators and especially Julie and June.

We then all helped pack up and thanked Julie and June for a wonderful morning. When parents arrived for pick up, each child showed off their houses and plants and puppets and told a story about their day.

Outcomes: Children are connected with and contribute to their world. Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment.

These are evident when children use play to investigate, to project and to explore new ideas. They also demonstrate an increasing knowledge of and respect for the natural and constructed environments, and show care for these environments.

Children have a sense of identity. Children feel safe, secure and supported in this type of play. This is evident when children build secure attachments with one another. This extends as they become more familiar with educators, responding with a feeling of belonging through relationships and play.

Further learning: Many nature walks will be taken including scooting to the botanical gardens to explore, investigate and play amongst the trees and windy paths.

We will also prepare our own veggie garden choosing veggies to plant and caring for them before harvesting and cooking. We may collaborate with other groups and showcase our produce.

Reflection: The children felt very comfortable in the new Gatekeepers Cottage and settled right back into the routine of Botanikids. Through structure there is freedom for the children to explore, learn new skills, practise sitting and engage through stories while building secure relationships with the volunteers.

They are always greeted with a smile and interest is shown in all that the children do. The children respond to this and show confidence to ask questions and investigate new ideas. It is especially rewarding to see the quieter children to feel comfortable with the volunteers and engage with them in play, even expressing their comfort and joy by freely giving a hug and smile out of the blue.

Contributed by Robyn, Ballarat Homecare program



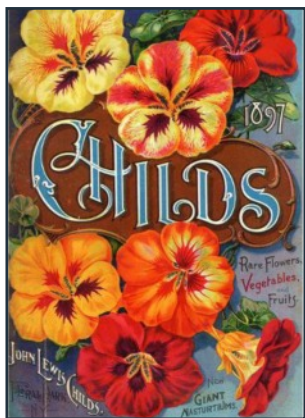
HISTORY GROUP REPORT:

Ballarat Botanical Gardens is, of course, the centre of our own known universe, but from its very beginning as a provincial outpost of the British Empire, it was extremely well connected in the world of horticulture and gardening.

Botanising and plant collecting had become a real indicator of a modern and civilised society and the **Ballaarat West Council** took great pride and interest in having the most novel and best of collections in its newly established Botanical Gardens, with the Town Clerk of the day in charge of the orders. Plants flowed in from many parts of the globe.

For example, in the early 1860's, Town Clerk Mr Joseph Coombs ordered seeds of the new sensation in the horticultural world, *Wellingtonia* (now *Sequoiadendron giganteum*) directly from San Francisco seed merchants, for growing and planting in our Botanical Gardens! This would become our most significant feature, the mile long *Sequoiadendron* avenue.

During 1897 and 1898, on behalf of the Council, the Town Clerk, George Perry, ordered selected *Chrysanthemums* from the florist, Mr Beggs of North Adelaide, accepted 'a valued collection of bulbs' from Mr Anstis of Neil Street, and asked Hobart's Mr Latham for information regarding scented *Azaleas*.



Internationally, Kelway and Son of Langport in Somerset Great Britain, were requested to supply gladioli bulbs and Cannell and Sons of Swansley in Kent had a substantial order to fill.

As if that wasn't enough, an order for plants and seeds to the value of £2.4.0 was sent to John Lewis Childs of New York and £8.5.0 of tulip bulbs were imported from Messrs Van Meerbeek in Holland!



last solitary Cycad, *Encephalartos woodii*. Today this last of the species sits in solitary confinement in the Kew Gardens Palm House, without a mate for over a century.

For our Gardens, a selected list from the *Durban Public Gardens No. 3 Catalogue* was marked as desirable, and duly arrived. In return the Council shipped by the S.S. *Warrigal* a small box of seeds, 'the first product of the latest imported American and English flora' and apologising that 'this part of Australia is not productive of much variety of indigenous vegetation'.

However Ballarat could supply "from an extensive list of Cactus, Dahlias and Cannas if that was desirable".

