

Wellingtonia

Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens inc.

Journal | Spring 2024

Reflections *of a* Patron

BY TIM ENTWISTLE

After 11 years as Patron of the Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens, I wrote to Julie Bradby recently to say I'm stepping aside (I don't think we ever 'step down') to pursue a new life in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales.

Not that – as one of my heroes, Dr Samuel Johnson, might have put it – I'm tired of the role.

It's only because my wife Lynda and I are moving to Bowral in December, to be closer to our family – a daughter and granddaughter in Mittagong, and a son and grandson in Marrickville. Ballarat Botanical Gardens will become a little too far for me to attend meetings and events, and to be an effective Patron for you.

You may ask what it is that a Patron does. A good question and it depends on the organisation. I have, and have had, a few other patronly roles: currently Australian Garden History Society, Fungimap, Mosman Botanic Garden (in Qld*) and Plant Trust. I've also been Patron of cactus and succulent societies in NSW and Victoria.

Each case is different, ranging from presenting regular talks (as I did for the cactus and succulent societies, although mostly touching only briefly on their favourite plants), opening events and conferences, attending annual meetings and providing sage advice when asked.

Being Patron of the Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens has been one of my most treasured appointments. Despite

being an outsider from the big town down the road, I've always felt warmly welcomed. I've enjoyed the annual meetings, particularly – really – reading out the new office bearers and listening to the much deserved thank yous to those they replace.

Also the updates from staff, the words of support from Mayors and councillors, and to hear about the latest booklet, garden or project completed.

I've watched with pride the many achievements of the Friends, almost always working side-by-side with the Council and staff, as you make this botanic garden even more attractive and effective as a place for public enjoyment and learning.

From ambitious projects like the new Fernery through to innovative additions such as the 'Care for the Rare' garden. And soon, a brand new Master Plan!

I won't mention individuals here, but you have some mighty warriors among your ranks – people with so much pride and determination that I think anything is possible. Which is why I think the new Master Plan (when completed) will be achieved in full, if that's what you want.

Thank you again for welcoming me to Ballarat and its world class botanic(al) garden(s). I am delighted to accept the offer of life membership and will continue to watch from afar, and to visit when I can.

Tim Entwisle, September 2024

*While remaining Patron of this Queensland garden might seem at odds with my reason for stepping aside in Ballarat, this role is more around helping to establish a fledgling garden and one that they want to have national focus. Quite a different role, with no annual meetings so far! Oh, and it will become closer in December.



Gift of time, *change,* farewells *and* thank you!

BY JULIE BRADBY



As President I've been heartened many times by the extent of the skills, the generosity in time freely given and the special talents of our members.

The Convenors and their teams, the office staff who keep the work of the Friends buoyant, efficient and successful and the members who support us when they can are wonderful.

Ann in her role as a volunteer office support has retired from the position. Ann together with Kim have transformed the office and how it works.

With time now to rest and relax we thank you Ann for all you have done to help us at the Friends, the time you kindly gave in the office answering the phone, writing lovely worded letters and working on the computer.

Kim will be leaving us too. A move to Ocean Grove and a new business with her partner, Paul will occupy her time.

Kim has been our Treasurer and Office Manager over quite a few years. We will sorely miss Kim. She has managed to transform our office and introduced systems and programs that have enabled the Friends as an organisation to work better and smarter. Her work as our Treasurer has enhanced our efficiency and successfully kept us up to date with financial management practices. Kim also has managed social media and the website with skill and flair with her posters and advertising brochures. She's a wonderful lady, with exceptional skills. We have been privileged and indeed lucky to have Kim work with us and we wish her well in new endeavours and a new life by the sea.

Wendy Taylor, editor Wellingtonia and publicity officer has decided to call it a day too. Wendy has been a great asset to the Friends with her particular skill set freely giving us some of her recently retired time in helping us to establish a core group of Corporate membership, as editor of the Wellingtonia and keeping the Friends in the public eye through newspaper articles and radio. The Friends have been lucky to have you in these roles and we wish you well as you spend your time enjoying your family garden and travelling.

We have had the pleasure and privilege of Sue Rattray's talents for many years following a career in horticulture and Nurseries. Sue has been a Committee minute secretary and has been a key member of the Growers

She has supported the running of the Nursery and been Plants Trolley manager. Sue is standing down from these roles. However I feel and hope we will still see Sue at the Friends helping and enjoying a cuppa and a chat from time to time.



Spring *Events*

This year we have enjoyed many Guest Speakers at our Annual and General Meetings as well as Heritage Week. Always with an emphasis on our role in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens for our current members, future members and our Botanic Kids. Encouraging all how important our gardens are for our enjoyment and well being.

We have also enjoyed the Miniature Exhibition in the Gatekeepers Cottage where Ballarat's Mini Group and the Ballarat Bonsai joined to show exquisite Miniature scenes and the expert designs of Bonsai. Many members and friends enjoyed our Christmas in July evening where the Miniatures were displayed.

SPRING SPEAKERS LUNCHEON.

November 15th, 2024.

Over many years we have been privileged to have many great speakers come and visit and introduce the Friends to their particular interests and skill in Horticulture. This year we are honoured to have Stephen Ryan come and spend the day with members and friends speaking about the colourful plants and Gardens on the Island of Madeira. He will give us insight to the growth of trees, shrubs and other plants on this unique Island.

Stephen's other passion is rare plants and he will have some of the treasures from his Nursery.

Rare plants are very intriguing and interesting to include in our gardens. They can add just that special plant to your landscape.

Stephen will also speak about the wonderful Botanical artist and adventurer Ellis Roman. Ellis has written excellent and informative books covering her exciting travels. Ellis has a fascinating history and deserves to have her history of horticulture known to all.

Booking early is essential as we have a limit on the number of guests. Bookings will close when the limit is reached.



GARDEN STAFF

Toward the ends of November we will also be thanking our Garden Staff with a brunch for all their diligent and expert work to make our Botanical Gardens stunning all year round.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.

