

Wellingtonia

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MEETING TIMES 2013

Meetings are held in the George Longley Building at the rear of the Robert Clark Centre:

Committee - 3rd Tuesday each month at 3.30 pm

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

Plant Sales at the above times and 9am -5pm daily from the trolley outside the Robert Clark Conservatory.

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.

Botanical Artists ("BAGS") – see inside, page 6

FBBG NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2013

President's Report



The 2013 Begonia Festival presented a riot of colour!

Relief from the hot dry summer must be around the corner. Rain is on the way!

A time of fruitfulness and beauty in all things, with promise of bonfires and warm soup. It is harvest time, when things move more slowly, providing a chance to pause and enjoy what has been created.

Autumn colours depend upon rainfall, sunlight hours and cold nights. When wandering in our gardens some of the most colourful trees are quickly recognised: Tupelo, (*Nyssa Sylvatica*), these have spectacular colour, the wood being good for artistic woodcarving and the flowers highly valued by bees producing a floral nectar honey, and, *Parrotia persica*, a lovely small tree, ideal for the smaller garden, elegant, small and spreading, in yellow gold and orange.

Activities have begun, with much enjoyment in participation of tours, children's activities, plant production and much more. The Begonia Festival was enjoyed by many despite the sweltering weather. The Gardens are looking remarkable with stunning bedding displays. The Friends contributed to most aspects of the Festival, (*read more inside*), and promotion of FBBG has seen new members join this year. Sincere thanks to all who gave their time so happily.

The Friends are thrilled to be finalists in The Ballarat Heritage Awards, entries being for the restoration of The McDonald Gates and the production of the history book "*An Eden of Loveliness*" with the results to be announced soon.

Recently the Friends Committee were delighted to meet informally in the George Longley Building with the Mayor Mr John Burt and several Councillors. It was a great opportunity to chat, share ideas and discuss goals.

The *Fernery Fundraising Campaign* is about to get underway! The final design for a redeveloped fernery has not been completed. The

Cont'd.

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Council's Heritage Adviser has developed a model representing the style of Fernery that could be created on the site. The model references the style of the original ferneries on the site. The Friends have had initial meeting with City of Ballarat and look forward to the proposed progress.

I look forward to seeing everyone in the coming months at our activities. In the meantime enjoy the **COLOUR** of Autumn!

Elizabeth Gilfillan

GUIDING FRIENDS:

Guides have been busy on our "core business" – **guiding**. In March the Guides made their services available for tours on nearly 20 occasions. We have had various groups requesting tours – Garden clubs, Probus groups, Reunion groups and Service groups, U3A Gardening group, as well as an Aboriginal Elders group.

We have had groups from Ballarat, Clunes, Colac, Geelong, Rosebud and Swan Hill as well as Australia wide groups with people from all states of Australia.

The guides have enjoyed welcoming these groups and helping them to appreciate our gardens. Our hope is that they, like us, will become interested in the ongoing development and preservation of these heritage gardens.

With all this activity it has been pleasing to welcome two new Guides, Wendy Sandiford and Julia Richardson. Wendy took her first tour with the Kandereunion group. They were most impressed. A great start to hopefully many more guiding tours Wendy!

The Kandereunion party were an interesting group. They have been meeting regularly since 1953 when 52 Rover Scouts left Melbourne on the SS Otranto and sailed to Naples and then on by train to Kandersteg, Switzerland, where 3300 Rovers from around the world attended the fifth World Rover Scout Moot.

Alf Bailey from Ballarat was one of these Rover Scouts and he organised the group's program for their reunion and 4 day visit to



Lorraine introduces FBBG Guides to the wonders of the Buninyong Botanical Gardens

Ballarat. One of these Kandersteg Rover Scouts made France his home and he regularly returns to Australia for these reunions, including the one this year.

This is one of the best parts of the guiding experience – interacting and hearing about the experiences of others.

The interest in the Sunday morning tours at 11 am has been encouraging. It seems to be providing an opportunity for locals and visitors to find out more about the gardens. Currently the tours are general and cover the garden's development, statues and significant trees but we hope to bring tours that concentrate on a particular aspect e.g. oak trees, seasonal highlights, Western bed plants, etc.

Another way we are trying to increase the opportunities for people to learn about the gardens is the running of a U3A (*University of the Third Age*) class at the gardens in April and May. It will be a short 6 week course of 2 hours each week and have different topics and tutors each session. Some Guides and garden staff will be the tutors for this exciting program. The

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Guides Terry and John waiting for Swan Hill Probus Club at POW Memorial

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(Cont'd from previous page)

take up for this course has been very good and we look forward to its development.

