

Wellingtonia

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NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2022

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:



2013 – Fernery. 2022 – Fernery. Since the deteriorated old structure closed in 2013 the Friends have worked to see a new emerging structure in this space. Everyone wants to move on and have this project behind us. It has dominated our attention for 10 years. Our newsletter has been giving regular updates for so long and with varying degrees of optimism and pessimism. Moving into this year we were led to believe that the new building would be ready mid-year.

Ballarat City Council has invested in a beautiful addition to the gardens and this asset is awaiting completion and bedding into the landscape. We are frustrated that it is taking so long to get this asset to a point where it attracts, inspires, and educates our community, visitors and tourists and help consolidate Ballarat's reputation as a leading regional Botanic Garden. FBBG and the Foundation have waited a long time with available funds to contribute to this development.

On May 25 the Council finally announced a timeline and funding arrangements. Entrance and interior internals of the new building are to be completed in 2022/23 and the budget is \$511,700. \$250,000 of the required funding is coming from the Friends and Foundation. To proceed to **Stage 3** more funding needs to be secured in the '23/24 Budget and a new masterplan review for the Gardens will be part of this.

The Gardens and Lake precinct is a much-treasured part of the city and valued and used in so many ways. Landscape change does bring response. In recent years we have witnessed the strong reactions with the relocation of the Gatekeeper's Cottage, the Lake exercise stations, and the Lake lights. Level of community support,

clarity with heritage approvals, and clear funding commitments are elements influencing these decisions. We understand the cautious and layered approach by Council to achieve good governance with their project management but question its current application to the Fernery. **With the Fernery we are talking about a project that has been in the public eye for a long time.** Both the 1995 and the Lake Wendouree Master Plan of 2017 all recommend the redevelopment of the Ballarat Fernery. Heritage approval has been gained. There has been community consultation and we have the BBG Fernery Concept Plan (*Andrea Proctor Landscapes*) guiding its development. Further funding is all that is required. The May Council decision just slows down the whole process for several more years. We are in limbo.

We would like to think that the Council and Friends share the same passion and commitment to the project and consider other options to hasten its completion.

'We would like to think that the Council and Friends share the same passion and commitment.'

More than half the total income for Ballarat comes from Victorian and Federal governments grants. I am not aware of advocacy and leadership by the Council to secure a grant for this project. The Friends could lobby our various political parties and politicians pre-State election this year to try to secure funding. The Foundation could consider a community fund raising campaign or seek philanthropic donations. However these options need a confident clear commitment by CoB Council that they are proceeding with Stage 3 to complete the Fernery development.

The Fernery building provides a beautiful heritage perspective and is in keeping with its surrounds. With a significant collection of plants and connected to the open space on the western side it will have the wow factor. The disappointment is that done in bits the full impact of the wow is delayed.

continues page 2...

Please note: In this publication some abbreviations are used for simplicity sake: FBBG = Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens; CoB = City of Ballarat; RCHC = Robert Clark Horticultural Centre; GLB = George Longley Building



1982 - 2022
THE BALLARAT FRIENDS
ARE CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

GALA EVENT, THURS, OCT 20, 6 PM
YOUR INVITATION IS INCLUDED



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



See what Tim's been
up to recently on page 4.

The Gothic-like **Batten Fernery of 1884** was built in stages and not fully completed until 1898. Let's hope 14 years is not our experience with this project.

Winter is probably not the most ideal time to focus on our oaks as leaves and acorns that help distinguish many of these oaks have often gone by this time but coinciding this with Ballarat Heritage Festival brings CoB Events support and publicity and reaching new audiences. We were pleased at the interest and support for all activities. The Exhibition in the Statue Pavilion was an ideal space. All the research, design, photography for the panels in the exhibition was done by the Guides and History group and they are be congratulated on their resourcefulness and the professionalism achieved. Several were involved but it was the strong input by **Julie Chandler, Lorraine Powell, Wendy Sandiford and Natalie Radomski and Michael Bird** that made it all possible.

John Hawker was an excellent choice as speaker on the topic of celebrating our oaks. Although a wintry day on Sunday May 29, BotaniKIDS and Guides attracted large numbers for their events. FBBG achieved our goal of highlighting and informing and appreciating our fine Oaks collection. We hope to capture the interest of the public, but it is always reassuring knowing that a sizable number of the participants will be our loyal active members. Thank you. **Always interested in feedback and so let us know what aspects appeal or need improving.**

While the planning for our Oaks activities in May was progressing an idea for an excursion took hold to check out an interesting collection of oaks at Mereweather farm at Dunkeld. **Lorraine Powell** provides a report on this. Here we saw the results of **Bill Funk's passion** to plant and nurture trees, especially oaks. It was a day to wonder and ponder on the achievements of one individual on the landscape. Bill Funk's legacy was in such contrast to reading in the paper (Rachel Eddie, Age 29 May, 2022) the day after our excursion that Melbourne's leafy eastern suburbs have lost 2.3% of its shady trees by the actions of individual homeowners. Trees are removed for extensions, views or foundation concerns. The reduction change occurs slowly and incrementally in these residential areas. There are improvements to increase tree canopy in many urban areas, but they are largely occurring on public land. Bill Funk's legacy is unique on a private property and not one that we can follow. However we can in Ballarat applaud and support the Council's greening progress on extending canopy coverage and improving the broader livability of neighbourhoods. As a FBBG community group we have communicated to CoB our interest in supporting more new planting and rehabilitation works in the Wetlands and Fairyland. Our labour, interest, funding and our ideas are available. When development works resume FBBG want to be part of the energy push to help improve and green these areas.