Thursday 5th December

in the CONSERVATORY. 5.30 to 7.00pm

All members are invited along to enjoy the scrumptious food and music. Entrance donation.

Christmas Special Effort with many prizes - eftspos available. Come along and enjoy our last function for 2024.

I would love more members to be involved in arranging and participating in our Events.

It is essential for the future of the Friends that our members offer to become more active in the participation of Committees. Your assistance is always welcome.

If you are interested to help please free to come and talk to me. It is very rewarding to be involved with the planning and see all the work come to fruition.

Carole Haines

The Flower Hunter: Ellis Rowan

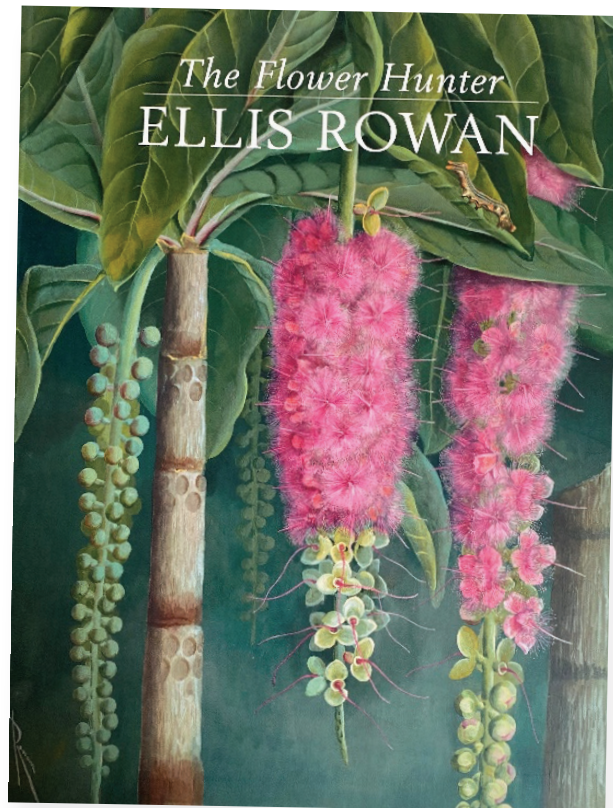
BOOK REVIEW BY NATALIE RADOMSKI

With its engaging narrative and exquisite colour plates, *The Flower Hunter: Ellis Rowan* is feast for the imagination. Written by art consultant Patricia Fullerton, this book tells the incredible story of Ellis Rowan's life-long quest to find and document the distinctive flora of Australia and beyond. More than an art catalogue, the book offers a fascinating overview of Rowan's family life, artistic achievements, biographical timeline and key art works held by the National Library of Australia (NLA).

Marian Ellis Rowan (1848 -1922) was an artist, naturalist, writer and explorer. A trailblazer at a time when women's career pathways were limited by Victorian society expectations. For almost half a century, Rowan travelled to remote areas of Australia, New Guinea, India, the Himalayas, America and parts of Europe in search of rare plants and wildflowers to paint. Many of these specimens had not been recorded before. As Fullerton explains, Rowan completed many of her plant studies on-site, *'en plein air'*, in extreme environmental conditions whilst constrained by her "Victorian finery". Described as 'plucky' and 'independent', Rowan was ambitious in pursuing her botanical interests throughout her life.

A significant boost to Rowan's artistic endeavours came early on when she was invited to submit her botanical illustrations to Victorian Government botanist, Baron Ferdinand von Mueller for classification in his Australian flora collection. Von Mueller's handwriting (in botanical Latin), can be found on the back of many of Rowan's plant studies. As Fullerton also notes, Von Mueller involved several other women artists from around Australia in his research, challenging the view that the study of natural history and scientific illustration was a male occupation only.

Known for her innovative flower paintings and compositional style, Rowan combined detailed botanical observations with a more romantic and dramatic colour palette.



Over time, Rowan also incorporated birds, butterflies and insects into her paintings adding a further dimension to her art. Several examples of Rowan's watercolour paintings and her *Birds of Paradise* series are featured in the book.

Fullerton's skill in capturing Rowan's many achievements are exemplified in the biographical timeline which summarises the travels, exhibitions, writing, art competitions and family events that shaped Rowan's extraordinary life. Rowan exhibited nationally and internationally, winning numerous medals and is recognised as one of Australia's leading artists.

This excellent art book, while not a recent NLA publication, is a wonderful read. To find out more about Ellis Rowan, check out a copy of the Flower Hunter: Ellis Rowan from the Friends Library. You can also visit the **National Library website** at www.nla.gov.au. Click on the search icon at the top of the main page and type in "Ellis Rowan" to view extensive information and digitised images of her work. ***Keep a look out for the distinctive vertical 'stick insect' signature used by Rowan during her career - sometimes hidden as part of the branches and leaves in her flower paintings. Lots to enjoy!

Reference: Patricia Fullerton (2002). *The Flower Hunter: Ellis Rowan*. National Library of Australia: Canberra, 105p.

Patricia Fullerton (2002). *The Flower Hunter: Ellis Rowan*. National Library of Australia: Canberra, p.1



Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation

The Foundation has been active in recent times as we emerge from the winter hibernation and ready ourselves for spring & summer. An overview of our key initiatives since the last update include:

Appointment of a new Director – We are delighted to advise that Fleur Morrison has accepted our invitation to join our Board, With strong family connections to the City of Ballarat and the Gardens , Fleur will add considerable experience and capability to our Board, in particular in the areas of marketing and stakeholder communication. Fleur is currently coordinating the recruitment of a volunteer to assist with the management of our social media platforms so expect to see increased activity in this space in the not-too-distant future.

New web site - Our new website will be launched soon. We have taken existing material and undertaken a refresh to ensure our presence in the www is more reflective of our current position and will enhance the marketing of organisation. Thanks to Kesh Manton for all her work on this project.

Masterplan – The Foundation has been actively involved, through my representation, in the development of the BBG Master Plan. This has been a detailed and complex process, and I am sure the community consultation phase of the draft Plan will evoke much discussion and debate. I am equally sure we will end up with a Masterplan worthy of our world class Botanical Gardens

AGM – scheduled for the 29th of November, a report on this meeting and ongoing activities will be provided in the next edition.