New brochures developed by the guides on the '**Statues**' (see sample front cover at right) and the '**Prime Ministers**' are ready for printing. We look forward to their addition to the information that visitors can access when visiting the gardens.

The first meeting for the Guides this year in February was a tour of the Buninyong Gardens. Lorraine Powell, Ian and Jill Salathiel from *The Friends of the Buninyong Botanical Gardens* lead us on this tour and acquainted us with the common history threads and challenges shared between the Ballarat and Buninyong gardens.

We also became aware of the differences in landscapes as we climbed to higher points for views. This is an experience not possible in the flat landscape of the Ballarat gardens.

The tour was very enjoyable and informative. Thank you to Lorraine for facilitating and leading this activity. The tour was followed by a long leisurely lunch and was a good start to our guiding year ahead.

Guides are currently developing a program for the May Ballarat Heritage Weekend. We will offer nostalgic journeys of the garden's entertainment highlights and past times. These days provide opportunities to reflect on our changing attitudes and values. Imagine promenading over to the band rotunda dressed up and crossing dusty unsealed roads.

Given the many hot days this summer imagine the relief that the fernery would have provided as a retreat. There was no going home to air-conditioning and refrigeration in those days. Our task at the moment is to weave these and other stories into interesting tours for the Ballarat Heritage Weekend in May.

Terry O'Brien

Draft copy of front cover illustration (text to be added) of the new '**Statues**' brochure developed by the Friends' Guiding group.



Eager listeners Anne and Raoul listen raptly to Lorraine.



Some of the Friends Guiding Group being 'guided' by Lorraine Powell at Buninyong Gardens recently

Are you computer 'savvy'? Have a look at a UK website

(<http://www.commonthreads.org.uk/documents/playwordsisssue45.pdf>) where the Ballarat Educating Kids Group gets a BIG mention (page 10) for the Play Day held late last year! Well done Julie & Co.! (Hint: password is ISSUE45)

An invited article by the History Group

As one wanders through the Gardens one can't help but notice the number of commemorative trees and seats dotted about. Many remember the worthies of the City, or significant events. Some are quite humble and simple.

In this short article the story of one tree and one seat will be told.

Along the Prime Minister's Avenue, just south of the statue of Hebe, is a seat with a plaque inscribed simply: - *"In memory of Mary Batten"*. Who was **Mary Batten**, nee Doyle, and why should we remember her? Mary Batten was a publican, the licensee of the Union Hotel which operated near Thomas the Jewellers. She was quite keen on Southern or New Orleans Jazz. She was a wife and mother. She was the first woman president of the Old Colonist's Club. On her death about a decade ago, her widely dispersed family, wanted a place where they could come and remember her. They enquired at the Town Hall as to what was possible, and all agreed on a seat as a fitting memorial. One autumn evening her family came together at the seat and scattered her ashes there. Vale Mary, runner and music lover.

Near the **J.Y McDonald Bandstand** is a modest weeping ash with a trunk diameter of approximately 300mm, (*fraxinus excelsior* Pendula), barely the height of the bandstand roof, with a plaque at its base. The plaque reads:

- *"THIS TREE WAS PLANTED & SEATS ERECTED BY THE CITY OF BALLARAT MUNICIPAL BAND TO THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM J. ROWE DIED JULY 8TH 1944 AGED 78 YEARS BANDSMAN FOR 57½ YEARS LAST PERFORMANCE MAY 27TH 1944"*.

The seats presumably disintegrated in the ensuing decades and were not replaced.

William (Bill) Rowe began playing in 1887, aged about 10 in Bulch's Model Brass Band, a private band formed by Thomas E. Bulch, which became the Ballarat Municipal Brass Band in 1900. (Interestingly Bulch composed the air "Craigielee" under the pseudonym Godfrey Parker -presumably to appear more British. This air, based on "Thou Bonnie Wood

of Craigielee" by Tannadill (1774-1810) was the very music to which "Waltzing Matilda" is sung.)

As a Municipal Brass Band, the Ballarat Municipal Brass Band received a stipend of some £200 to cover the employment of a bandleader. In return, the Band was required to give 40 public performances across the parks and gardens of Ballarat.

A day's work for the band would include: - 3:30pm Gardens, 6:30pm Benevolent Home, 8:30pm View Point. The Band would take up a collection to defray costs of music and instruments, leading in 1924 to Cr Levy wishing to increase the subsidy rather than begging for threepenny coins. In fact collections still took place right up to the 1950's and 1960's. The band made regular appearances at View Point as well as the Gardens. It was the only 'A-Grade band' outside the Melbourne metropolitan area and played in competition against bands from all over Australia and New Zealand. It had its own Social Club and cricket team.