We had six of our members attend the AAFBG conference at **Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens**. Some of you would have been at the May FBBG Quarterly meeting and heard some of the feedback from **Merrill Shulkes, Kim Nolan and Roger Permezel**. Botanic Gardens and their volunteer organisations face changing realities and to come to terms with these changes our organisation needs to be open to new ideas and approaches. Conferences are one way to open this up with networking and information sharing. At conferences with like-minded people, you are reinforcing your interest and involvement and hopefully boosting your energy efforts and commitment. These conferences are not just for committee people or convenors but for all members. We want stronger participation in these enrichment opportunities

and encourage more people developing their interest, broadening their outlook and enriching our discussions.

To this end FBBG are developing a policy to encourage the uptake of these opportunities by interested committed members. We have made a start by funding one member to attend the recent AAFBG conference. Costs for training in-services for the History group has also been funded. FBBG want to play a role in facilitating the skilling of our committed active volunteers. The policy to guide the implementation for this funding support will be available in the next issue of *Wellingtonia*.

Ballarat Botanic Gardens are in a part of Australia with many nearby Botanic gardens. By 1870 Victoria had 21 Botanic gardens and many close to Ballarat – Buninyong, Geelong, Koroit, Daylesford, Port Fairy, Bendigo, Malmsbury, Camperdown, Kyneton, Hamilton, Castlemaine, Creswick, Portland, Colac, Warrnambool, Williamstown, and Melbourne. More recent local ones – Melton and Halls Gap. So, this regional part of Australia is uniquely placed with the number of Botanical Gardens in its region.

Roger Permezel from Buninyong has started discussion with AAFBG, Merrill Shulkes and myself to explore the prospect of capitalising on this situation and to have a one day program to network, provide workshops and explore together our common issues. Again, this is another opportunity to work with others and enrich our understanding of our roles. FBBG has agreed to host the program. Working at a local level or online is the future. We all know about food miles but we need to be conscious of conference miles as well!

Hospitality is a way that FBBG shine at our events. Good food and time to linger have been an important part of the bonding among our members. Mindful of the costs involved we usually charge \$10 to help with these costs when running special events. For the quarterly morning meetings, we don't charge, but in future there will be an opportunity to give a gold coin donation as a way of showing appreciation for the inclusion of good hospitality. **I would be interested in any feedback from members on this minor change.**

The decision by Council to await the outcome of a revised Masterplan before more work proceeds on Nursery/GLB relocation and Stage 3 Fernery was unexpected and so disappointing. More years of delay does sap the will and energy of those who have worked so actively and with such commitment. Please refer to Robert Selkirk's report on the relocation. With another 3-4 years at least with the present GLB we will now have to confront the problems facing us in that building. Those who were at the Quarterly meeting would have heard from Natalie Radomski, (Acting History Convenor), about the progress being made with archiving our history materials. As this proceeds its security and storage arrangements that will simplify access have to be developed. The Art group also share the concern about security with their valuable pieces. Some improved storage options are now being investigated.

Winter is going to be challenging this year it seems. The next major event for FBBG that the Events team have organised is **"Christmas in July"**. This should be a lively friendly event to interrupt the winter lows.

Terry O'Brien

'The worms have taken over – it's a global worming!'

2022 EVENTS



FBBG TRYBOOKING INFO Please note: our events will abide by any COVID-19 restrictions at the time.

Christmas in July – Sunday, July 17, 11 - 1:30 pm, \$20

In the Robert Clark Centre.
Building on the success of last year's event, we are pleased to invite members, family and friends to a Christmas themed light luncheon, amid Christmas decorations and a couple of Christmas songs!



We will be entertained by the charismatic speaker, Fiona Tonkin, who will talk about 'Christmas on the Ballarat Goldfields'. This is a chance to bring those friends who may be interested in joining the Friends, and to enjoy a relaxed, friendly get together. Ticket price - \$20. Book with TryBooking: <http://www.trybooking.com/CAEXT>

August General Meeting - Thursday, August 18, 10 am - 12.30 pm

Again in the Robert Clark Centre. Please note: Morning Tea provided. **Gold coin donation.**

Dr Daniel Olsen, Botanist from the Royal Melbourne Botanical Gardens of Victoria will be our guest speaker. The topic 'New Projects at the RBGV on non-seed plants in Victoria' focuses on mosses and ferns.

40th Anniversary Celebrations – Thursday, October 20, 6 - 8 pm, \$30

At the Ballarat Mining Exchange, Lydiard Street, Ballarat.

Our long awaited Gala party replaces the February 3 event which had to be postponed due to COVID restrictions! See the lift out invitation in this Wellingtonia for details!