Mark Schultz

Chair. BBGF

The Growers: A Potted History

LORRAINE POWELL OAM

Following the formal incorporation of the FBBG in 1992, several sub-groups formed. One of these was the Growers. It would provide both an interface between the Community and the Gardens and revenue for projects within the Gardens

A willing band of volunteer members, under the leadership of Convenor Judith Bailey, met on a Tuesday afternoon at the Gardens Works shed and potted at the sink and bench within. Donated pots were washed at the sink and members brought in interesting bulbs and plants from their own gardens. The Gardens staff provided cutting material from the Begonia Collection as well. Plants were brought on in the westernmost bench of the Gardens greenhouse. This small group held successful quarterly sales for several years. They also supported the FBBG presence at the 10-day Begonia Festival. Soon, it was clear that more space was needed, and a propagating house was acquired and rebuilt in the south west corner of the Nursery grounds. A gate was installed for public access and plants were now being sold weekly. Plant stock was kept in the area to the north of the greenhouse as well as along the southern edge of the Botanical Gardens Nursery grounds. Various shrubs and trees were grown but the stock was mostly herbs and perennials. Bruce Holland kept the greenhouse filled with species begonias and cultivars, showing the growers how to propagate them by cuttings, leaf cuttings and by division. A kitchen sink provided a handy potting bench.

Following Judith's Convenorship, Jane Barrett took the reins and brought a new energy to the group. She sourced interesting tube stock plants and the group and the income grew.

When she left, the Committee appointed Heather Laidlaw as Convenor but her tenure was brief and from within the group Lorraine Powell was selected to lead the group. With access to left over seedlings of 'Non-stop' and 'Illuminata' (or cascading) begonias, the group began preparing thousands of begonias for the Begonia Festival. The Great South Shed near the Fish Hatchery housed them as they grew on. It was a hit, and for 10 busy days a bevy of volunteer members sold, sold, sold. The relatively new Robert Clarke Conservatory was then manned by staff and an opportunity to have plant sales from a small trolley was instituted. This trolley proved most successful and needed to be regularly replenished. Second Sunday sales days was introduced.

With the building of the George Longley Meeting Rooms the Nursery space was divided into a potting area and a selling space. Afternoon tea moved from the little shed at the rear of the greenhouse to the luxury of the George Longley building, newly placed to the south of the Botanical Gardens workshed.

Caroline Pinkowski followed and raised the plants off the ground with the introduction of treated pine tables constructed by the Ballarat East Men's Shed.

Today, the Growers are led by Yvonne Curbach. Second-hand pots are no longer used to avoid accidental contamination. The benches are now metal and the little trolley at the entry to the Conservatory has been replaced by two large multi-tiered trolleys.

But the commitment of the band of volunteers is still steadfast. The many decades of volunteer service on behalf of the Friends and for our wonderful Botanical gardens has recently been recognized in the awarding of the prestigious Handbury Award at the recent AAFBG Conference in Maroochydore.

Continuing Our Focus on Ferns

The Fernery displays many plants, but the main feature is 'Australian' ferns. This Spring issue is focussing on the terrestrial fern in the Family Pteridaceae, *Adiantum aetheopicum*, the true MAIDENHAIR FERN.

The genus name *Adiantum* from the Greek 'a' meaning 'lacking' and 'diantos' meaning 'moistened', referring to the fronds ability to hold droplets of water rather than absorb them, and the species name *Aetheopicum* derives from Aethiops, an African son of Vulcan, the Greek God of fire. His name has come to mean places south of Egypt. Synonyms include *Adiantum assimile* and *Adiantum trigonum*.

A. aetheopicum is small and widespread. It is native to Africa, Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia and Norfolk Island. In the south of Africa, it grows in moist full shade on sandstone cliffs and on the Cape Peninsula at the highest altitudes. In Australia it is a common plant, occurring in moist areas. It can form large colonies along creeks and in forests that flood periodically. Examples have also been found growing on clay banks in shady gullies as well as in dry exposed sites.

This fern grows in clumps and spreads via wiry branching rhizomes. The fronds can be horizontal and layered or quite upright between 10cm to 45cm long. Small, wedge-shaped segments are arrayed along the central spine of the frond. The segments have up to five sori on the margins of the underside each containing upwards of sixty spores. The spore is dispersed by the wind and produces new plants readily.



Adiantum aetheopicum MAIDENHAIR FERN

The book 'The Useful Native Plants of Australia' 1889 states, "This plant is said to possess medicinal properties, being slightly astringent and emetic. It has been used in Europe in making 'Sirop de Capt'llaire', a mucilaginous drink, relieving pain and inflammation in diseases of the chest." Whilst it has been used medicinally there is no scientific verification of its effectiveness.

Adiantum aethiopicum is a popular and well-known ornamental plant. It is easily grown and does best when planted in part shade with no wind and rich well drained soil. As an indoor plant it prefers a well-lit situation. It is suitable for terrariums and hanging baskets.

AAFBG Conference 2024

The Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens had their conference in August 23-26, 2024 in truly one of the most beautiful areas of Australia, Maroochydore, Queensland.

It was a wonderful excuse to escape the cold winter weather down south and for members to catch up with others they'd not seen since the last conference two years ago.

This year's conference theme was the 'Challenge of Change' and some wonderful presenters with a passion for plants gardens and horticulture led the sessions. The key points of focus this year were:

- Creating rewarding relationships
- Working well with volunteers
- Identifying opportunities within a changing climate
- Employing technology to enhance messages and effectiveness

Generally the vast majority of member groups are made up of retired or semi-retired members, so connecting and inspiring younger people to understand what botanic gardens are, families to join up and become involved in activities is a challenge- but we can take this on!!

I believe botanic gardens and "friends" groups associated with them hold the keys to providing a greater understanding of the interconnectedness and the tremendous assets plants and gardens are to all people. Positive connections, memorable experiences with nature, and meeting with people passionate about plants has immeasurable benefits to mental, social and physical well being across the community and beyond. It can inspire a greater connection or reconnection to the importance of biodiversity and healthy environments for all.

