

Wellingtonia



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PP Number 100020008

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2017

From the President's Desk...



FRIENDS OF BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The guest speaker at our August General Meeting, **Sheilagh Kentish**, gave us a fascinating account of the history and operations of the Ballarat Community Garden. You will find a write up of her talk elsewhere in this issue (page 5). It was very interesting to hear about this very worthwhile undertaking in our own city.

Of course the big news for this issue is that finally the **Gatekeeper's Cottage** has been relocated to the Gardens. It is temporarily still on the trailer that transported it. This is because considerable preparatory work is needed to establish a firm base for the cottage on account of the nature of the ground on which it will sit. We are most grateful to the Council for all their hard work in organising its removal and establishing its final resting place. Council has also indicated that it will undertake the very necessary renovations to bring the cottage back to its original condition.

Once that is done, then an extension will be required to give us what is needed for its intended use – that is, a base for **BotaniKids** as well as a venue for education and provision of information by the Friends to visitors. The plans for the extension have yet to be finalised as they must, of course, meet with Council approval. We have written to Council outlining our preferences. Funding of the extension has yet to be realised but we are in discussion with service clubs hoping for this to be adopted as a major project by them.

As regards our other major project, the redevelopment of the **derelict fernery**, the news is, unfortunately, not so promising. Council's application for Federal funding

on a dollar for dollar basis was not successful, and the project is currently on hold. So our original plans and hopes for a world class Discovery Centre ("Fernery" is such an uninspired name for what was planned) now look like being unrealised. We are however exploring other options such as philanthropic funding.

Elizabeth Gilfillan has been, as you all know, the Convenor for Gardens Development which included the Cottage and the Fernery as the principal developments. After more than 10 years intense involvement with these projects she has decided that it is time to retire from this role, although still maintaining an interest in the project. We are all sorry to see her stand down but can certainly understand her reasons and thank her most sincerely for the tremendous job she has done.

For the Cottage project, **Julie Bradby** is now the Convenor. For the time being, as President, I will take over the Fernery *ex officio*, until another Convenor is appointed.

Our very successful Ambassador program is recommencing in Spring after a break over the cooler months. Everyone involved is enjoying their experiences in the Conservatory, chatting to visitors, which is great. As **Ambassadors** work in pairs, we

still need more volunteers to be able to maintain a presence in the Conservatory every weekend, so that no-one has to do more than one 3 hour shift per month. So please consider volunteering for this activity. Call Beth on 5335 9052.

Finally, a few social and fun events to finish off the year. The excellent **Gardens in Spring** program will again be run in November. Our bus trip to **Cloudehill** is organised for October 18.

We will end the year with **drinks and nibbles** in the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre at 5.00 p.m. Thursday, November 23. Please remember to RSVP for this to assist with catering. See you there! Until next time,

Raoul Dixon, President.

As regards .. the redevelopment of the derelict fernery, the news is, unfortunately, not so promising.

BALLARAT
INTERNATIONAL
FOTO
BIENNALE

**Ballarat Photo Biennale Exhibitions in the
Conservatory and Statue House Aug 19-17 Sept.**



Patron of the Ballarat Friends:

Prof. Tim Entwistle,
Director and Chief Executive, Royal
Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

See page 4 for new extracts
from Tim's Blog ...

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

Heather & Daryl Caddy, Mary Adriaans, Maureen Goodwin, Jan Bidwell,
Robert & Jill Godfrey, Leesa Myers, Judy Puls and Colin Simson.



Despite the addition of these new members, our total membership remains at 334 due to members who have resigned, or who have simply not renewed so have had their memberships terminated.

Accordingly the Committee has agreed that we should run a **membership drive** to increase our membership base. We have set the optimistic target of **500 members**. You can support us in this!

Included with this *Wellingtonia* is a membership application form and we are encouraging all members to give this to a friend or anyone you can think of who might be interested in joining. Of course don't feel limited to just one, more forms are always available at our George Longley Building and also in the Conservatory.

Raoul Dixon, Membership Officer

Have you heard of the garlic diet? You don't lose much weight, but from a distance your friends think you look thinner.

Growing Friends



Even though the weather has been 'awful' plants are still selling well, especially from our trolley. We had a bit of a problem a while back when the gardens staff disturbed someone trying to get money out of the money box. A fair bit of money was stolen. Since then the opening in the money box has been altered preventing anyone from taking money out that way.

For anyone wishing to buy some spring colour we have a lot of bulbs for sale – anemones, tulips, daffodils and hyacinths. We also have quite a few large pots of mixed ranunculus and polyanthus (both pink and blue) for sale at \$6 for an 8" pot.

Please keep any plastic bags as they are needed for *Springfest* which is not far off - Sunday 26 November – on the foreshore of Lake Wendouree near Pipers Restaurant. The nursery is also open during the weekend of the Gardens in Spring openings – November 11 and 12 from 1 – 4 p.m.

Also, if anyone has clean plastic pots to spare – 4 inch (10 cm), 5 inch (13 cm) and 6 inch (15 cm) can you please drop them off at our nursery. No larger pots please.

Yvonne Curbach, Growing Friends Convenor

"Bulb (noun): potential flower buried in Autumn, never to be seen again." - Henry Beard

Gardens Collections:

Care for the Rare Project - This is a BGANZ project where 'regional' Botanic Gardens may adopt endangered native collections if suitable resources, and location exist. We have submitted our 'expression of interest application' for this exciting project and await to see if we progress further. Fingers crossed!