You are invited with your partner/friend to this very special night to celebrate this wonderful milestone in the history of the Friends and recognise the contribution of so many of our members over the years. Special guests including garden designer and Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens supporter, **Carolyn Blackman**, will be part of the memorable night.

Book with TryBooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CAEYB>

Spring Open Gardens (Buninyong) – October 29 and 30.

'BUNINYONG OPENS ITS GARDEN GATES' (FUND RAISER FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE BUNINYONG BOTANIC GARDENS)

We are pleased to advise our members that the Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens are planning to open up to seven private gardens! This will be a great chance to tour around the Buninyong area and to meet garden owners/designers and hopefully enjoy lovely spring weather! For more information: www.opengardensBUNINYONG.org.au

Spring Speakers Luncheon – Friday, November 18, 9:45 - 2:30 pm, \$70

Always an informative and popular event. Keep this date free!

More information about speakers and their topics in the Spring edition of Wellingtonia.

Garden Designfest – Saturday and Sunday, November 19 and 20. Open Gardens in and around the Ballarat district! (See page 9 for details).

QRCODES: HOVER THE CAMERA ON YOUR PHONE OVER THE QR CODE AND IT TAKES YOU STRAIGHT TO TRYBOOKING – EASY WAY TO BUY YOUR TICKET!

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens:

Keep Saturday, November 26 Free.

Special Opening of two member's gardens in Ballarat.

Further details in the Spring Wellingtonia.

TO PAY INTO THE FRIENDS BANK ACCOUNT:

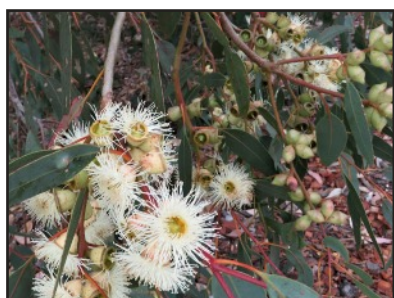
Please remember to identify yourself
when paying into our bank account and **what the payment is for.**

A good method is to use your surname and initial/s as your ID.
Please **say what the payment is for** (e.g. membership, bus trip, etc.)

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



CUP GUM A GOOD SIZE FOR SUBURBAN STREET



Three years before Ferdinand Muller - first Director and third 'head' of what we now call Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria - arrived in Melbourne, he collected the leaves, flowers and fruits of a gum tree in the Bugle Ranges, 40 kilometres south east of Adelaide, in South Australia.

Mueller arrived in Adelaide by ship from Germany in late 1847, and was soon collecting plants as far as he could walk. Which for him, would be the Bugle Ranges, a mere 40 kilometres out of town.

In ... *Flora of Australia* ... *Eucalyptus cosmophylla*, it is described as a 'small tree suitable for street planting', as are many of the mallee and mallee-like eucalypts.

As a horticultural specimen it has a lot to recommend it, in addition to being 'small' (to 10 metres, or much less when multi-stemmed in a mallee situation).

The tight clusters of flowers are followed by bulbous, short-stalked fruits, with a pretty waxy coating. The common name Cup Gum refers to shape of the fruits, and probably also the flower base (the floral tube or hypanthium, from which the fruit develops). It would be a good selection for planting under utility wires. It might even be coppiced in some situations, which would be equally attractive. We keep our clump of Cup Gums in the Australian Garden single stemmed, and free of powerlines.



You can read more of Tim's offerings at: <https://talkingplants.blogspot.com/> OR just search on line for 'Talking Plant'

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS:

The **2022 AAFBG Biennial Conference** at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden (ERBG) was attended by 60 delegates representing over 40 Friends groups from botanic gardens in Queensland, NSW, ACT, Victoria and South Australia, including seven Ballarat and Buninyong Friends. The theme of the conference was *'THRIVING TOGETHER Resilience and Renewal in a Changing World'* and the program included many engaging speakers and provided opportunities for connecting with other Friends.

Over the two day conference it became apparent that many Friends groups are facing similar challenges including financial instability, dwindling memberships and the difficulty of attracting younger members.

The remarkable recovery of ERBG from devastating bushfires in just over two years was inspirational - showing how much can be achieved with sufficient funding and when local governing bodies and the community work together in a supportive and consultative way.



Below left: the conference venue (Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden) and left the presentation of Elizabeth's Handbury Award

It was announced at the conference that Maroochydore Regional Bushland Botanic Garden will host the **2024 AAFBG Biennial Conference** from 30 August-1 September.

Elizabeth Gilfillan was presented with a **2021 Handbury Award** at the AAFBG Biennial Conference, in recognition of her distinguished service over many years to the Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens, the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation, the Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens and to the administration of the AAFBG. Elizabeth stepped down as Acting Secretary at the 2022 AGM but continues to be a very active member of the Management Committee.

The **2023 AGM** will be hosted by RBG Melbourne Friends in May next year and will simultaneously celebrate the AABG's 30th Anniversary. More details will be in the Spring and Summer editions of *Wellingtonia*.

A third **Botanical tour of Tasmania** will take place later this year from 29 October-5 November, led by Kate Heffernan. A new brochure has been produced by Jon Baines Tours in conjunction with the AAFBG. Bookings are available on www.friendsbotanicgardens.org or www.jonbainestours.com Tel 03 9343 6367 Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm

Merrill Shulkes AAFBG Committee Member and FBBG rep.