If you have any great ideas or even ones that may become great, please share them, you never know where it will lead.

Rosemary Davies

Ballarat Friends of Botanic Gardens representative for AAFBG

Ambassadors

The Ambassadors have enjoyed being a part of the display in the Conservatory. Having the blinds open over July, added to the atmosphere. The comments from the public on the colour, the plants and design were very complimentary.

We have had several new members join us who are enjoying the role, if you are interested please feel free to come along and try it out.

Hours. Weekends from 11am to 1pm and 1pm to 3pm.

Trish

Ambassadors Convener





Art Botany Science and Surprises

BY RO BANCROFT

The Ballarat Botanical Artists have been working steadily towards our exhibition for next year - the 'Weird and Wonderful plants within Australia' exhibition which hopes to show viewers plants that they might not possibly have seen before. For instance, the Splitgill mushroom *Schizophyllum commune* is a species of fungus, strangely resembling undulating waves of tightly packed corals or a loose Chinese fan.

We are also hoping to have a Begonia Calendar printed ready for the Begonia Festival – featuring the begonia paintings and illustrations from our 'Inspired by Begonias' exhibition in March.



Getting my new garden ready for Summer

ROSEMARY DAVIES

At last we can say goodbye to the winter weather and relish the warmth of Spring.

There's so much to do in my new (more like a work in progress) garden. On reflection I think, not a day gone past without more plants going in! The local nurseries are very happy, they smile enthusiastically when they see me!

I've been working on a screen to help cut out the stronger winds. It's always important with a new garden (this is my 7th garden,) to work on the good points you have and build on it, to strengthen the microclimates, and give shelter, for faster plant growth. Later on, I thin plants out or tweak the design a little if needed.

I made sure I had a water feature, so the frogs that came with me hidden in the pot plants, had somewhere damp and ensured the birdbaths were filled before we started unpacking.

I'm currently finalising plantings now before the hot weather, adding plenty of organic matter to my black clay while the soil is damp from rain and adding the compost from the bins. Building up the organic matter in the soil is a must for good growth and so is building wind protection, which also helps for water saving.

The hoses are ready if needed and the veggie garden has some recycled upturned drink bottles to help water seep in slowly. Good luck with your Spring preparations and plantings.

A TREASURE FROM TROVE.
FOUND BY DOUG BRADBY

Ballarat woman's success. Dyes from vegetation

By Annie S. Evans.

Weekly Times, 27/08/1921



For more than 30 years Mrs Eady Hart of Ballarat East, has been experimenting and perfecting the art of dyes. An American patent report states

'We consider you have found more colors from vegetation than have ever before been found. We have seen endless color samples, but nothing has come under our notice to

equal your browns, old golds and soft shades.'

Mrs Hart said, 'I have patented dyes from almost every growing thing. These are real dyes, and not merely color stains. Many are fast and will boil for a week, but I am not going to say they are all fast dyes. The shades one can get from vegetation are numberless. I cannot count the numbers of tints obtainable.'

'I am still finding new shades. There is scarcely a growing thing I cannot extract a color from. There are over a hundred eucalyptus varieties that I can get a different shade from. This grey is from the eucalyptus,' she said, holding up a lovely shade of ribbon that any milliner might envy.

Reared from childhood in the bush, Mrs Hart has ever been keen on botanising and investigating. 'Even now I wander on the hills testing and gathering vegetation. When I see a tree with the sun shining out, I bring home a sample and test it.'

Mrs Hart has been a worker all her life. Besides dyeing large quantities of wool, she also spins with a hand-loom all the wool she uses.

Sovereign Hill webpage includes a more detailed story of this remarkable lady. Photo supplied by Sovereign Hill.

A Pleasant Nature Discovery on our Travels Recently

BY JUDITH BONE

Recently and quite unexpectedly I discovered the origin of the very popular Grevillea Robyn Gordon. Myall Park Botanic Garden is a gem worth visiting tucked away near Glenmorgan on the Western Downs, Queensland. I am a huge fan of Botanic Gardens and Art Galleries whilst travelling, so when I saw an art exhibition of the Glenmorgan Art Group at the nearby Meandarra AN AC Memorial Museum where a Superb Blue Wren had been painted at the Myall Park Botanic Garden, my interest was piqued.

We discovered that in the 1940s David and Dorothy Gordon set aside 132 hectares of their sheep station, stock and vermin proofed it and sent out collectors to source plant material across Australia with a focus on arid and semi-arid plants. You can read more of its intriguing history at myallparkbotanicgarden.com

Currently it is privately owned and managed by a Board of Honorary Directors who employ a caretaker. He showed us to our picturesque and remote bush camp site, toilet shower and power included and only one other van, a rarity on the road!!!

We were also delighted to discover multiple walks through diverse habitats which showcased the now mature plant species and a bird hide which overlooks a soak watered in the dry by an extensive irrigation system, as is amazingly the whole Garden. A variety of soil types has enabled diverse flora and consequently fauna to inhabit Myall Park.



An art gallery is the jewel in the crown of this beautiful Botanic Garden for me. It houses 48 botanically accurate watercolour paintings by Dorothy, an accomplished botanical artist. I also discovered Dorothy was a foundation member (1970-1985) of the Glenmorgan Art Group.

So how does Grevillea Robin Gordon fit in? During the late 1950s many different species of grevillea were planted in close proximity with the resultant hybrids: Grevillea Robyn Gordon, Grevillea Sandra Gordon and Grevillea Merinda Gordon so named after David and Dorothy's three daughters.

An overnight stay was far too short at this beautiful sanctuary where, like all Botanic Gardens, people can find respite and inspiration in the outdoor classroom to become stewards of the plants and animals in their own community.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Introducing Paddy Milne

Paddy attended our Committee meeting as an invited guest in March. After the resignation of Susie Cochrane [family and career reasons] A position as a community member became available

[See Paddy's bio] We are so lucky to have Paddy in our midst.