The Australia Bed Update –

Thanks to the **Western Bedders** for their enthusiastic help. All shrubs and lower storey plants have now been removed. The area will soon be mulched and later planted using Ballarat Indigenous plants.



Rose Collection - Each of the Roses in the Rose Cross garden will soon receive new labels - all 130 of them!

A big thank you to Joy O'Brien who has done a fabulous job engraving the labels yet again!

Donna Thomas, Plant Collections Officer, BBG

Have you signed up a new Friend yet? Very worthwhile! See page 12!

ELIZABETH GILFILLAN: PROFILE *A GREAT FRIEND OF THE FRIENDS!*

At the Friends' August Meeting, Elizabeth Gilfillan's work as *FBBG Development Convenor* was recognised. She steps down after 12 years, but will continue as a Friends Committee Member.

After moving to Buninyong in the early 1980s she became involved with the *Friends* and a member (1993, with *FBBG* incorporation). Elizabeth has served on the Committee since 1999, as Vice President (2010) and President (2011-14) and has contributed significantly, by attending and addressing meetings, galvanising general and financial support, writing funding applications, developing events and plans, as well as Project Management.

As Project Coordinator for the funding and construction of the *George Longley Building* (2006-08), she helped give the *Friends* a home, office and venue for meetings, classes, activities, nursery sales, storage etc., fundamentally changing the capacity and profile of the *FBBG*. In 2010 the *Ballarat Botanical Gardens* received *Heritage Listing*, stimulating a range of initiatives and projects.

In 2011, \$40,000 was raised by the *Friends* for the renovation of the iconic art deco *J. Y. McDonald Gates and Pergola*, winning a *Ballarat Heritage Award for Cultural Heritage*. Elizabeth also helped write the *Memorandum of Understanding* (2014) between the *City of Ballarat* and the *FBBG*, specifying shared visions and goals, (the first of its kind) and contributed to the *Visionary Plan* (2013-14), which included her work on the *Fernery Redevelopment*, begun in 2004.

Elizabeth's commitment to the relocation and development of *Gatekeeper's Cottage Education and Interpretation* for the *Botanikids* began in 2014 and she has spent many hours with *Heritage Victoria, City of Ballarat*, architects, Community Groups and individuals.

Elizabeth is a landscape designer and ran a garden shop and Bed and Breakfast in Buninyong in the 1990s. Her custodianship of an historic garden and love of nature inspired her to assist in the development of the *Buninyong Botanic Gardens, De Soza Park* and the *Buninyong Library*.

In 2014 Elizabeth became Secretary for the

Australian Association of Friends of Botanical Gardens and was vital in the *FBBG* hosting their inaugural conference (2002), as well as the assisting with *BGANZ* (2009), *Australian Garden*



Elizabeth speaking passionately at the Friends General Meeting in March 2017

History (2012) and *Garden Clubs of Australia* (2013) Conferences. She is a sought after speaker, addressing various groups about the relevance and stewardship of Botanical Gardens. This year she represented the AAFBG at the *6th Botanic Gardens Conservation International Global Conference* in Geneva (see report page 10). Elizabeth has an extensive state, national and international network and was instrumental in persuading Professor Tim Entwistle (*Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Victoria*) to be our Patron.

Elizabeth is also standing down from *Ballarat Gardens in Spring*, which she helped inaugurate in 2006. It has grown to attract thousands of visitors from Melbourne and the Ballarat area, and was a finalist in a *Business Excellence Award* (2016). She sought speakers, gardens and funding to develop the event, also opening her garden at Navigators.

Her extensive knowledge has also given members access to many private houses and gardens, through bus trips and events, including the Geelong and Camperdown areas. She enjoys sharing her love of gardens and giving back to the community.

Elizabeth is also a botanical artist. She helped establish the *FBBG Botanical Art Group*, was Convenor (2009-2016) and contributed to both exhibitions (2010, 2015), as well as organising trips and teachers. She looks forward to having more time for her painting and family.

Husband Tim has been very supportive over the years and they now hope to enjoy more time together, with their children and grandchildren.

Happily, she continues to give her expertise, energy and enthusiasm to the *FBBG* Committee, who along with our Founder Members, have been a constant inspiration and support. Elizabeth is also an enthusiastic member of the *Friend's Guides* group.

She sees her work as a labour of love and one of its joys is happily contributing to Friends' activities. Elizabeth has provided a strong legacy for others to build on.

Susan Pilbeam



Elizabeth was the recipient of a bouquet of flowers, presented by Julie Bradby and a certificate of appreciation from President Raoul Dixon at the August meeting.

History Group Extra Activities

History Group Convenor Lorraine Powell was the Guest Speaker at the recent 2017 *Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia Inc.* AGM held at the *Buninyong Town Hall*. She illustrated her discussion of the history and diversity of dry stone structures with many impressive images, focusing on contemporary dry stonework in the local area. After the meeting Lorraine assisted with the Field Trip around the Buninyong area.

The *Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia Inc.* was founded in Ballarat in 2002. It is a diverse group of rural property owners, pastoralists and farmers, urban dwellers, environmentalists and other professionals with a special interest in the identification, documentation and conservation of dry stone walls to be found Australia-wide, as well as a number of practitioners daily engaged in the craft of dry stone walling and dry stone sculpture.