TWO SPECIAL EVENTS:

John Hawker Talk Sunday 22 May, and Excursion to Bill Funk's Farm near Dunkeld 27 May

You may have missed the recent illustrated talk *'The Stories Behind the Oaks'* presented by John Hawker. However it was enjoyed by approximately 30 people who attended the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre on Sunday for what turned out to be a fine late autumn afternoon.

John introduced us to the vast world of the *Quercus* family, which extends across the northern hemisphere and southwards into Columbia and Malaysia. He then focused on the specific Oaks represented in the collection at the Ballarat Gardens and in Victoria Park, and their various characteristics.

A small but lovely detail he included was the ability of the oaks to hybridise readily. This was demonstrated by a photograph taken underneath a singular specimen of *Quercus*, three acorns of which sprouted three very different leaf forms. He gave one final mild word of advice, saying *'To be protected, collections need to be in public hands rather than private.'*

Catering was simple but delicious, and people stayed on chatting enthusiastically about all thing 'Oak'!

The following Friday a cavalcade of thirteen, made up of Growers, Guides and History Group members made their way to Glenthompson, en route to what proved a real treat – a visit to the private arboretum of oaks near Dunkeld. On two paddocks of fifty acres (in the old measure), Mr Bill Funk has over the past few decades, planted a small collection of some 200 different oaks from across the world.

As a young man, Bill would attend clearing sales across the district. He noted the old trees marking what had been the original home. It was, he thought, a legacy of those first pioneering farmers. This set him to thinking about what he in his turn would leave to the future. Opportunities to travel led to an interest in dendrology (the scientific study of trees) and particularly (but not exclusively) the diverse family of Oaks. In the days before rigorous quarantine regulations, it was easier to bring plants into the country, so he did!

He planted into a sheep paddock which he described as 'mud in the winter, cracked in the summer.' Before long he needed another paddock.

As he introduced us to a few (too many to list) of his favourites, he spoke on the necessity of formation pruning as well as the watering regime he used to establish his trees. He showed us acorns nearly 50 mm across (*Quercus concentrica*, a tropical oak which thus far he has not been able to establish), and acorns smaller than peas.

We visited both paddocks, then, as a special treat walked through his 'Arbor' where he has established a landscape of unusual and sometimes rarely seen other trees and shrubs.

An enjoyable 'Big Day Out' was completed with coffee at Dunkeld and a drive through the Dunkeld Arboretum, which Bill was instrumental in setting up. We returned to Ballarat after dark.

Lorraine Powell

WHAT IS THIS AMAZING NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA?

Early in May, I had the pleasure of visiting the National Arboretum in Canberra. What a great experience, and one which must be repeated in order to see the remarkable change that time will bring.

Prior to 2003, most of the 250-hectare Arboretum site was occupied by pine plantations. However, after the devastating bushfires of 2003, the ACT Government resolved to replant the site as a 'national arboretum'. A design competition was launched in 2004 and the winning design, *100 Forests 100 Gardens*, focused on establishing an arboretum to display forests of rare, threatened and/or iconic species from around the world, including Australia. This design also incorporated the cork oak and Himalayan cedar forests, planted early last century, much of which survived the fires. Experimental plantings, research and education were all to be important aspects of this project.

Planting began in 2006 and is now mostly complete with just a few forests still to be planted. Already the area is evolving into a beautiful patchwork of young forests, many with seasonal interest, displaying new spring growth, flowering, fruiting, autumn colour, shedding bark, attracting birds and insects, so there is always something new to discover.

The Arboretum has been open to the public since February 2013. It is located at the western end of Lake Burley Griffin, about 6 km from the centre of Canberra. The site is undulating with lookouts, so visitors can enjoy fantastic



views, particularly to the east where the Arboretum overlooks the lake and the city. (One Friend of the arboretum said, 'in ten years you won't be able to see the view!')

Michael Bird

GUIDING GROUP REPORT: *Guided Tour of Seven Oaks*

Sunday May 29 in Heritage Week for Ballarat began as a cold misty morning and later became fine enough for 35+ interested supporters to join a guided tour of **Seven Oaks in the Ballarat Central Gardens**.

Guides Wendy, Miriam, Brian, Sue, Jane, Terry and Julie shared quirky tales, botanical features, historical notes, places of origin plus the many uses of various oaks. We included:

Quercus palustris - Pin Oak
Quercus robur - English Oak
Quercus ilex - Holm/Holly Oak
Quercus suber - Cork Oak
Quercus delavayi - Delavay's Oak
Quercus rubra - Northern Red Oak
Quercus macrocarpa - Bur Oak.

The Oak collection of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens include another 17 Oaks, among them the endangered Quercus engemanni - Engleman Oak and the near-threatened Quercus lobata - Valley Oak. Both the latter have their origin in California, USA & Mexico.

One other Oak of note is of course the Heritage listed Quercus cerris - Turkey Oak which can be found at the beginning of the Prime Ministers' Avenue.