My love of being in and around gardens came from my Dad, Paul. He has always had a 'go with the flow attitude' to gardens, trying new plants, swapping plants & cuttings with other keen gardeners. It can be a solo or a social hobby, I love that about gardening.

Director/Founder of The Scape Artist;



With nearly two decades of experience in the industry, designing and working in gardens, my journey began with studies in Horticulture and then Landscape construction. I worked with landscapers both locally and in Canada before setting up

my own firm in 2013. The Scape Artist has three dedicated teams working across Landscape Design, Landscape Construction and Maintenance.

I recently hosted a new design and renovation show for Foxtel and Binge- Selling in the City.

Discover *the* Victorian Collections Archives!

BY NATALIE RADOMSKI, FBBG HISTORY GROUP TEAM

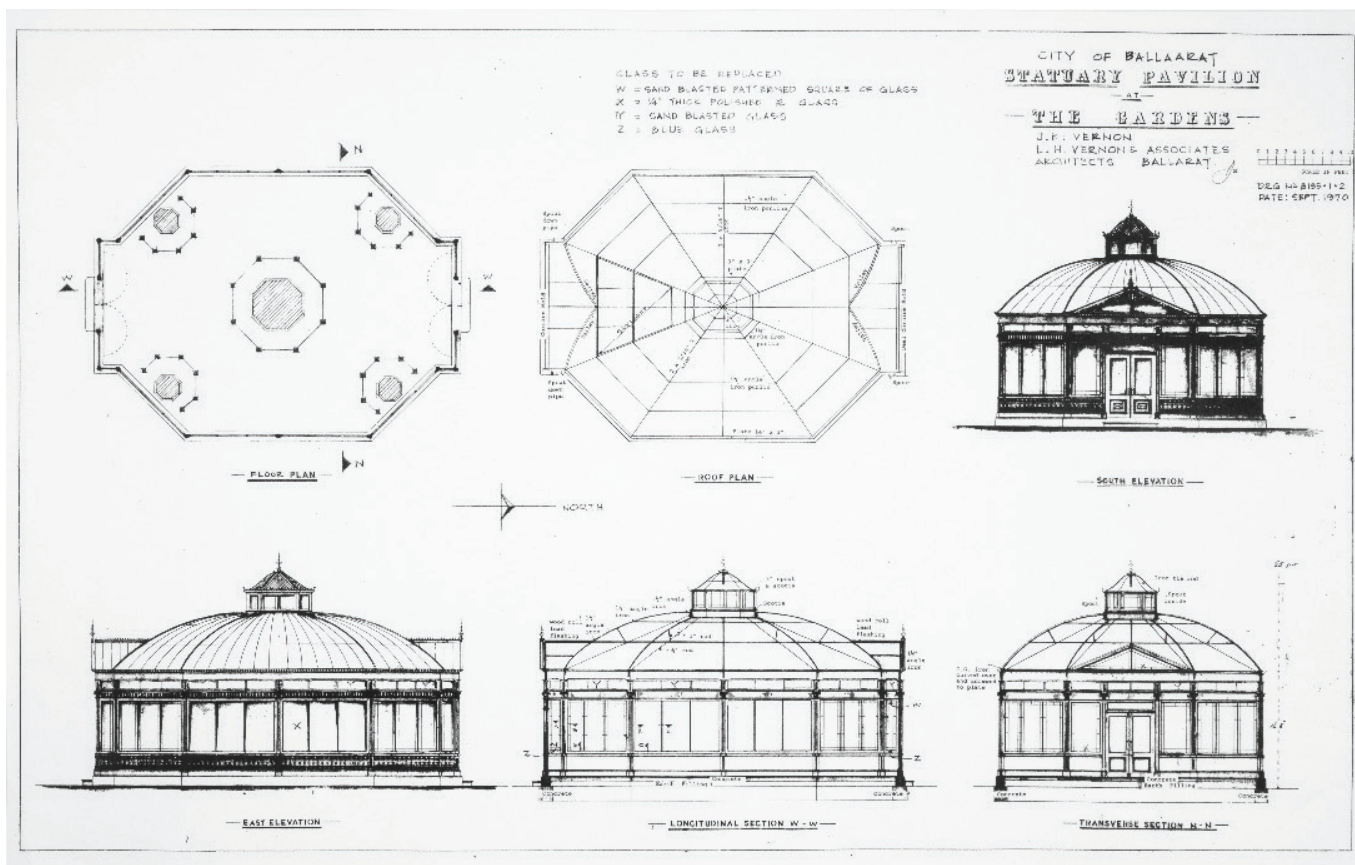
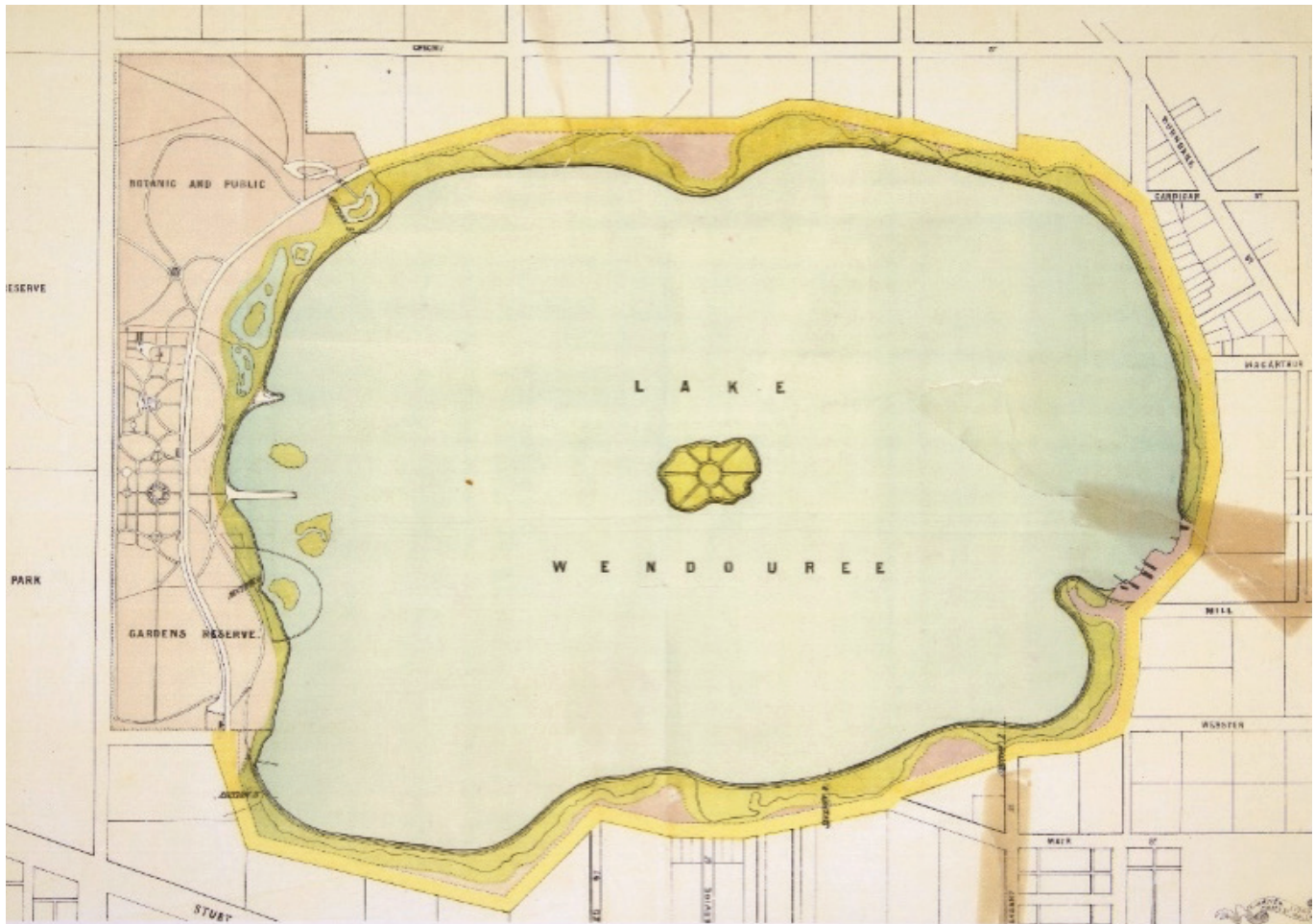