Bill Rowe played the Bass trombone, perhaps other instruments as well. He was never a soloist, nor a leader of the band. For nearly 60 years, man and boy, he gave his lungs to making a joyful sound.

Across two world wars and a depression his was one of the pressed and polished uniforms of the band. A quiet achiever, he gave his last recital a bare fortnight before his death.

"For many people, listening to a band in the park provided one of their few pleasures in life. The weekly performance by the local band drew people from various walks of life and for various reasons. For some, it meant the opportunity to hear pleasant music, for others it represented a meeting place where friends could chat away against a not too intrusive background, while some were content just to sit with eyes closed and relax." Jack Greaves

Source: *"The History of the Ballarat Municipal Brass Band 1900-2010"* compiled by R. Pattie 2010

Music in the Gardens continues today in the form of the City of Ballarat Arts in the Park program as well as special marquee events. **Lorraine Powell**

DID YOU KNOW? Copies of *"An Eden of Loveliness"* are available from FBBG for \$40. (Members \$35)

Education - BotaniKIDS Report:

Julie Bradby

In February we ran our first session for the year for the toddlers and their Mums, Dads and Carers. It was well attended and just so happened to fall on Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) so of course we made pancakes. Yum! We even had heaps leftover for the garden staff morning tea!

But of course that was just to get us wound up for the The Begonia Festival as we were once again invited to stage most of the children's activities at the Festival.

We planned, resourced and designed three activities for the Festival with the help and guidance of Heidi Zukauskis from Ballarat City Council Events Department.

As well, we organized two '*Stay and Play*' type activities, **Super Sandpit** and **Backyard Blackboards** and one '*Create and Take*' activity the **Decorate a Garden Tile**.

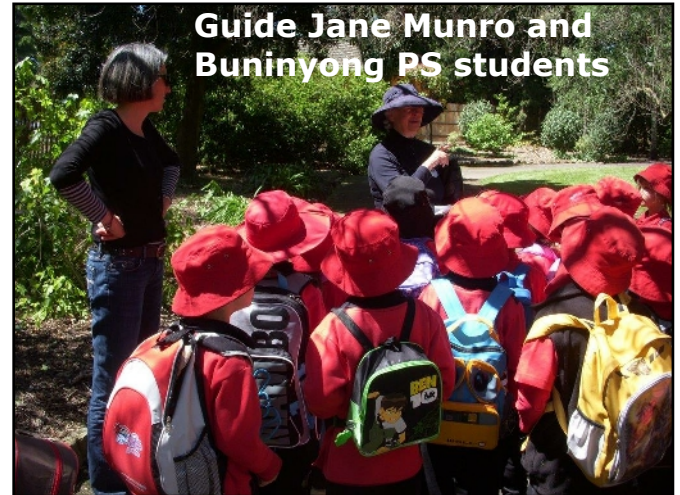
The Super Sandpit was undertaken by one of our BotaniKIDS committee member Heather Boyd on behalf of Eureka Community Kindergarten Association, a partner organization who worked under the auspices of BotaniKIDS, and Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. It was a sensation! Heather did a phenomenal job in organising and creating a wonderfully creative playful atmosphere. The children loved it and the parents could take time out and relax. A wonderful addition to the Festival.

The Backyard Blackboards was an activity run by the BotaniKIDS team. The boards were painted



Guide Terry O'Brien showing the way to a group of BotaniKIDS

with starter images of various storybook or garden themed ideas and gave the little artists a springboard for their artwork. We had many families come back the next day. A feature of the setting was a backyard feel to the decorations with bunting, old bikes and even a scarecrow. Bunting was beautifully illustrated by Mt Clear PS Preps.



Guide Jane Munro and Buninyong PS students

The Decorated Tile activity was designed and resourced by BotaniKIDS and run very ably by another of our invited partner organization, The Girl Guides. A pallet of terra cotta tiles were imported from Italy for the event [we tried very hard to source locally] and were partly funded by Carpet Court in Ballarat.

The Festival was a huge undertaking by such a small organization and even smaller Educating group but with the kind help of many of the Friends, our partner organizations and Heidi, Jeff and Kate at BCC Events we felt we successfully provided wonderful child centered activities.

We had a new member Trish Twaits who worked along with us for the entire three days for 8 hours each day; A wonderful effort.