We encourage you to find more Oaks using www.ballarat.gardenexplorer.org

Many thanks to the volunteer Guides from FBBG Guides Group and to those who supported the tour. Such a response is encouraging and the Guides look forward to further opportunities to share the many special trees of our Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

Julie Chandler, Guides Convener

Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, and scissors is just as hard as trying to win.

SOME PHOTOS SHOWING THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN HAPPENING:



Above: President Terry O'Brien gazes up in awe at the spread of the mighty Turkey Oak in the Ballarat Gardens. Photo: Edwina Williams, Ballarat Times News Group



Above: one of the Guides Oaks posters being readied in the Statuary for our Heritage Week



Above: Hercules caged!



Above: Not the toadstool in the Conservatory display, but the real thing captured by Warwick Sellens near the Gatekeeper's Cottage

RELOCATION REPORT

At the Council meeting on May 18, a decision to develop a **new Master Plan for the Gardens** was adopted, after a recommendation by Council Officers. The sudden and unexpected requirement for a new plan came as a complete surprise, as the issue has not been raised during any relocation discussions over the last 18 months. Throughout this period on-site discussions have involved the Mayor, some Council Officers, the Curator of the Gardens, and the Chair of the Lake Wendouree and Gardens Stakeholders Committee. This had been done in order to try to get an indication if the concept had some chance of success, and also to ensure clarity and an understanding of the concept by the City of Ballarat.

At no stage was the need for a new Master Plan raised during these discussions.

The scope of the new Plan has yet to be determined and Consultants have to be appointed. The development of the Plan will most likely take up to three to four years to complete, and at some considerable expense.

It's also becoming evident that further stages of the Fernery will be affected by the new Plan.

With this development, I believe it's most unrealistic to put any further resources into the relocation of the Nursery and the development of the new George Longley building being linked to the Gatekeeper's Cottage, until the new master plan is completed and adopted by CoB.

Needless to say it is most frustrating and particularly disappointing to reach this stage after the engagement of an Architect, a Town Planner and a Heritage Advisor. Both the Architect and Heritage Advisor very kindly offered their services on a pro bono basis, the Town Planner significantly reduced his rates.

I acknowledge the very generous support given by the Federation University SMB Carpentry School, in agreeing to construct a new George Longley building.

Given all the uncertainties associated with a new Master Plan, the risks of proceeding with the relocation concept at this stage is very difficult to justify and will reluctantly need to be put on hold, unless the CoB can offer a more immediate path forward.

In the meantime we need to keep pressing Council Offers to ensure we have the opportunity to contribute to the 'Project Charter' which will guide the Master Plan.

Robert Selkirk, June 14, 2022

"You know you're a hardcore gardener if you deadhead flowers in other people's gardens." Writer Sue Careless

CURATOR'S REPORT WINTER 2022



Part of the Craft display in the Conservatory

The conservatory Winter display opened to the public on June 11 after a two-week closure and changeover. Congratulations to the nursery team who put together the display which was designed by one of our Horticulture Apprentices.

The display features winter flowering plants and also shares the space with the **Craft Council of Ballarat's winter exhibition** until June 19.

Another exhibition to look forward to in June is the **Australian Plants Society** who will be running their Winter show in the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre meeting room. It is great to see these events back after a Covid enforced break.

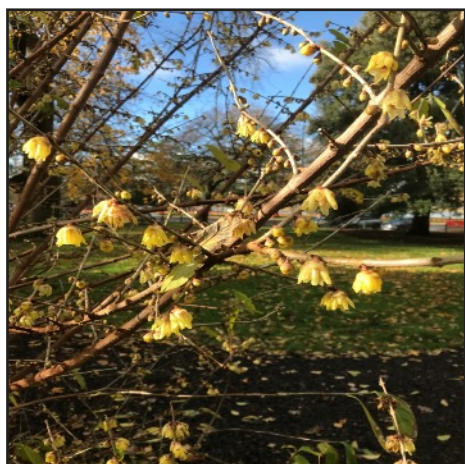
Despite the wet and cold June conditions the gardens team have been busy picking up leaves off the lawns and digging and cleaning the dahlia tubers. The Nursery team are working through the massive job of cleaning and preparation for storage of the nearly 2500 Begonia tubers.

We are also preparing the nursery for the annual stock-take and valuation of the nursery-based plant collections as part of our end of financial year process.

One of the joys of winter are the flowers on the *Chimonanthus praecox* (also known as wintersweet or Japanese allspice), which for the majority of the year is a rather non-descript shrub which comes into its own in Winter with heavily scented flowers on largely bare branches. Our Chimonanthus is located near the statue of Mercury.



One of the attractive displays in the Conservatory



Wintersweet in the Gardens

Peter Marquand, Curator

BotaniKIDS / Education

After many false starts due to Covid we at last have settled now into our weekly Nature Club for under fives on a Tuesday morning and an after school program for school age children in Botany on Thursdays from 4 pm - 5.30 pm. These sessions are based at the Cottage held both on the deck and in the Gardens; so far so good with the weather!

We now have also settled into a partnership with Loreto VCAL program with some of our time spent (every alternate) at the Little Flower campus All going exceedingly well. This session is well attended and popular with grandparents and parents bringing along their children for a nature and Gardens inspired educational program

The *Ballarat Courier* attended a Tuesday session with a combined press release prepared. Hope you all saw it in June 15 paper.