Source: DSWAA website

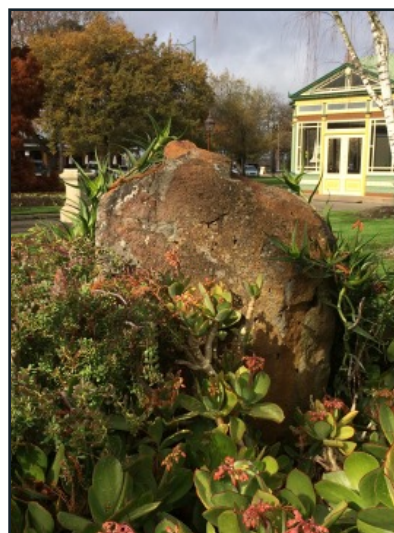
The DSWAA seeks greater recognition of the significance of dry stone structures, built by indigenous peoples, European explorers, early settlers and modern craftspeople, as valued artefacts of our national

identity. It also advocates for the protection, retention, documentation and conservation of structures and the promotion of the waller's craft.

Dry stone walls and structures have been part of Australia's history for hundreds of years. Built without mud or cement as 'mortar' they rely on the skill of the waller to make them strong and durable.

Most dry stone construction is in the form of stone fences on pastoral or grazing land, but other uses include fish traps built by indigenous Australians, shelters in early mining settlements or beautiful sculptures and retaining walls in urban landscape settings.

The DSWAA publishes *The Flag Stone*, conducts research, runs field trips, workshops, meetings and other events and has an excellent website <http://dswaa.org.au/>.



By the end of the 20th century, the Ballarat Botanical gardens began inserting rocks into the succulent bed for the plants to sprawl over.

Continued next page ...



FROM TIM ENTWISLE'S BLOG -Tuesday, 1 and 8 August 2017

[Perfectly baked botanic garden in the middle of China](#)

With a starting date of 1959 ... Chongqing Nanshan Botanical Garden could be considered a middle-aged Chinese botanic garden. China's first substantial botanic gardens were created in the late 1920s and early 1930s – Nanjing in 1929, Wuhan in 1933 and Lushan in 1934 – although the first was in Hong Kong in 1871.

The number of botanic gardens in China in 1960 was only 10, low for such a large country with a rich flora and of course many people to learn about their natural environment. Things then heated up, with a tally of 72 in 1990, 138 in 2000 and over 200 today. By world standards this total, and their quality, is exceptional and welcome.

Chongqing, with a municipal population of 30 million, is often described as one of three or four 'oven' or 'furnace' cities in China. These cities are away from the coast and get very hot in summer. I experienced a little of 'fire' on my visit in late July, compounded by the banquets often centred around a Sichuan hot pot bubbling with chillies and Sichuan peppers.

(More at: <http://talkingplants.blogspot.com.au/2017/08/perfectly-baked-botanic-garden-in.html>)

[Talking Plants ... every plant has a story to tell](#)

Tropical Chinese botanic garden puts science in a magical setting: Still in China, to a relatively young botanic garden. The Fairy Lake Botanical Garden (Xianhu Zhiwuyuan), in Shenzhen, was opened to the public in 1988 but already has an impressive reputation for the scope of its collections. With over 10,000 species on display, set amongst 500 ha of semi-natural forest, the standouts are the cycads and ferns (the largest collections in China), and the iconic display the silicified tree garden.



Putting aside the numbers this is a particularly attractive landscape, with the botanical collections integrated seamlessly into this verdant setting. This is one of a handful of Chinese Academy of Science botanic gardens, which establishes its scientific credentials, but it is also ranked as a 'AAAA' scenic location in China, just on A less than the highest possible).

(<http://talkingplants.blogspot.com.au/2017/08/tropical-chinese-botanic-garden-puts.html>)

Michael Bird



BALLARAT COMMUNITY GARDEN INC

The BALLARAT COMMUNITY GARDEN is located at the corner of Queen Street and Dyte Parade in Ballarat East and established in 2005 on land jointly owned by Ballarat City Council and Victrack. Sheilagh has been a TAFE Special Needs teacher with experience with 15 year old students. The Garden was incorporated in 2009.

The early layout of the garden comprised beds at ground level with timber sleeper edging. Later smaller raised beds were included to help people with back problems or low vision.



BotaniKIDS convenor Julie Brady smiles coyly as she fronts Guides Sandie, Margaret and Sue during Sheilagh's talk.

Original electric power to the site was supplied by on-site generators. There was town water but during a long drought period this was not available. A water tank was installed but there was insufficient roof space to provide rain water, so water had to be purchased from tankers.

Fundraising for expenses included "sausage sizzles" and these events helped purchase the

first greenhouse. This is used to aid propagation and protect young plants.

Benefits of the garden have been many especially bringing together like-minded people resulting in companionship. Educational opportunities have also been a side benefit. This includes visits from classes from the nearby Queen Street Primary school. Other community groups are encouraged to visit including people from the Macallum Centre and local kindergarten children who use the area as a play space.

Organising will start in October for the Harvest Festival to be held on the 1st Sunday in March 2018. There will be food, music, plants and produce for sale. There are children's activities – a story telling tent - and two pizza ovens. (Support from Bunnings is greatly appreciated.)