At the same time, a local identity and member of the Old Colonists, Mr T.C. Naples was travelling the Indian Ocean, visiting St Denis on Re-Union [sic] Island near Mauritius and Durban in Natal as well as other ports, establishing connections, and organising for plant exchanges.

One outcome was a connection with a certain Mr John Medley Wood, a leading South African cycad and palm specialist working in Durban and now more famous for providing Kew Gardens with the



Lorraine Powell, Convenor

Ambassadors Report:



The Ambassadors' have resumed manning the Conservatory from the beginning of September.

Two new people have joined our ranks, which is helpful as we have lost two Ambassadors due to illness.

On Wednesday, September 4, Donna Thomas gave us an interesting walk through the Conservatory, and also spoke of some changes to garden beds, e.g. bonica roses have been removed, and will be replaced by plants sympathetic to the round central bed.

Another bed of native plants is to be established. **Beth Dixon, Convenor**

BALLARAT'S NEW REPRESENTATIVE ON THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS:

Warwick Sellens, Ballarat Botanical Gardens Friend, and a member of the Ballarat Guides has recently been nominated to the committee of AAFBG.

He has lived in the Ballarat area for 35 years and worked at Ballarat High School as a mathematics teacher. Since retiring ten years ago he and wife Julie have had one or two overseas trips each year; most recently to South East Asia and then more recently to the "-stans" in Central Asia.

Warwick is a keen photographer, bush walker, Gardens Guide and has a fondness for the natural environment. "My favourite place in the Botanical Gardens is currently the Wet Lands precinct." You will have seen Warwick's excellent photos in *Wellingtonia* over recent years.

Good luck in your new role Warwick.



The Association's website: <https://friendsbotanicgardens.org/>



Australasian Botanic Guides Conference – King's Park, Perth

Ballarat Guides Convenor Terry O'Brien has recently returned from Perth where he attended the Australasian Botanic Guides Conference. "The 16th Australasian Botanic Guides Conference at Kings Park, Perth had as its title 'Beauty Rich and Rare' and was a celebration of WA's plants. I am sure many of you will have been on plant hunts in your travels and will appreciate "*Where the Wildflowers Are*" by Stephen Scourfield. This was read by Stephen with projection of stunning images of WA landscape and was an uplifting start to a most interesting conference.

Where the Wildflowers Are (Stephen Scourfield)

First there is just the cracked earth.
There is red bulldust, fine as talc ... finding its way into everything.
Then there is a dark circle the size of a 10 cent piece
... and another and another, and with it ... salty air
as the land turns to blood-mud.
Western Australia ... just add water.

And this trailing edge
of this ancient continent leached and
bleached so often parched becomes ...
The Wildflower State ...
this natural garden of 12,000 species.
For this is Where the Wildflowers Are.

The blooming falls soft as a veil —
harlequin organza drifting southwards
from the Kimberley mid year.
When the Kimberley has a big wet
season, the country's jumping ...
mistletoe bright as lipstick hibertia ...
those cups of sun and Kimberley rose
... brachychiton, blazing red.

When the Pilbara gets drenched, too, we bump down is tracks
— never seen the mulla mulla so big ...
diaphanous purple, flue-brushes of pilotus quivering against a China
blue sky or the rusted wreck of a car body spent gomphrena soft
among hard stones ... still shifting in the sifting breeze ..
and then the spinifex ... my goodness ... triodia like a still-wet dot
painting pinpricking the canvas of a scree slopechinky chips of
iron ore.

And the black and red eyed stars of the annual show ...
Sturt's desert peas partying along the verges (in numbers)
We head on southwards, seeking the spreads
of everlastings ...yellow paperflower fields
and whites with confetti petals, blue buttons
delicate in small patches in shade ...
... to old haunts on the Yalgoo Road and out at Ninghan Station
straddling the mulga-eucalypt line delicate Aster-a-ceae
set against the arid earth and the myrtaceous hillsides.

That gossamer veil of the season continues to drift south (as do I)
We see the season along the coast —
There's a small smorgasbord served at Coalseam with black carbon
still seen ... And siltstones claystones sandstones
... striping the cliff faces, telling a 250 million year story in this home of
more than 300 species of native flowering plants.
At Lesueur, there's maybe 10 per cent of WA's known flora.