Morning tea is a feature prepared by the students (scones jam and cream yesterday) as is barrista standard coffee offered to us upon arrival and during the session; yesterday it was a fruit platter

The team have worked on this partnership over three years now and at last we can begin to enrich and enhance the program with gardening and play in the gardens at the back of the church. The tram will be a feature too as we can utilise it to transport the children and parents to and from the Cottage.

Lots more to plan refine and work on but feedback has been strong and heartening from all stakeholders especially the children who get on so well with the girls (Loreto students)

This program has had a significant impact in lightening the load of providing all that is required to deliver a regular nature based program by volunteers.

Not a day goes by without enquiries about our programs from individual and organisations wishing to join, share ideas and resources

Loreto have expressed interest in joining the Friends as a Corporate member and I understand that has commenced happening.

I'm proposing in discussions with the VCAL coordinator we offer a Loreto student a prize or award at the end of the year in recognition of excellent community partnership work with BotaniKIDS.

Other plans proposals and possibilities:

- Perhaps a simple A4 information sheet be prepared and readily available in a plastic weatherproof flip top box for visitors when Cottage is not open, explaining the Cottage's story and a link to specific information on our webpage with a QR code.
- It is proposed we open the Cottage more during weekends
- It is imperative the Cottage is seen as a **community and visitors space** to help in education and interpretation of the Gardens
- It is also hoped an exhibition be undertaken later in the year on one aspect of the botanical gardens. How this is to be organised will be discussed at committee but if you feel you can help in any way with any of the above ideas please let us know. We would love to have you on board.
- Other projects that will now proceed are the **garden approaching the Cottage** and the **etched rocks art installation** within that garden.

As usual lots happening and if you need more detail or a chat about anything in the report please don't hesitate to contact Julie Bradby through info@fbbg.org.au

Julie Bradby,
BotaniKIDS Convenor



Above: here we are being busy at *The Little Flower Loreto campus* being hosted by the staff and students to a great mornings session The play dough activity had the children creating sculptures with rocks and sticks. The cutters were made by the students in IT and were created with a 3D printer.

THE next generation of explorers are making some of their first outdoor discoveries at The Gatekeeper's Cottage by the Botanical Gardens.

Across 10 Tuesday mornings this term, children under the age of five are participating in BotaniKIDS, which aims to encourage learning through nature play.

The sessions are facilitated by Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, however convenor Julie Bradby said another group is helping the volunteers deliver the education program in 2022.

"We've partnered with Loreto College's Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning program to support the students in their practical applied learning," she said.

"The girls who are thinking about careers in horticulture, childcare or early childhood education are going to focus on creating nature explorer kits for us.

"With guidance from us, they'll work out what's suitable."

The BotaniKIDS prototype explorer kit, which the students may take inspiration from, is a mini case which includes crayons, a clipboard, a sample container, bag and peg, a watercolour painting set, and magnifying glasses.

When children head out for a



Curious: Two-year-old Hugo gets to know everything inside the BotaniKIDS explorer kit. Photo: EDWINA WILLIAMS

nature walk, which they do every BotaniKIDS session, the Loreto students are set to head out with them, and their parent or guardians, developing a relationship with the young family.

"The children will use their

nature explorer kits to collect samples relating to our program. They might look at leaves in more detail, for example," Mrs Bradby said.

"The key thing about this program is the intergenerational

engagement and relationships.

"We've got little ones from two years old, their parents, the students, and us as volunteers who are mostly over the age of 70, and are either ex-teachers or ex-nurses."

What if my dog only brings back my ball because he thinks I like throwing it?

GARDEN DESIGNFEST - REGIONAL VICTORIA 19 & 20 NOV. 2022



The proceeds from the opening of the Ballarat gardens will be shared between realising the **Fernery Project** and **Youth Suicide Awareness**.

This year's eight gardens in the Ballarat area (including Scotsburn, Buninyong, Creswick as well as Ballarat) display a range of intimate urban spaces to rolling country landscapes. All have been created by some of the most innovative local garden designers.



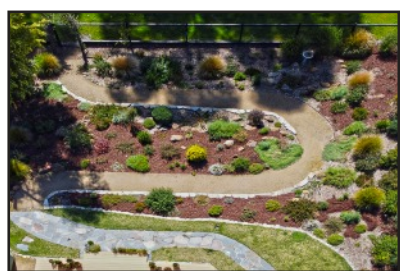
'Back Lake', Scotsburn \$8
Designer - Anne King



Ballarat Central \$5
Designer - Janene Byrne



Ballarat Central \$5
Designer - Janene Byrne



Buninyong \$8
Designer - Mark Bickerdike

Buninyong \$8
Designers - Nicky & Darren
Barnett, Ben McDonald



Buninyong \$8
Designer - Paal Grant



Creswick \$8
Designer - Paddy Milne



Soldiers Hill \$8
Designer - Paddy Milne



Volunteers willing to assist will be sought closer to the date.