We look forward to another busy year. We have hosted four local Playgroups who requested they conduct some sessions in the Gardens. This was a very positive thing for BotaniKIDS, the Friends and the Gardens. We handed out our brochure and spoke to the many young families about the Friends, while we played collected and created. What a delight it was seeing the little ones toddle off into the Gardens with their baskets collecting their nature treasures! It's what it is all about, I'm sure you would agree! Please feel free to support us in any way. We do need your help. Contact us via the Friend's email address.

Growing Friends

Growers are enjoying their new plant stands built by the Ballarat East Men's Shed and have new pot holders enabling easy storage of their large number of pots.

The warm weather has kept the growers busy with watering and caring for the plants. While enjoying a few cooler days the growers have *Hakea laurina* and Russian sage and other interesting plants for sale.

The Growers look forward to the cooler months of autumn!

Yvonne Curbach



Botanical Drawing Classes May 2013



Botanical Drawing Workshop:

Instructor: Geraldine Roberts

This two-day Workshop in watercolour and drawing will be suitable for both beginners and experienced artists. The venue is at the Ballarat Botanical Gardens and the focus is studying and drawing poisonous plants.

Upon application and payment of a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 a materials list will be supplied. Book early to secure your place as numbers are restricted.

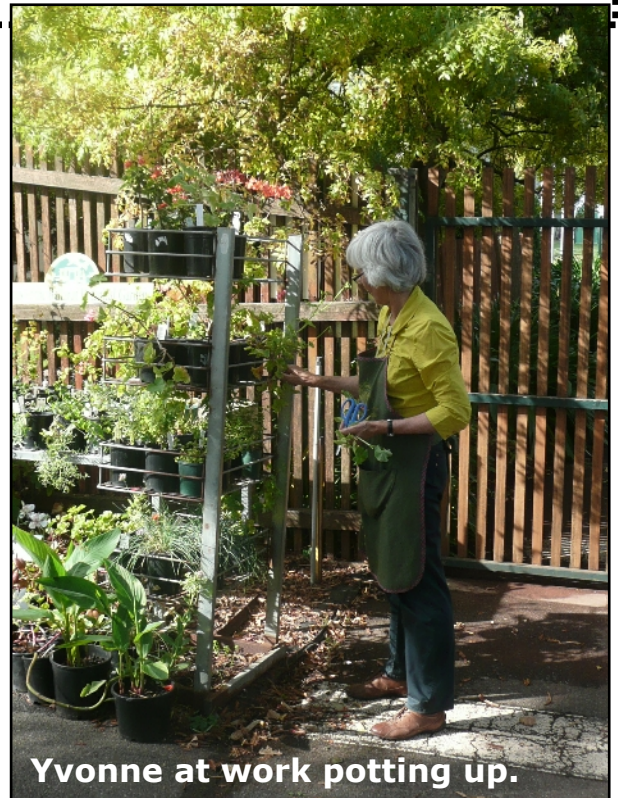
Workshop: 10am – 3pm on both Monday 6 May and Tuesday 7 May.

Cost: \$110 that covers both days and the venue.

Bookings essential:
proberts@ncable.net.au, or
phone 5339 2343, 0418 302 999

There will be four **Painting Days** in the George Longley Building this term:

13th, 20th, 27th May and 3rd June;
10 am until 3pm. BYO lunch.



Yvonne at work potting up.

Special Guest:

Come and meet Kate Roud.

At the May General Meeting (Thursday, May 16 at 10 am) the Committee is delighted to announce that Kate Roud from Mawallok will be our Guest Speaker.

Kate will deliver an informative address entitled: "From Sissinghurst to Mawallok".

Kate has come from the UK where she worked at Sissinghurst, the famed garden of Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicholson. Kate is now head gardener at Mawallok a beautiful property near Beaufort. The garden there was designed by William Guilfoyle.

History Report Summer Edition 2013

AGM Guest Speaker Peter Donaldson

An overflow crowd of Friends were in attendance for this year's AGM. The guest speaker was Dr. Peter Donaldson, (ex-School of Mines in Ballarat). Peter has pursued his passion for exploring the life of Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker and has spent over five years making a documentary on Hooker's life and discoveries.

Hooker was born in 1817, and died in 1911. He was Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, for twenty years, in succession to his father, William Jackson Hooker. Joseph was a defender and friend of Charles Darwin, as well as being a prolific publisher of written articles himself for over 70 years. The present Director of the Kew Gardens believes that Joseph Hooker's "*ghost still haunts its halls*", and "what you see at Kew is all due to the Hookers".