Smokebush is unobvious most of the year
and then ... white and woolly conospermum doing its thing.
Emu bush ... Poverty bush eremophila in abundance
from a metre, to four with flowers of
... purple, red, pink white, cream, yellow
Purple flags.
Kangaroo paws.
Wreath flowers at Pindar.
There will be shows of senna, nectar-
less,
but ready to offer powdery reward to
buzzing pollinators.

And now I'm on my knees in patches of
shade looking at orchids.
(Or, rather, looking for orchids.)
"There," says my companion.
I squint. "There!"
And, once you get your eye in, there
they are dozens of delicacies ...
Slipper and spider cowslip and crested,
and donkey, of course
(there's always a donkey among us).

And if you're lucky this year, Hare and Rabbit
Bunny and Blue Sun
Rattle Beak and Babe-in-a-Cradle
(There're all out there ... " ... There." (" ... there!")

The inland deserts are gardened by aridity
... these eye-height woodlands of delicate
trees
... miniritchie with red bark like living
shavings
... red dunes
... a cave where a stick nest rat once was
... shrub steppes of acacia over spinifex ...
dunefields and low ranges.
Just add water to WA ...

... the big monsoonal rains of the last
significant wet season in the Kimberley
the consistent soaking of the Pilbara
the tails of cyclones coming in over the
Mid-West coast, dumping in the deserts;
fronts pushing in to the South West and, down on the south coast,
where granite edges the rollicking Southern Ocean
like nibbled piecrust
and blinding white beaches
... fragmented weather fronts bringing, well ... a blooming good year
(and that had to be said, somewhere in this).

Just add water to WA and it is all of this ...

For this is ***Where the Wildflowers Are*** ...
planted across this ancient continent painted onto this ancient canvas

...
And this is ***Where the Wildflowers Are*** ...
planted in King's Park's wonderful botanic garden painted onto its
curated canvas ...
We are fortunate in WA.
For this is where the wildflowers are ...
all around us. "

Terry O'Brien, Guides Convenor



Don't forget: 'SPEAKERS SPRING LUNCHEON' - FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2019

It is certainly great to finally see some sun after a cold and wet winter. Ballarat has received above average rainfall for the last few months while not far away farmers are experiencing drought. It is a country of extremes!



The gardens are hosting two photographic exhibitions as part of this year's **Photo Biennale**. The windows of the Statuary Pavilion have been transformed with images taken by Pato Hebert, each of which incorporates the costumed figure of the artist inhabiting various landscapes. The Conservatory exhibition by Diana Lelonek shows abandoned objects merging with natural ecosystems. Photo Biennale finishes mid-October.



During September and early October, we will be installing steel edging on several of our annual garden beds near the Statue Pavilion and along the main walk. The installation of edging will mean the gardeners will no longer need to manually cut the edges and the beds will now be the same depth and have nice straight edges.

We have engaged an irrigation designer to commence an irrigation design for the eventual upgrade of the gardens irrigation systems. Further design stages will look at areas such as the Lake foreshore and playground area, the North and South Gardens. The current system is largely over forty years old and is restricted by old technology and aging infrastructure which impacts on our ability to water the gardens plant collections and lawn areas. The installation of a new system will be a budget dependant major capital project. The first stage of sourcing funding is to have a design and an estimate of costs.



Over the last few weeks on Fridays we have been hosting eleven Certificate 2 in Horticulture students from the Ballarat Specialist School who are undertaking work experience as part of their studies. We have kept them busy spreading over one hundred cubic metres of mulch through out the gardens. One of the highlights for us has been how happy and productive they are undertaking tasks we may not have time to undertake. The work experience program will continue until the end of the school year.

One of my favourite spring plants are the deciduous magnolias. For much of the year we do not take any notice of them, in early spring they herald the new season when they burst into flower on bare branches.

Peter Marquand, Curator

O, wind, if (a Ballarat) winter comes, can spring be far behind? Apologies to Percy Bysshe Shelley Ed.