Significant features of the Community Garden now include an orchard, 70 beds, herb garden, a composting area, a chook run and several sheds. An indigenous plants garden has been installed by children from St Aloysius School. Over-seeing of younger people is important.

Vandals attacking sheds (and two thefts) has resulted in the need to purchase a shipping container with plans for extending this with verandas for additional shelter.

There is a waiting list for plots. Annual fees are \$50.00 and less for concession holders or by negotiation.

Rosemary Manion. FBBG member



Guest speaker –
Sheilagh Kentish

Continued from previous page ...

The History Group has continued delving into the records. Trivia which you might find interesting:

– in 1862 a head count of black swans on the swamp discovered an explosion in the population, up from five to an astonishing fourteen birds were counted. Ballarat is at this stage very intent on an acclimatisation society, and of course the idea of increased Government aid is being discussed, 'as Geelong has received it'. At this time the Borough is also dealing with miners whose nearby activities may affect the health of the Gardens.

Members of the History Group are hard at work, and well on the way to producing an interesting publication on ***Begonias***, just in time for the 65th anniversary of the *Ballarat Begonia Festival*.

Lorraine Powell, History Convenor

DO 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**

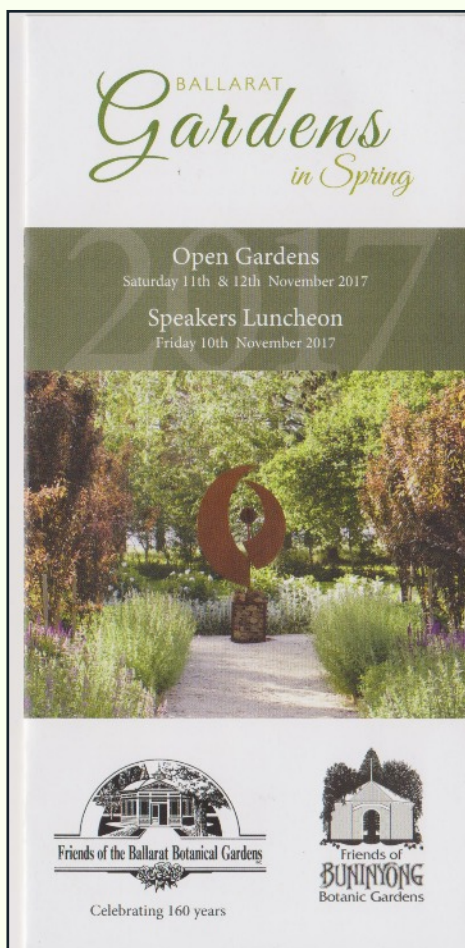
BALLARAT GARDEN DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

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

You will need to show your FBBG membership card

BALLARAT *Gardens* in Spring

Ballarat Gardens in Spring 2017:
Speakers Luncheon - November 10
Open Gardens - November 11 & 12
Details to come ...
[www:ballaratopengardens.com.au](http://www.ballaratopengardens.com.au)



It has certainly been an exciting and busy few months for the Committee with many aspects coming together for the **10th Annual Ballarat Gardens in Spring** event. This year's brochure has just been printed and will be distributed to various venues throughout Ballarat and surrounding districts and well as many mail outs. Our website has been updated to reflect current information and detail so be sure to get online soon.

Bookings for the popular Speakers Luncheon on Friday 10th November this year are again online from September 1st so mark in your diary to avoid disappointment.

'Friends' tickets are at a special price of \$65.00 for financial members. This will again be held in the Robert Clark Centre and Conservatory with lunch provided by Ballarat's food hero, Peter Ford.

This year's speakers:

Natasha Morgan: landscape architect, with the design and construction of the The Australian Garden Stage 2 at Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne among her many fabulous works.

Steven Wells: nurse, horticultural therapist, gardener and garden designer. A huge hit at a GIS event here a few years ago!

Andrew Laidlaw: one of Australia's leading landscape architects and designers. Andrew played a major role in developing the plans for our 'ferny project'.

We are thrilled to have some first time openings in our collection of impressive Open Gardens this year and all certainly 'show off' Ballarat's diversity and beauty. **Why not make it a full weekend and visit three gardens on the Saturday and the three Buninyong gardens on the Sunday taking in the local Village Market?**

We also have been successful in receiving a City of Ballarat Community Impact Grant for six gazebos to have at the entry of each open garden and also additional chairs to use in the Robert Clark Centre. Thanks to Wendy for her expertise in obtaining this grant.

Please feel free to contact me direct should you have any queries or are available to assist over the open gardens weekend.

Helen Todd Committee

Website: ballaratopengardens.com.au

Email: toddesign@iinet.net.au

HOSPITALITY AND EVENTS:

SPRING TRIPS TO THE DANDENONG RANGES:

Sunday September 17th: *Nobelius Heritage Park and Garden* (Emerald).

Free *Salvia* tour and pruning workshop with experts Bill Whitehead and Lyndi Garnett.

Meet at the Café for lunch, or later for the tour/workshop.

Car pool: Contact Susan 5342 9354 or info@fbbg.org.au

Thursday November 23: **Friends End of Year Drinks** at *Robert Clarke Centre*, 5-7 pm Drinks/nibbles provided.