Garden DesignFest is an initiative of the Rotary Clubs of Kew, Brighton North and Central Melbourne. Their aim is to raise much needed money for selected charities and to encourage creative, bold, innovative, versatile, practical, and responsible gardening in Australia. The **Rotary Club of Ballarat South** provides local input and assistance to the Melbourne clubs.

More at: <https://gardendesignfest.com.au>



The Ballarat Friends' **AMBASSADORS** Group would love you to join them.

Your duties are simply to 'meet and greet' visitors to the Conservatory on weekends.
Just leave a message on the Office phone, or call in one Tuesday.

Given the protracted way in which the Fernery development has been going along, Members will be interested to know how things were done before the day of the internet or the telephone. Below are two letters concerning the Statuary and its five 'inhabitants', including reference to the sculptor Charles Summers!

STATUARY PAVILION - What went on ?

To **Geo Perry**
From **J. Noble Wilson.**
Date Sept 7, 1887



....from the
records of
the late
John Garner.



Dear Sir.

I thank you for yours of 20th inst recd. this morning and in reply I beg to ask you to return to the Mayor and Councillors the best thanks of my Co-Trustees and myself for the ready manner they have offered their aid in making effective arrangements for fixing the Thompson bequest of statuary.

Mr Summers is in Sydney. Before he went he gave to his Worship the Mayor the dimensions of the base of the group "The Flight from Pompeii" but I daresay, his Worship failed, as I did, to commit the measurement to paper. Hence, I will have to write to Mr Summers (which I shall do today) for the size of the base to enable your Council to direct that the necessary stone be procured.

I quite agree with your Council delaying any part of the business until you have the dimensions accurately before you, and, as all you will have to provide will be a concrete bed and one block of granite I presume 2 - 3 weeks will suffice for that.

I think you might order the trees to be cut down and the walk by to be planned, but beyond that we do not see how you can proceed, nor indeed, do we wish it. It is sufficient for the Trustees to know that you are in sympathy with the object and they certainly do not want to hurry the Council into something inefficient and hurried arrangements, so long as the work is well prepared before the Christmas holiday.

Yours faithfully

To Geo. Perry
From **Charles F. Summers** Scott's Hotel, Melbourne.
Date October 14th 1887
My dear Sir

In answer to you letter received this morning I quite agree with you about having the pavement raised above the walk by two steps.

The height of the group is 7ft 9 inches, Pedestal 3 ft 1 inch and granite box 1 foot, but should it be your intention to place the shells round the box then let the granite box be 1 foot 6 inches above the pavement. This would make the entire height of the group either 11 feet 10 inches or 12 feet 4 inches. The entire height of the smaller figures is 8 feet.

With regard to any suggestions about the columns at the corners I am afraid that it would not look well.

I leave from Sydney on Monday afternoon and should you desire to communicate with me further on this subject my address after Monday will be Petty's Hotel, Sydney

· Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.



GARDEN CUTTINGS WITH GREEN THUMB!

- Green Thumb has been called a cynic, but he takes the view that our fernery may not be finished in his lifetime despite the heavy lobbying by members of the Friends Committee! The saga continues! Come on Ballarat lift your game!
- A regional meeting of local 'Friends' groups has been proposed and Ballarat to host it. Probably late March 2023.
- Next Quarterly meetings will see start using a donation box as an option for members to show their appreciation. Make sure you have some cash; no washers or buttons please!
- New Members Morning Tea on June 8 was again a successful occasion of connecting and welcoming new Members.
- The 40th Anniversary is well in action again. Early planning underway. The organising group will be calling on members to help as it gets closer to the occasion. An interesting and varied program to appeal to our members has been put together for between now and the end of the year. Included is another round of local open gardens belonging to members in November. Free event I believe. These are all outlined on page 3. It shows FBBG as an organisation well worth being part of because plenty is happening.
- There was some discussion at the May committee meeting concerning whether 'we' had over committed ourselves for our 2022 Heritage Program. President Terry is happy that the May activities were very successful.

Until next time; keep your secateurs clean, well oiled and sharp! Green Thumb

BALLARAT FRIENDS OPEN GARDENS APRIL 2022

Back in April, the Friends were offered the opportunity to visit gardens belonging to three of our members. The gardens were all in Ballarat and presented a chance to see how established gardens have evolved, and how new gardens can be created. A great experience especially given that a similar event last Spring had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. MB

This is part of the feedback from one of our Friends members:

'To the Open Gardens organisers, Garden owners & volunteers: Just a quick note to say "Thank you" for another lovely afternoon of strolling around some beautiful gardens.

Early Autumn is not such an easy time to have a garden looking its best, so hats off to the brave but obviously passionate & skilled owners. The gardens were all quite different but lovingly planned & cared for & beautiful.... I suppose reinforcing the thought that a good garden is good anytime of the year.