Talking Plants

talkingplants.blogspot.com
September 17, 2019

Patron of the Ballarat Friends:
Prof. Tim Entwistle,
Director and Chief Executive, Royal
Botanic Gardens, Melbourne



Holm Oak proffers a prickly future

"I read recently, in some book or other, about a tree called the Encina, growing in California. I gather this is what they call the Coast Live Oak. Live oaks are oaks that keep their leaves, more or less, throughout the year. That is, they are not (blatantly) deciduous.

Quercus ilex is a well known tree from the Mediterranean. Landscape designer Miguel Urquijo, standing in a garden he created just out of Ávila, in northern Spain, describes the landscape around there (as you can see in the picture above) as mostly Quercus ilex, with a bit of grass and rocks. That's true for much of the (largely modified by human) landscape of Spain and Portugal. To the west of the Iberian Peninsula the Cork Oak, Quercus suber, joins the grass and rocks as a landscape partner to the Holm Oak.

But I digress. In reality, the name Encina is applied to a local species in California (and Mexico), Quercus agrifolia: 'agri' for coarse or rough, 'folia' for leaves. Like Quercus ilex this species has rough leaves, resembling in outline at times, those of the holly plant.

I know the Holm Oak better than the Coast Live Oak. It's a lovely tree, I think, and a species we should plant more often in Australia. Roger Spencer, in *'HortFlora'*, says Holm Oak is found in old parks and gardens in south-eastern Australia, particularly New South Wales. I gather it was popular around the turn of the 19th/20th centuries.

It does suit dry, hot climates though so for southern Australia this is a good plant for a larger climate-adapting garden. (A mature specimen exists in the Ballarat Gardens; worth a look along Wendouree Parade, not far from the floral clock. Ed.)



Holm oak in the
Ballarat Gardens

CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN THE BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS – UPDATE

Nursery: In the nursery, the Begonia tubers will soon stir out of their winter dormancy, and the team will start the task of inspecting, grading & potting up our 2300 or so tuberous Begonias in readiness for the Begonia festival. Although the Begonias are only on display for 6 weeks, these little sleeping beauties actually keep us busy for around nine months of the year– but we think they're worth it!



*Senecio behrianus
flowers at Miners Rest
Wetlands*

Conservation project update: The Stiff Groundsel (*Senecio behrianus*) found in the Miners Rest Wetlands, is one of only five known wild populations of this plant, and forms one of our conservation projects. In the latest exciting step in the project - we have now successfully propagated and planted a population of this endangered plant in the Australia Bed. This 'back-up' population will help safeguard the species against any future potential pest or disease challenges of the wild population.

In the gardens: The McDonald Gate entrance beds have been renovated and extended, including new irrigation. This garden will soon be planted out in herbaceous perennials creating a vibrant, floral, southern entrance into gardens.



Hibernating Begonia tubers

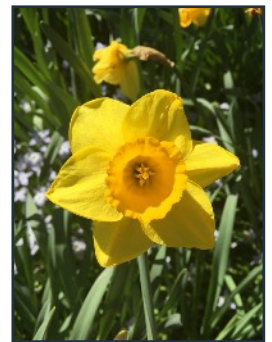
Favourite spring flower: Working in a botanical gardens how do you choose your favourite spring flower? No hesitation... the daffodil!! Vibrant, they literally 'trumpet' the arrival of spring and bring an enormous warmth around the gardens at a time when we're still not as convinced!



*L-R Glen, Jake and Dan behind the newly renovated
and extended McDonald Gate Gardens*

In the language of flowers, they also represent new hope and vitality, and its this important message it brings to the Cancer Council identity.

Ballarat has long identified with the gorgeous daffodil. So popular were they in early Ballarat, they had their own solo flower exhibitions throughout the first half of the 20th century, and during the second world war over 10,000 daffodil bulbs were grown in our gardens by the Ballarat Horticultural Society, which were then sold for the Red Cross war effort. Daffodils were also sold by the 'Lucas Girls' as one of the fund-raisers for the Arch of Victory that we so love. (See 'Growing A Garden City' – Michael Taffe).