Wednesday October 18th: Bus trip to *Cloudehill Gardens and Gentiana Specialist Nursery* (Olinda)

There are some tickets left: on line and at the *George Longley Building* (Tuesday afternoons) \$50 Lunch **not** included. Bring your lunch or book at *Seasons Restaurant* (03 9751 0168)

More information: <http://www.cloudehill.com.au/> OR <http://www.seasonsathill.com.au/>

Credit card bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/QGBB> <https://www.trybooking.com/285299>

Contact Carole: 0458533881 for more details.
 Bus leaves 8.15 am

Carole Haines, Convenor Hospitality and Events



GARDEN UPGRADE SMB CAMPUS

In 2014 the Guides visited the School of Mines Ballarat (SMB) garden when we were investigating the use of plants as medicines.

Plants were used here for the academic study of Botany and Pharmacy. John Garner and Wendy Sandiford led our tour and described the changes over times with plants and buildings on this site.

We admired many of the remnant trees and the interesting vistas at the site and wondered what the future would hold. It was good news to see the headline : *"Historical SMB Gardens to be replanted in campus upgrade"*.

"The gardens will receive a major upgrade with up to 1000 new plants covering 40 species being introduced".

The Guides look forward to revisiting this site to see the revitalized gardens in the future.



SMB Gardens 1920s



SMB Gardens today

U3A BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS COURSE 2018

Next year the Friends' Guides will offer another extended program for those who want to learn more about Ballarat Botanical Gardens. It will be available to either Friends' members or U3A members. More details will be available in the U3A 2018 program.



Through a series of presentations by a wide range of speakers, plus some tours and excursions, it will examine the actions and thinking over time that has shaped and is shaping our Gardens. The course is proposed to be held from 10am to noon on eight Fridays starting April 20 to June 8.

If interested in joining this program please pass on your name, contact details (phone and email) to Susan at the Friends' office on 534 29354.

Terry O'Brien, Guides' Convenor

Coming events:

Free Sunday morning tours conducted by the guides in the Spring months started again at 11 am on Sunday September 3rd! Meet outside the Conservatory.

Two forthcoming excursions for the Guides' meetings in October and November are to **Victoria Park** in Ballarat, and to the **St Kilda Botanical Gardens** in Melbourne. Both will provide the opportunity for the Guides to discuss and broaden our appreciation of the options, the pressures and the developments in some of our special city garden landscapes.

The BBG Guides share a common interest in gardening and botanical developments. They want to support our own Gardens. We help each other in our efforts to be informed and to be a helpful source for visitors wanting guided tours and learn more about the Gardens. New members always welcome. We meet at 10 am (until about noon) on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the George Longley Room. *All you need is a positive attitude and willingness to share your experience.*

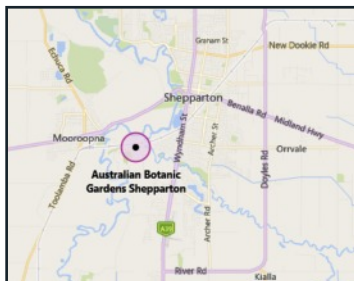
Terry O'Brien, Guides' Convenor

VISIT TO THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED SHEPPARTON BOTANIC GARDENS:

I am involved in assessing projects for Sustainable Cities awards conducted by Keep Victoria Beautiful.

Botanic gardens are sometimes entries in these awards. Last year's winner in the Resource recovery and waste management category was Melton Botanic garden for their project using recycled green

waste to grow Southern African plants in trial garden beds and using their monitoring results in their resource awareness education campaign.



The Shepparton Botanic gardens are well worth a visit ...

Shepparton Botanic Garden was an entry this year in Protection of the Environment award and their entry was to show the huge part recycling plays in their garden.

With imagination they have reused resources so that the result is both useful and aesthetic. Tons of recycled concrete, slabs and bricks have been gathered from the Transfer Station and used at the gardens.



Children's Cubby made from old mattresses

Detheridge wheels have been used as planters. A huge cubby in the Children's play space is made from mattress springs. A Wishing tree is made from old tail pipes. An old Hills Hoist clothesline has been woven in four sections with used builders tapes, thin wire, thick wire, metal strapping. It looks great!

Old worn out bench seats have been turned into brand new ones. Stepping blocks, crazy paving and stairways have been constructed from old pavement blocks that have been pulled up from the streets

of Shepparton and reused at the gardens. Loads of old bricks and pavers have been used for pathways and gabion boxes and lots of crushed concrete used for paths.

In the food garden the edging has been done with old railway sleepers.



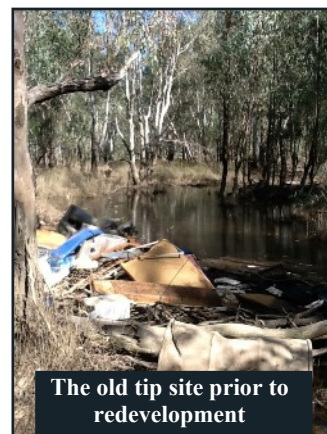
The Shepparton Botanic gardens are well worth a visit to admire the transformation taking place to create what the welcoming sign refers to as "a new generation botanical experience".

The site was the local tip from 1972 to 1987.

Now there is a series of terrace gardens on the elevated clay-topped mound that exhibit different types of gardens that have been important in the area before and after European settlement.

From the top of the mound you can see the extensive native grassy bushlands and wetlands that are to be explored and part of the experience in your visit to this Botanic Garden.