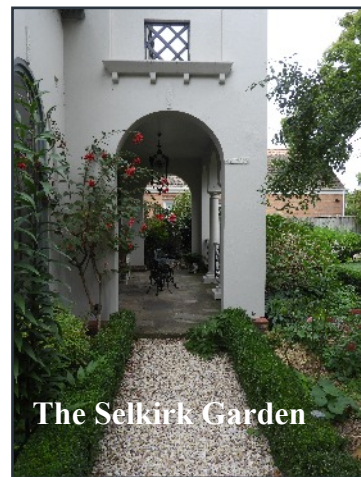
Thank you also to everybody involved in putting together this event. Volunteers who have a common passion are a force to be reckoned with. Judging by the comments I heard along the way & the discussions generated afterwards, everyone's efforts were very much appreciated.' J



The Knight Garden



The Shulkes Garden



The Selkirk Garden

HOW ABOUT **YOU** GET INVOLVED WITH THE FRIENDS ... BY PARTICIPATING IN ONE OF OUR MANY GROUPS or EVENTS?*

YOU have a unique set of life skills! Just what the Ballarat Friends need!

We have regularly invited members to help with the BotaniKIDS group, the Growing Friends, the Ambassadors and the Guides.



Each group is **always looking to increase its numbers** and member participation levels. There is a veritable **kaleidoscope of jobs** you could help fill.

Contact the Friends at info@fbbg.org.au or leave a message on (03) 5342 9354

* ♯ is called an *interrobang*; it incorporates a question expressed in an exclamatory manner. Ed.

*100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars.
Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.*



**Friends of Ballarat
Botanical Gardens Nursery**
*Specialising in rare groundcovers, perennials,
shrubs and succulents*

Nursery Open:

Tuesday 1-4 pm, and the second Sunday 1-4 pm

Trolley: Plants available outside the Conservatory during business hours;
plants updated daily - Cash honour system

Why not take a look at the plants we have for sale the next time
you are enjoying the Ballarat Gardens?

We have a range of named varieties including hardy
long flowering plants.

Members \$1 discount off each plant price of \$8!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Friends welcome the following members who have joined us this year:



Denise Adams, June Lazell,
Natalie Harrison, Marilyn Hewitt,
Dianna Spicer, Donna Runner,
Maria Grigg, Graeme Bird,
Gary Roper, Therese Roper,
Marion Dick, Sue Fearn-Wannan,
Robert Barnes, Greta Christie,
Ron Morris and Jennifer Morris.

**Warwick Sellens,
Membership Coordinator**



Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens 2022

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

Email: info@fbbg.org.au

www: <https://fbbg.org.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsBBG>

<https://www.facebook.com/ballaratbotanIKIDS/>



Tel. Contact (George Longley Building) 03 5342 9354

FBBG COMMITTEE

MEETS 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 4PM

POSITION	NAME
President	Terry O'Brien
Vice President	Vacant
Past President	Robert Selkirk
Minute Secretary	Natalie Radomski
Treasurer	Kim Nolan
BotanIKIDS / Education	Julie Bradby
Events and Speakers	Carole Haines
Foundation Rep.	Terry O'Brien
Publicity/Promotions	Wendy Taylor
General member	Jock Gilbert
General member	Lorraine Powell
General member	Geoff Notman
General member	Vacant
AAFBG rep	Merrill Shulkes
Growing Friends	Yvonne Curbach
Guides	Julie Chandler
History	Natalie Radomski - acting
Hospitality	Doff Kemp
Membership	Warwick Sellens
Newsletter Editor	Michael Bird

THE BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION LTD



The Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation's overriding purpose is to raise funds to provide a strong and sustainable financial basis to support the our Botanical Gardens.

In addition we aim at advancing the natural environment in the Botanical Gardens and, in so doing, advance and preserve the heritage of the Gardens as a horticultural museum.

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation Ltd.

Banking:

Direct deposit. BSB 633 000. Account No. 165027434

Website:

www.BallaratBotanicalGardensFoundation.com.au

FRIENDS GROUPS

Involvement in our groups brings rewarding social benefits and support for our organisation. Please contact Ann in the office if you would like more information about becoming involved. Most groups meet in the George Longley Building.

Ambassadors: Trish Twaits

On Weekends and other times - Conservatory

Botanical Artists: Valerie Richards

Mondays at 10 am during school terms - GLR

BotanIKIDS /Educating Friends: Julie Bradby

As required in the Gatekeeper's Cottage.

Guiding: Julie Chandler

4th Wednesdays at 10 am

Growing/Nursery: Yvonne Curbach

Every Tuesday and the second

Sunday each month 1 pm to 4 pm

History Group: Natalie Radomski (acting)

2nd Thursday each month 2.30 pm

OTHER GROUPS TO PARTICIPATE IN:

Admin: Kim Nolan

Catering: Doff Kemp

Events: Carole Haines

Library: Lorraine Powell

Membership: Warwick Sellens

Newsletter: Michael Bird

Plant Trolley: Sue Rattray

Publicity: Wendy Taylor

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

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance provided by Ballarat Mailworks 521 Dowling Street Wendouree



Peter Marquand, Donna Thomas, Tim Entwisle, Merrill Shulkes, Raoul Dixon, Kim Nolan, Warwick Sellens, Wendy Taylor, Julie Bradby, Julie Chandler and Michael Bird all provided photos. Thanks!



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 the Spring Wellingtonia 2022 are due by early September please. Michael Bird, Editor.

Editorial Committee: Terry O'Brien, Merrill Shulkes, Wendy Taylor and Michael Bird.