Tough, almost indestructible and rarely imperfect, they have the strength to remain 'smiling' in paddocks long after old houses have vanished. Gorgeous!

Donna Thomas, Plant Collections Officer, Ballarat

Botanical Art Report:

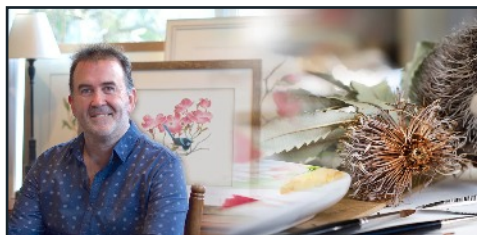
The botanical art group continues to enjoy meeting and all things illustrating.

There has been great enthusiasm for the painting of 'rare and endangered plants of the Ballarat area'. Our biggest challenged is in finding the specimens. We plan another trip to the Re-vegetation nursery near Harcourt, Spring should yield some more plants and with more advanced growth. We have been able paint a few and look forward to more.

The group continues with about eight regulars and a couple of others who attend occasionally.

A workshop with David Reynolds is set for Saturday October 5.

David is an excellent watercolour illustrator with many year's experience in painting and teaching.



David Reynolds from his website

We look forward to learning more skills from him.

Valerie Richards

**An annual Ballarat
Friend's Membership
costs a mere \$25 for
an individual. Might
just be the perfect
present!**

*"In the Spring, I have
counted 136 different
kinds of weather inside
of 24 hours."*

Mark Twain

IF YOU NEED TO PAY US SOME MONEY:

Please remember to identify yourself, when paying
into our bank

account and even **what the payment is for**.

A good method is to use your surname
and initial/s as your ID.*

Please **state what the payment is for**,
e.g. membership, bus trip, etc.

The Friends' bank details are:
BSB 633 000 Acc. No. 125334615

*** make sure that you clearly identify
yourself when making an electronic
payment.**

WESTERN BED TOUR, SUNDAY, NOV. 17 AT 4.30 PM

This very long bed stretches the length of the Gillies Street fence. Its length of 440 yards appeals to runners who are in training. It is a bed transformed over time. George Seddon, a gardener in the 70's, described it as "waterlogged and filled with rubbish" (horticultural rubbish - nondescript plants).

Friends and garden staff have worked on its transformation since the mid 90's so that now it has colour and interest. The 10 bays that were developed had plantings of different colours and different lands.

A recent transformation by the garden staff in the western Bed is the newly developed local native plants garden. An interesting display of these plants amongst the paths, rock and wood sleepers has been created. It shows a garden with many different textures, colour, pleasing style and gentle impact. Best of all these plants suit our climate.

The western bed is a source of ideas for the home gardener.

The guiding Friends invite you to **a twilight tour of this part of Ballarat Botanical Gardens on November 17 at 4.30 pm.** Refer to details re booking in this Wellingtonia (see page 11). There will be advice about steps needed to achieve success in developing your home garden and some analysis of different sites along the western Bed.

We will complete the tour with more discussion and wine and nibbles.

Terry O'Brien, Guides Convenor



'Garden Cuttings' by Green-Thumb

- Have you been into the Conservatory to view the current floral display and the photo exhibition? While there you can see the newly refurbished Ambassadors information counter which incorporates the new donation box. (Remember the old clear Perspex one which was smashed in a robbery a few months back?)
- The Gardens are hosting three different exhibitions as part of the Ballarat Photo Biennale.
- Did you know Central Highlands Water are keen to provide 'an interactive water playground' in the Botanical Gardens precinct? GT isn't sure what is proposed nor where exactly. Watch this space!
- Admin Assistant Susan Pilbeam and the History Group Convenor Lorraine Powell have been busy restructuring the office space behind the George Longley Room. They say it is "an incremental change". The office is still shared with Joy O'Brien and her engraving computer. Incidentally this equipment may have come to the end of its operational life and has experienced serious malfunctions recently. New one is pricey, but will be needed.
- Despite the mesh netting installed around the floral display beds along the main path from Wendouree Parade to the Conservatory, those blessed waterbirds totally ignored them and have destroyed hundreds of tulips, violas, etc.! Who'd have thought? 2020 plantings will be reviewed with a view to make them less palatable!
- The snail-pace progress of the reconstruction of the Fernery continues to frustrate. GT isn't sure why. Heritage Victoria is an easy target for blame, but whispers of cost changes have been heard too.

until next time...Green Thumb

How is your free time looking?