Terry O'Brien, Guides' Convenor



The old tip site prior to redevelopment

The emerging Botanic Gardens



COMMEMORATIVE TREES

At the last Guides meeting the topic was **The Commemorative Trees in BBG**. Michael Bird and Margaret Towers undertook the investigation and presentation for the meeting. It was a most interesting session and generated plenty of discussion. We were presented with a very useful summary of these special trees that memorialise events and people. The findings of this investigation raised questions and also queries about the accuracy of some records. This is an area of interest to other groups and also Gardens' management. Further work is needed to update and verify and correct some of the records. A map showing location would also be helpful.

- * 26 listed commemorative trees but three no longer exist. One that is no longer there is the Gallipoli Pine.
- * The 26 trees can be broken into four categories: Royals (four), Garden staff (four), World Wars and Events (six), Individuals and Groups (13)

* In 1991 a consistent design of bronze oval plaques for "Special People – Special Trees" was introduced and eight have been designated. The plaque on one is broken and in the nursery along with other 'forgotten plaques'.

* What should happen to the plaques when one of these special or commemorative trees dies? Tree replaced? Same species? Move on? (Maybe these should be reinstated on a wall or similar in the Gardens?)

* Charles Victor Black, a gardener who enlisted in World War II now has a Giant Sequoia planted in his commemorative spot. It replaces the *Quercus macrocarpa* that was there originally.

The investigation did spark up interest in this area and exposed the need to consult a greater range of policy documents to understand some of the complexity in this area. The simple task of listing these trees was not "simple". Not all the information matches up.

Terry O'Brien



THE EDUCATING FRIENDS GROUP AND BALLARAT BOTANIKIDS REPORT:

BotaniKIDS Spring '17

"Puddles are fun to splash and play in." was a comment of 'little miss-4' when foraging for nest materials under the trees recently. "Muddy boots and many changes of clothes" was the comment of the 'attached adult' said with a wry smile!

I always feel it may be more appropriate if the children and caring adults who attend our BotaniKIDS activities write this report as their perspectives and insights are a joy and 'ground' us many many times.

Keeping things simple and providing the children with natural materials to explore and discover is our constant aim. Its important to relate to the parents, carers and grandparents who come along with the children. All of us within the team feel so privileged to be able to connect with and befriend so many caring child-centred wonderful people.

We must be hitting the mark as our numbers are constant even through the weather has been very cold. Last session we had 41 under-fives attend and that has been one of our lighter attendances. We again had a tram ride with the kind Tramway guys and all squeezed on to the tram singing "The Wheels of the Tram go clunk clunk clunk!"

Recently we were approached by Christian Malins (Gardens Education Officer) to consider including a few BotaniKIDS sessions with **BUPA Aged Care**. After a few meetings we have planned a series of three sessions in the Gardens with ten from BUPA Aged Outreach group and some children from the Lake Gardens Childcare who often are seen playing and learning in the Gardens.

This group have often joined in with our activities on a Tuesday.

This is a wonderful initiative and we are pleased to be working in partnership with Christian, BUPA Aged Care and The Lake Gardens Childcare group. Please pop in to give us a hand or to just be a part of the fun. The sessions will run on Thursdays 10am to 12 noon Sept 14, 21 and 28. We will be planting herbs, investigating worms, planting seeds and creating dinosaur gardens together!

A morning tea typical of BotaniKIDS hospitality will be provided so please let's know if you can help!

I can just visualise in my mind's eye this sort of activity being a regular happening in our Gatekeeper's Cottage, perhaps in the very near future. Make a wish!

Julie Bradby, Convenor Ballarat BotaniKIDS



The cottage at 1414 Gregory Street



Nearly 'home'



Large crowd of parents and children eagerly awaited the arrival

*A toddler * who was found chewing on a slug. After the initial surge of disgust the parent said, "Well, what does it taste like?" "Worms," was the reply.*

SOME INTERESTING FACTS:

Month	Number of Visits to FBBG Website:
January 2017	2128
February 2017	2407
March 2017	5093
April 2017	3082
May 2017	2959
June 2017	2704
July 2017	2647

Have you ever heard of the Japanese practice of forest bathing?

It **does not** require you to take off any of your clothes or to even get wet!

It **does** require the presence of trees though.

(More on this fascinating topic in the summer edition of *Wellingtonia*. If you can't wait, try searching the internet for '**forest bathing**'. Food for thought! Ed.)



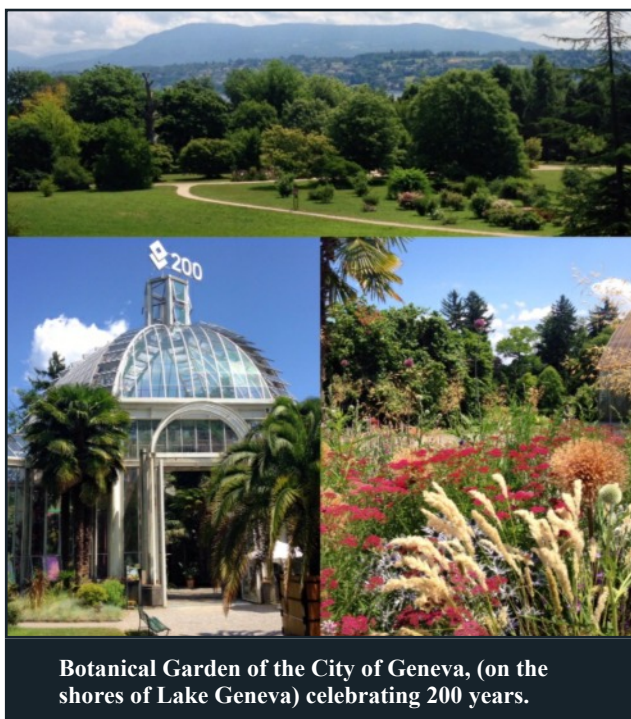
* Probably NOT one of Julie's BotaniKIDS. Ed.