Image: City of Ballarat, Statuary Pavilion at the Gardens, J.B. Vernon et al., 1970

Victorian Collections is a digital archive that provides free public access to a treasure-trove of items held by libraries, galleries, museums, historical societies and community groups across Victoria. To ensure important cultural heritage records and stories aren't lost, Vic Collections also offers a free **Collection Management System** - currently being used by the **Friends History Group** to catalogue, upload and share our items.

With access to this expanding online database and suite of cataloguing tools, we can not only contribute our unique historical records, but locate a wealth of information about the **Ballarat Botanical Gardens** from collections held by organisations such as the City of Ballarat, Ballarat Mechanics Institute, Tramways Museum and Federation University. To name a few!

Our focus for 2024, is to finish cataloguing the historical maps and plans from the FBBG collection. These objects help tell the evolving story of the Gardens and Lake Wendouree precinct, including ideas and plans for buildings such as the Fernery and Statuary Pavilion. I'd particularly like to thank Ingrid Unger and Kim Nolan for their dedication and expertise in progressing this task in recent months.



Lake Wendouree Map (n.d.)

By happy co-incidence, as I was writing this article, I discovered that the Vic Collections Website has a wonderful feature story highlighting some of the **‘Trailblazing Women of Ballarat’** associated with Federation University and its precursors. Included in this group, is artist Eleanor Constance (Nornie) Gude. Among her many artistic achievements, Gude designed a large gouache poster depicting a view in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens submitted in a poster competition in the 1930s. It is this kind of ‘serendipitous discovery’ that provides new insights for research, exhibition development and enjoyment.

For our Guides, FBBG Committee and Gardens Team, this state-wide archive offers many surprises and delights. Similarly, for FBBG Members with an interest in the Gardens, Family History and many other topics - who knows what discoveries await! If you’d like to explore this rich online resource - including more than 250,000 objects from across the state, visit the Victorian Collections website at: <https://victoriancollections.net.au/>

1 Victorian Collections Website. (2024). About Victorian Collections. See: <https://victoriancollections.net.au/>

2 Gervasoni, C., Evans, M., & Tsilemanis, T. (2024). Trailblazing Women of Ballarat. Federation University. See Victorian Collections: <https://victoriancollections.net.au/stories/trailblazing-women-ballarat> [Accessed 29 Sept 2024]