You might be interested to find out a bit more about some of the Friends Groups: the Ambassadors, Guides, Growers and BotaniKids can always use extra volunteers.

Contact Susan at info@fbbg.org.au or 5342 9354



Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!' Robin Williams

BALLARAT GARDEN DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

- **Formosa Gardens Nursery** 5% off all stock
- **Grow Master** 5% off plant purchases excl. adv. Trees
- **Spot on Pots** 10% off all purchases.

You will need to show your FBBG membership card

THE GATEKEEPER'S COTTAGE IN MINIATURE

Stephen Kendall began model making as a teenager, creating terrace houses out of milk cartons. Always on the lookout for a challenging project, he became interested in the *Gatekeeper's Cottage* renovation.

After contacting the FBBG he met with Julie Bradby and architect Andrew Fedorowicz to clarify usage by the Gatekeeper and family, as well as heritage details and colours.



Stephen begins with cardboard, Balsa wood, matchsticks and masking tape, followed by an undercoat and then mounting. Though delicate, the house is made to be picked up by the chimneys, so it can be used as a teaching aid. Details were gradually added, tiny bricks cut from vinyl tiles, garden beds of miniature vegetables and flowers, a wood pile and even a model of the Gatekeeper's bicycle.

The model took over 100 hours to build and Stephen has donated it to the cottage, where it is now on display. Thank you Stephen, children and adults are entranced by it.

The cottage will be open to the public on a number of occasions in November.

See page 10 for a full list of dates and times. Some are 'play' based events; some are family focused.

If you can assist as a Steward, please contact Julie via *Gatekeepers Cottage* facebook page or Susan at info@fbbg.org.au or 5342 9354

For more information on Cottage developments contact the Friends' office.

Favourite Spring Flowers



Beth Dixon (Ambassadors Convener)

White Freesia

It brings back childhood memories of drifts of Freesias in our garden. I love the simple understated flower, with a lovely scent.

Robert Selkirk (President FBBG)

Lily of the Valley

So delicate and a beautiful fragrance.



Kathleen Hobson (Life Member)

Japonica 'Appleblossom'

The simplicity of it. I remember it as a child in gardens and vases.

Kim Nolan (Labeling and Growing Friends)

Dutch Iris

Just beautiful, easy to grow and good cut flowers.



Lorraine Powell Convener History Group)

Snowdrops

The hope of Spring. Memories as a child of a neighbour explaining the difference between Snowdrops and Snowflakes. (And onion weed! Ed)

Yvonne Curbach (Convener Growing Friends)

Miniature Tulips: Beautiful subtle colours and markings.



Susan Pilbeam (Administrative Assistant)

Wattle

Celebrated by *Monty Python*

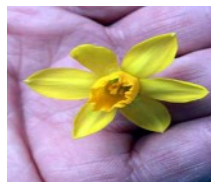
First Bruce: *This here's the wattle, the emblem of our land. You can stick it in a bottle, you can hold it in your hand.*

Everybruce: *Amen!*

Bruce Holland (Treasurer)

Miniature Daffodils: Tete a Tete:

Just like them.



Susan Rattray (Committee Member)

Ranunculi

Fabulous colours and long lasting.

Tim Entwisle (Patron FBBG)

Caladenia venusta, Graceful Spider Orchid

I could have picked any of the spider orchids, or indeed any of the nearly 400 species of native orchid that grow in Victoria.

What I like is its elegance and stature, a single white flower rising up through the green-grey heathland. It takes a bit of finding, but that's part of its charm. Our Orchid Conservation team at Cranbourne Gardens can grow nearly every spider orchid but its not something you'll find in a local garden.



BOTANIKIDS/ GATEKEEPER'S COTTAGE SPECIAL EVENTS:

Julie Bradby and her crew have organised a large number of special events for members and family groups.