MESSAGES FROM GENEVA

The 6th Global Botanic Gardens Congress and celebration of *Jardin Botaniques de la Ville de Geneve* 200 years !

What an inspiration to be among such a passionate committed and diverse group of professionals! To be representing the *Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens* (AAFBG) was truly amazing. AAFBG encourage and support the growth of associations advocating for conservation, development, public appreciation and well-being of Botanic Gardens.

It was quite a discovery to learn that Australia has the only group of associated Friends. There are various support and volunteer groups worldwide but the outstanding feedback was the high regard of the contribution of Friends groups. This highlighted the need for their establishment where they do not exist.



Botanical Garden of the City of Geneva, (on the shores of Lake Geneva) celebrating 200 years.

It was wonderful to hear that new groups will be formed and become affiliated with AAFBG. One such being Edinburgh which is using the AAFBG model to form a new organisation for Scotland!

Botanic gardens are booming! There were 480 delegates from 70 countries attending the conference with around 1500 new gardens established in the last 50 years.

Botanical research and studies are not carried out in a vacuum. They are rooted in a particular territory and their outcomes are beneficial to society as a whole. Issues related to water, energy, climate and food security. Sharing the scientific knowledge with the whole of society.

Too much to outline here, my involvement was twofold, to take the Australian model but more importantly was meeting new friends and learning of the outstanding achievements and developments worldwide. Quote, *"Knowledge travels like pollen..."*.

Some random notes:

The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and Sustainable Development Goals: We all share this one planet – the web of life. Botanic Gardens are never more relevant, projecting the Gardens and information to the people. They really are "Windows into nature".

Education and outreach: (*Converting the Unconverted*) Engaging teenagers in a changing world demonstrated in Gardens by the Bay, Singapore, a quality living destination where visitors find a reason for being there.

From Beijing: Wang Zimin was a police officer now working as an environmental educator. He was excited by nature and wanted to share the message: *"I want others to enjoy"*. China's urbanisation removes people from nature. He provided training for educators, teaching them to THINK! As well he launched a series of conservation-based lectures on Inquiry-based learning, Citizen science, Collaboration, Education through action.

Science for society: Communicating via landscaping, how future planning of gardens and intelligent architecture can unlock the secret world of scientific study and formation of aesthetic taste and harmonious relationships. How do people hear Botanists? Creation of atmosphere influences intellect, feelings and emotions.

Gardens for the soul: Tver State University Botanical Garden, Russia, where the cultural code is the feeling. To grow is to "bring up". Not only do people grow plants but plants grow people. The message from Tver, *"We are all unlike, and all our gardens are different. But that is wonderful. We have chosen a difficult, but amazingly beautiful and noble profession, a profession that probably is a lifeway. Our way of life is to love, study and protect the plants of our planet. We preserve the plants for life in a sustainable world!"*

There were many similar thought-provoking messages in a wonderful atmosphere. Ms Marie Haga – Global Crop Diversity Trust said *"you need three things in a job, a good cause, good people and to have fun"*. We did!

Elizabeth Gilfillan, Vice President AAFBG

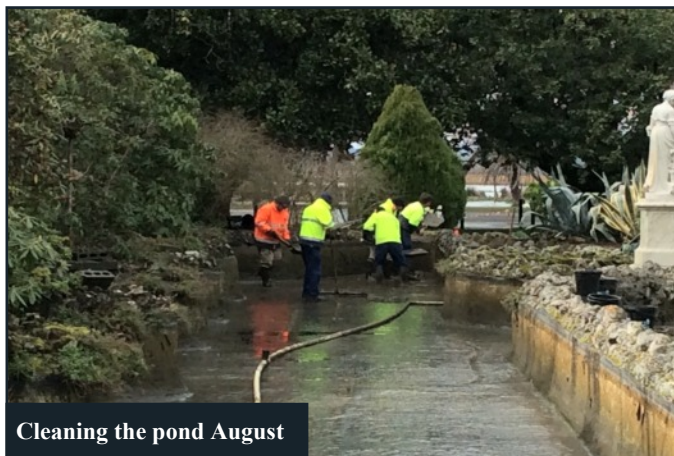


Your Association has a new website and we would love you to have a look. It is still evolving and more news of Botanic Gardens around Australia and the world will appear. The web address is: www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

CURATOR'S REPORT:

Welcome to the start of spring after what has been a very chilly winter.

One of the tasks that the team get to tackle every few years is the **cleaning out of the ponds.**



Cleaning the pond August

The last week of winter saw the fernery pond pumped out, the fish caught and temporally relocated to the sensory garden pond and the water plants divided and replanted. The sensory pond and reflection pond will also be cleaned in coming weeks.



photography exhibition in Conservatory

The Botanical gardens is currently displaying photography exhibitions within the Conservatory and Statue Pavillion as part of the **Ballarat International Foto Biennale**. The exhibitions by Laurie Brackley, Ailsa Brackley du Bois and Bernadette Keys will run through to the 17 September.