3 Ibid.



Did you *See?*

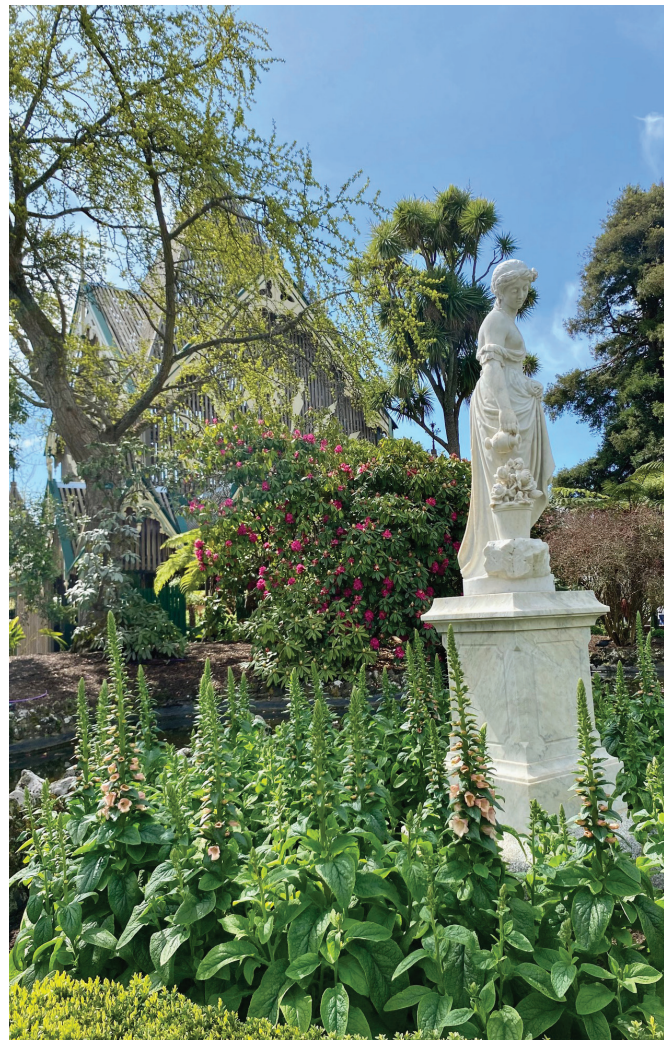
BY JULIE BRADBY

Hope you all saw the references and stories of the Friends in local media recently : The Stoddart Statues story was of particular interest as it outlined the work of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation in facilitating a highly significant donation to continue the upkeep of the Stoddart Statues.

The Ballarat Times

Our iconic beautiful Western Yellow Pine was one of nine finalists for the National Trust's Tree of the Year.

Another article featured Val Richards and our Nursery group each gaining an Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens prestigious Handbury Award. We had a morning tea to celebrate.



Dear Members

I wander the Gardens on most days and have the 'pleasure' of a weekly Nature Walk with some fifty children and adults as part of our Botanikids Tuesday sessions. What the young children say and notice especially in the gardens never fails to interest and often amuse me.

One little wise nature commentator was heard to say 'one minute dirt, next minute all these flowers!' It does seem from plots of bare soil the gardeners produce beds brimming with glorious abundant colour. It is indeed, a form of magic.

The Conservatory continues to amaze the visitors and locals with the glorious displays. The Ambassadors often comment that visitors say our Gardens are among the best they have visited. This is high praise as these are informed people who have often travelled from interstate or overseas.

The reclaiming of lawn around some of the trees has been really welcomed. It will be heartening to see visitors enjoying the shade sitting a little closer to the trees on green grass with family gatherings enjoying the Summer Sundays music.

The Masterplan is at the final stage with now fine tuning, input and planning checks. A draft form will be available very soon for public perusal. We will let our members know where they can view the Draft Masterplan as soon as we can.

I'm personally very excited. I strongly encourage you to view the Draft and let us now your thoughts and support.

Tickets are selling well for the Spring Luncheon on the 15th November with Guest Speaker Stephen Ryan. Don't miss out and if you do buy a ticket and can't attend please ask for a refund before the date.

Christmas is Coming! Love to see you at the Friends Christmas Function on the 5th December. See advertising for details.



Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens

*Invite members
to attend*

Christmas Nibbles and Drinks

**THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER
5.30 - 7.00pm**

In the
Conservatory
Ballarat Botanical Gardens

Donation appreciated
Raffle - \$2 ticket, or 3 tickets for \$5 – cash/card

Queries by email info@fbbg.org.au or phone 5342 9354

Friday 15th November, 2024
10:15am to 2:30pm

Bookings are essential for this very popular spring event, at our beautiful Botanical Gardens.

Tickets at:
<https://www.trybooking.com/CSQXL>



\$70 per person
Includes morning tea and lunch

Robert Clark Horticultural Centre

Dietary needs:
Please call Carole on 0437 462 731

Enquires: 5342 9354 or
info@fbbg.org.au

More information www.fbbg.org.au

Welcome Speaker's Spring Luncheon



Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc.



Friday 15th November, 2024

Thank you to our Sponsors:



SPOT ON
POTS & NURSERY



Restaurant



Guided Tours—by Guiding Friends

Every Sunday in Spring and Autumn
11am, meet at the Conservatory,
No bookings required - Free

Friends Nursery

Open each Tue 1-4pm
2nd Sunday month 1-4pm
4th Sunday month Summer 1-4pm

Speaker:
Stephen Ryan

What Plant is That?

The Mystery of Rare and Interesting Garden Plants



What makes our gardens interesting?

We don't have to plant the common and obvious!

Expert on rare and unusual plants from around the world 'Stephen Ryan' will show us many examples of worthwhile but rarely used plants to add depth and uniqueness to our gardens.



Not only will our gardens become more intriguing but gardening in general will benefit from this diversity!



Stephen Ryan, owner of 'Dicksonia Rare Plants' is a regular on ABC radio Melbourne and 3CR radio and President of the 'Mt Macedon Horticultural Society'.

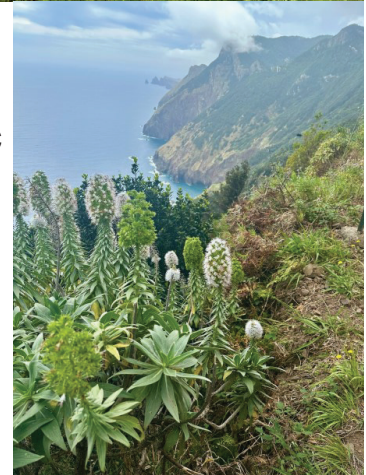
He is Patron of the RHSV and 'Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens' and the tour leader for 'Australians Studying Abroad'.

Stephen has hosted 'Gardening Australia' for three years and written several gardening books.

The Wild landscapes of Madeira and the Azores



Stephen will take us on a pictorial tour of these fabulous Islands in the Atlantic and their remarkable flora. Find out more about the rare endemic plants and the scenery which is beyond belief!



Learn about 'Ellis Rowan' a famous Botanical artist that lived part of the time at Mt. Macedon and her remarkable daring exploits!

Are You Interested in helping the Friends as a hands on volunteer.

These are the tasks that really do need your help

1. Printing the Plant labels for Plant Nursery

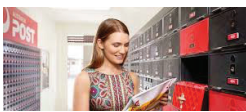


Uses a simple Word Document on computer and printer.