This is an opportunity to view what has been done to the cottage since its arrival in a serious state of disrepair.

Fridays in November:

Come along to see our sessions with the under-fives. 10 am to 12 noon. Morning Tea served. Nov. 1, 8, 22 & 29.

Open Deck Evening:

Nov. 29, 6 pm to 8.30 pm. Family b.y.o. BBQ picnics and drinks. All members welcome!

Drop-In Morning Teas:

Wednesday Nov 6 & 20. 10 am to 12 noon. Open to view the Cottage, the new model, and WW1 information and display. All proceeds to BotaniKids programs.

Open Deck Family

Saturdays: Nov 2 & 9. Come along; plant a pot and share a cuppa together.

Growing Friends Report:

Plants potted up for *Springfest* on the 24 November. Help is wanted on the day from 9 am until closing at 4 – 5 pm.
Yvonne Curbach, Convenor



GARDENING
It comes in handy when
you need to hide the bodies.

Plant Sales at the Friend's Nursery behind the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre every Tuesday from 1 pm to 4 pm and the 2nd Sunday 1 pm to 4 pm.

Every Sunday in Spring at 11 am the Friend's Guides run free one-hour Garden Tours. Meet outside the Conservatory.

* Western Bed tour:
'Dig for Ideas in the Western Bed for your Garden'.
4.30pm. Tour, wine & cheese \$10. Booking required on Trybooking at:
<https://www.trybooking.com/BFTVC> or
<https://www.trybooking.com/558248>

****Spring Fest'** -
Volunteers needed to assist with plant sales: 9.30 -12, 12-2.30, 2.30-5.
Contact Susan
5342 9354

NOVEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
WHAT'S ON IN YOUR BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS?						
3 Free Garden Tour at 11 AM.	4 Friends Botanical Art Group 10am to 3 pm	5 Plants Sales 1 pm - 4 pm.	6 Drop-In Morning Teas: 10 am to 12 noon. Open to view the Cottage. Gold coin donation to BotaniKids.	7	BotaniKids Fridays in November: Come along to see or sessions with the under-5's. 10 - 12. Morning Tea served.	2 Open Deck Family Saturdays: 11 am Come along; plant a pot, have a tour and share a cuppa together.
10 Remembrance Day commemoration at 11 a.m.: special tour s with morning tea. Gold Coin Donation. Plants Sales 1 pm - 4 pm.	11 Friends Botanical Art Group 10am to 3 pm	12 Plants Sales 1 pm - 4 pm.	13	14	8 BotaniKids Fridays in November: Come along to see or sessions with the under-5's. 10 - 12. Morning Tea served.	9 Open Deck Family Saturdays: 1am Come along; plant a pot, have a tour and share a cuppa together.
17 Free Garden Tour at 11 AM. Western Bed tour: 'Dig for Ideas in the Western Bed for your Garden'. 4.30 pm. Tour, wine & cheese \$10. Booking required *	18 Friends Botanical Art Group 10am to 3 pm	19 Friends Committee meeting 3.30 pm Conservatory closed Nov 19 to Dec 14 Plants Sales 1 pm - 4 pm.	20 Drop-In Morning Teas: 10 am to 12 noon. Open to view the Cottage. Gold coin donation to BotaniKids.	21 Friends Christmas break-up 5.30 pm including: Opening of Gatekeeper's Cottage	22 BotaniKids Fridays in November: Come along to see or sessions with the under-5's. 10 - 12. Morning Tea served.	23
24 **Spring Fest' - volunteers needed. Free Garden Tour at 11 AM.	25 Friends Botanical Art Group 10am to 3 pm	26 Guiding Group meeting 10 am Plants Sales 1 pm - 4 pm.	27	28	29 BotaniKids . Open Deck Evening: 6 pm to 8.30 pm. Family b.y.o. BBQ picnics and drinks. All members welcome!	30

Ambassadors from the Friends of the Gardens group are on duty in the Conservatory each Saturday and Sunday (Note Conservatory will be CLOSED from Nov 19.)