Works have recently commenced on **reinstating the floral clock** located opposite the McDonald Bandstand on Wendouree Parade. The clock was moved to the gardens in 1980 from its original location in Sturt Streets and has not operated since the early 2000s. A new mechanism will be installed in coming weeks with planting to happen soon after. The restoration of the floral clock was identified as a project to be undertaken this year as part of the Gardens' 160th anniversary.



New signage in Gardens

During winter, the gardens **interpretative and directional signage** has been replaced throughout the gardens. The new signage features the gardens oak leaf and acorn logo which also appears on our promotional material and online presence.

You can follow what is happening in the Gardens on Facebook @BallaratBotanicalGardens and the web at www.ballaratbotanicalgardens.com.au.

Peter Marquand, Curator BBG

"After all is said and done, a hell of a lot more is said than done." *Murphy's Laws*

'Garden Cuttings' by Green-Thumb

Green Thumb intends to give memberships to the Ballarat Friends as Christmas presents to lucky relatives and friends! The others may get handkerchiefs or socks again!

Impressive work has been done on reconstituting part of the Western Bed. Replacement plantings will be done progressively as plants become available. Thanks Bill and Bedders!

Sadly it now looks as if a 'new Fernery concept' will be the outcome of the failure to attract federal government funding for the planned project. Unless of course there is a coterie of philanthropic Friends willing to make up the short-fall?

The Gatekeepers' Cottage has sat in the North Gardens on its low-loader for a while now; the slab for its new foundations is expected to be poured in the first weeks of September (weather permitting). A little snag to be overcome is the gas main underneath the proposed location. It will be relocated around the cottage.

John King (Vice President of the Friends) has been a little poorly recently, but has been chuffed by the 2017 AFL Finals appearance of the Essendon footy team. So is Green Thumb! Glad you are feeling better JK.

There were 53 in attendance to hear Sheilagh Kentish's interesting talk about the Ballarat Community Garden. An excellent number given the ordinary weather that morning.

Till next time **Green Thumb**

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Information 2017

Email: info@fbbg.org.au
Website: www.fbbg.org.au

Friends of Ballarat Botanic Gardens Inc.
P.O. Box 33W Ballarat West 3350

Tel. George Longley Building 03 5342 9354

2017 FBBG Committee and Areas of Responsibility

POSITION	NAME
President & Membership	Raoul Dixon
Vice President	John King
Secretary	Susan Rattray
Treasurer	Bruce Holland
Development Convenor	Elizabeth Gilfillan
Education Convenor	Julie Bradby
General member	Carole Haines
General member	Stephanie de Boer
General member	Helen Vincent
General member	Kathleen Hobson
Growers Convenor	Yvonne Curbach
Guides Convenor	Terry O'Brien
History Convenor	Lorraine Powell
Hospitality	Doff Kemp
Western Bed Convenor	Bill O'Driscoll
Newsletter Editor	Michael Bird
Ambassadors Convenor	Beth Dixon (non-Committee)
Botanical Art Convenor	Valerie Richards (non-Committee)
Engraving Convenor	Joy O'Brien (non-Committee)

This newsletter is produced and distributed with the generous financial assistance of the City of Ballarat.



MEETING TIMES 2017

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. (During summer also open on 4th Sunday as well.)

Plant Sales at the above times.

Guiding Friends - 4th Tuesday each month 10 am.

History Group - 1st Tuesday each month 4 pm.

Educating Friends - 2nd Tuesday each month 10 am

Plant Labelling - as required.

Don't forget: Thursday November 23: Friends End of Year Drinks at Robert Clarke Centre, 5-7 pm Drinks/nibbles provided.

Ambassadors

Would you like to take on a new role for the Friends?

Contact the Friends Office **5342 9354**

IMPORTANT COMING EVENTS: The **Gardens in Spring** program will again be run in November. Dates are November 10 (Speakers' Lunch) and November 11 & 12 SIX Open Gardens!

End of the year **drinks and nibbles for the Friends** in the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre at 5.00 p.m. Thursday, November 23.

Please RSVP to the George Longley office on

03 5342 9354 or email info@fbbg.org.au



Looking for a meaningful Christmas present for someone special?
An annual membership to the Friends will provide the perfect gift!

Membership fees for 2016-17 are:

Individual Membership: one year \$20; two years \$40 and five years \$80.

Concession rates: one year \$15; two years \$30 and five years \$60.

Family membership: one year \$30; two years \$60 and five years \$120.

A membership form is included with this Wellingtonia for your convenience!



Photo credits: Thanks to Raoul Dixon, Elizabeth Gilfillan, Helen Vincent, Peter Marquand, Tim Entwisle, Julie Bradby, Susan Pilbeam (who was left off the list last edition), Donna Thomas, Terry O'Brien, the DSWAA and Michael Bird for providing the photographs/illustrations used in this edition. Ed.

Disclaimer: The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens or those of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. Neither the Friends nor the Ballarat Botanical Gardens accepts responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed, although every effort will be made to publish reliable and accurate information. **Contributions for Summer Wellingtonia 2017 are due by early December please.** Michael Bird, Editor.

Editorial Committee: Raoul Dixon, Elizabeth Gilfillan, Helen Vincent and Michael Bird.