George Longley Rooms usually on a Tuesday PM.

Training available, more information Kim Nolan, Wayne Harbour (after 15th November).

2. Collect the Post from Ballarat West PO and deliver



to the George Longley Building Place in appropriate pigeon hole.

This is a weekly task .

3. Be a Plant Trolley Volunteer



Friends Plant Trolleys are becoming very popular with visitors and casual walkers who often choose a plant to buy to add to their Gardens experience. If you are on the Roster your job would be to check to see the plants are watered and look ok as well as top up the plants.

Training and support. You would be a partner to an experienced Trolley Volunteer. Rostered time commitment. The more that volunteer the less time each person needs to 'work'.

4. Help uploading membership data at high need periods, such as renewal time.

Training and support available.

Needs basic spreadsheet experience at uploading data. Work in George Longley Building.

5. Join the Publishing Team.

Working on the regular ENews monthly and Wellingtonia Journal.

Requires commissioning, editing and writing skills. Be out and about in the Gardens to notice new happenings developments. Newsworthy stories and ideas. Attending meetings for reports.

Working with Office Manager, Julie Bradby and Karen McLean.

Graphic design is done professionally.

Wellingtonia Membership Report

October 2024.

Our Current Membership is standing at 457.

The Friends welcome the following new members:

- Kelvin and Jill Hobby
- Julie Collyer
- Dianne Thompson
- Michelle Mace
- Christine Clarkson
- Wayne & Jenny Harbour

Membership Renewal

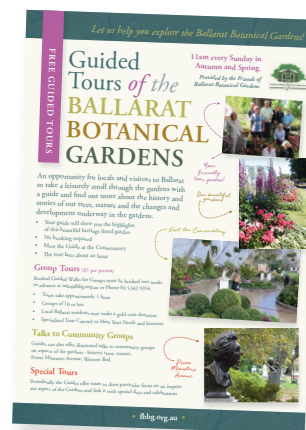
Membership renewals will be sent out shortly. Please remember to pay promptly. Further discounts are available for 2 and 5 year renewals.

Our preference is Direct Debit (Please note 'name', 'subs', 'year length')

eg P Symons, Sub 2yr.

BSB 633 000 Acc No. 125 334 615

Please send/email your form back to the office to help with processing.



Members see loose insert Guided Tours Flyer for your information. keep, share with groups visitors and friends.



BOTANIC GARDENS

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND INC



The social value of botanic gardens—connecting

Botanic gardens are significant community facilities. They engage communities, inspiring informing and connecting people with each other and with the environment. They are much-loved places that bring communities together, create memories and link generations, and contribute to our wellbeing and health.

Community

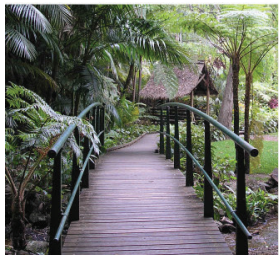
People and communities come together in botanic gardens for many different reasons—to relax, walk, read, play, meet friends, attend events, and learn about plants and horticulture, the environment and sustainability.



Health and wellbeing

Botanic gardens are friendly, safe, open spaces that are good for the soul. They offer a retreat from busy modern day life where people can enjoy fresh air and gentle exercise or quiet contemplation.

Research shows that volunteering at botanic gardens is good for health and wellbeing. Seniors who volunteered experience benefits including intellectual stimulation, social interaction and friendships, and a positive emotional state linked to the satisfaction of contributing to a good cause.



Education

Botanic gardens are outdoor living classrooms that provide a unique learning environment for students, teachers and the wider public.

Events

Botanic gardens provide the perfect backdrop for a wide range of social uses including art, sculpture and touring exhibitions; film, theatre and music events; community festivals; and family and social gatherings like weddings, reunions or birthday parties.

Many families and friends have powerful connections to botanic gardens that hold special memories. Parents bringing their children recall visiting the garden years ago with their own parents and grandparents. Groups meet in the same place year after year for special occasions or anniversaries. Botanic gardens have universal appeal across the generations. They are places where people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy and appreciate the values of plants and gardens.



Heritage

As well as celebrating the vital role of plants in our lives, many botanic gardens are also valued for their rich natural and cultural heritage including historic areas and buildings.



Photos supplied by

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Tamborine Mountain Botanic Gardens, Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens, Alice Springs Desert Park

www.bganz.org.au



Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc.



2024 Friends Committee

President Julie Bradby

Vice President Karen McLean

Secretary Wayne Harbour

Treasurer Jim Kierce

Immediate Past President Terry O' Brien

General Community Committee Members

Peter Marquand

Paddy Milne

Convenors

**Australian Association of Friends
of Botanic Gardens** Rosemary Davies

Ambassadors Heather Boyd

Botanical Art. Ro Bancroft

Botanikids/Education Julie Bradby

Events and Speakers Carole Haines

Exhibitions/Library Lorraine Powell

Growing Friends Yvonne Curbach

Guides Julie Chandler

History Natalie Radomski

Membership Karen McLean

Precinct Rep Geoff Notman

Strategic Governance Jock Gilbert

Non Committee Roles

Administration: Kim Nolan [to Nov 15th]
Wayne Harbour

Ambassador Organisation Trish Twaits

Plant Trolley Sue Rattray

Wellingtonia Julie Bradby Susan Patterson
Karen McLean Arthur Shulkes

Publicity Julie Bradby

Committee Meetings

Every third Tuesday 4 pm Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, except July and December

Information and Contact

info@fbbg.org.au

Website: www.fbbg.org.au

Ph 03 53 429 354

Office, George Longley Building
open Tuesday PM

Address: PO Box 33W Ballarat West 3350

*The FBBG acknowledges where we work
and meet is the home of the Wardawurrung
and Dja Dja Wurrung peoples, the original
custodians, whose lands and waters we all
now share cherish and protect together*



*The Friends are proud
to recognise our
Corporate Members
for 2024-25*



BALLARAT
GRAMMAR



Loreto
COLLEGE BALLARAT | EST. 1875



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