The BotaniKids are always looking for helpers.
Contact the Friends Office
5342 9354



An annual Ballarat Friend's Membership costs a mere \$25 for an individual.

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Information 2020

Email: info@fbbg.org.au
 Website: www.fbbg.org.au
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsBBG>

Friends of Ballarat Botanic Gardens Inc.
 P.O. Box 33W Ballarat West 3350
<https://www.facebook.com/ballaratbotaniKIDS/>

Tel. George Longley Building 03 5342 9354

COMMITTEE MEETING TIMES 2019

Meetings are held in the George Longley Building
 (rear of the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre):

Committee - 3rd Tuesday of each month at 3:30 pm

Botanical Artists - Mondays 10 am - 3 pm during school terms.

Growing Friends - Tuesday each week 1 pm - 4 pm, and the 2nd Sunday every month, 1 pm - 4 pm.

Plant Sales at the above times.

Guiding Friends - 4th Tuesday each month 10 am.

BotaniKids/Educating Friends - 2nd Tuesday each month 10 am

History Group - 1st Tuesday each month 4 pm.

Plant Labelling - as required.

2019-20 FBBG COMMITTEE AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

POSITION	NAME
President	Robert Selkirk
Vice President	Terry O'Brien
Past President	Raoul Dixon
Secretary	Susan Pilbeam
Treasurer	Bruce Holland
BotaniKids/ Education	Julie Bradby
Events and Speakers	Carole Haines
Foundation	Elizabeth Gilfillan
General member	Susan Ratray
General member	Stephanie de Boer
General member	June Cheetham
General member	John King
Growing Friends	Yvonne Curbach
Guides	Terry O'Brien
History	Lorraine Powell
Hospitality	Doff Kemp
Membership	Raoul Dixon
Newsletter Editor	Michael Bird
Promotion/Public Relations	Vacant
Western Bed	Vacant
Ambassadors	Beth Dixon (non-Committee)
Botanical Art	Valerie Richards (non-Comm.)
Engraving Plant Labels	Joy O'Brien (non-Committee)

DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER EDITION 2019-20 IS
 20 DECEMBER 2019. Submit articles to the Editor
info@fbbg.org.au

WHAT'S COMING UP FOR THE BALLARAT FRIENDS IN 2019/20?

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13	MELBOURNE EXCURSION - A special excursion to visit the Edna Walling Gardens at Bickleigh Vale Village plus Australian natives nursery, Candlebark Community Nursery
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10	Remembrance Day commemoration at 11 a.m.: special tour of the Gardens with morning tea. Gold Coin Donation.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15	SPEAKERS' LUNCHEON IN SPRING. 'New Innovations and Design for your Garden' (see p. 2) Bookings: trybooking.com/BESMT or trybooking.com/539779
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17	Western Bed tour: 'Dig for Ideas in the Western Bed for your Garden'. 4.30 p.m. Tour, wine & cheese \$10. Booking required; See page 11 for Trybooking Websites
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21	Friends' Christmas Function - and the grand opening of the restored Gatekeeper's Cottage in the North Gardens - 5.30 p.m. Put this in your diary!
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20	Ballarat Friends' AGM in the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, 10 a.m. Further information in the Summer Wellingtonia (due out mid January)

ALL THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER – BOTANIKIDS EVENTS AT THE GATEKEEPER'S COTTAGE – SEE PAGE 11 FOR DATES/TIMES

This Newsletter is distributed with the financial assistance of the City of Ballarat.



Photo credits: Thanks to: Warwick Sellens, Peter Marquand, Donna Thomas, Terry O'Brien, Tim Entwisle, Julie Bradby, Susan Pilbeam and Michael Bird for providing the photographs and illustrations used. Apologies for any omissions. Ed.

Disclaimer: The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. The Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens does not accept responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed, although every effort will be made to publish reliable and accurate information.

Contributions for Summer Wellingtonia 2019/20 are due by December 20 please. Michael Bird, Editor.

Editorial Committee: Robert Selkirk, Elizabeth Gilfillan, Susan Pilbeam and Michael Bird.