Joseph Hooker had trained as a naval surgeon and in that capacity, as well as the official botanist, he was a member of the Ross Antarctic Expedition between 1839 and 1843. During this voyage of discovery he observed many new species of plants which, aided by his incredible memory and artistic ability, allowed him to draw global conclusions about plant species and their distribution due to climatic and geographic factors.

The influence of Hooker's journeys into India and the Himalayas amongst other places (including Palestine, Morocco and the western USA), are clearly illustrated in his many botanical



President Elizabeth Gilfillan and Dr. Peter Donaldson at the AGM

publications and prints. Dr. Donaldson stated that '*one in 36 plants on earth*' was named by Hooker. In fact Hooker named over 10,000 plants in his lifetime.

In 1859, he published the '*Introductory Essay to the Flora Tasmaniae*', the final part of the Botany of the Antarctic Voyage. It was in this essay (which appeared just one month after the publication of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*), that Hooker announced his support for the theory of evolution by natural selection, thus becoming the first recognised man of science to publicly back Darwin. In fact Dr Donaldson stated that "*.. if not for Joseph Hooker the world would probably not have heard of Charles Darwin.*"!

Dr. Donaldson hopes to finish his documentary series soon, but is facing obstacles in selling the program idea to television organisations. Modern technologies, such as mobile phone and tablet apps may provide a more practical solution for him.

An interesting talk about a relatively unknown but fascinating man.

Further information can be obtained from:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Dalton_Hooker

Lorraine Powell & Michael Bird

JULY 6, BUNINYONG, JULY 6, BUNINYONG

The Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens wish to advise that their **annual Winter luncheon** will be held in the Buninyong Town Hall on Saturday 6th July.

The speaker (at 11am) will be John Arnott, the Horticulture Manager for the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, who will speak on *"RBG Cranbourne: Where Horticulture Meets Ecology"*. This is a great opportunity to hear more about these amazing world class gardens following the opening of Stage 2 late last year.

Enquiries to Anne King 5341 8002 Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens.

JULY 6, BUNINYONG, JULY 6, BUNINYONG



Are you an avid reader of local media?

Helper needed to collect newspaper articles that mention FBBG and members for our archives. If a member would like to be involved with this, it will require only a small but regular committment of time.

Please contact a Committee member or phone 53429354

Don't Forget:

**Cloudehill Nursery trip on
Monday 29 April, departing
8.30 am from the Fernery,
Ballarat Botanical Gardens.**

Tickets are still available.

Did you know that Cranbourne Botanical Gardens has introduced Hortycodes?

Hortycodes connects patrons to rich horticultural information via special QR code labels. The garden visitor scans the plant label QR Code with their Smartphone to learn the plant's Genus, species, cultivar, and common name. An audio link helps the patron pronounce the Latin name. Plant cultivation information is listed, including zone, sun, watering, height, width, and foliage spread. Additionally, people will be able to learn where they can purchase the specific plant.



Recently a friend of mine mistook a tulip bulb for an onion. He went straight to hospital and after a short wait in Casualty the doctor saw him. "Are tulip bulbs poisonous?" my friend asked the doctor. The doctor told him that they were and he would have to be admitted to the Poisons Unit.

"Oh dear", said my friend. "How long will I be in for?" "Dont worry," said the doctor. "You will be out by Spring!"

"Sorry". Ed.

LAKE WENDOUREE AND GARDENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LWAGAC)

Much work has occurred around the perimeter of the lake with 'tree doctoring' of older specimens and planting of new trees. The water quality of the lake itself is very good on most measurable parameters. However, the level of the water is considerably lower than desirable, exposing weed growth in many areas, particularly in close around the north shore.

The City of Ballarat has designed a comprehensive *Lake Wendouree Newsletter* detailing many aspects of this precinct. A copy of the first edition is filed in the George Longley Building

The 'fernery restoration project' is still alive. The new councillors have been presented with the proposal and given support for the next stage. A meeting of City of Ballarat staff and FBBG has since discussed plans for a major public campaign seeking advertising, commercial sponsorship, as well as philanthropic donations.

GARDEN CLUBS OF AUSTRALIA (GCA)

The programme for the biennial convention of the GCA has been finalized and sent to all gardening clubs. The Registration Form has also been finalised and distributed, with some returns already received.

The Convention dates are: Sunday 15 September – Wednesday 18 September 2013, with an optional final day on Thursday 19 September 2013.

The organizing committee will be seeking assistance from interested FBBG in a variety of areas (catering, transport, bus monitors, and guides).

Mike Sorrell



MIKE SORRELL AND SUE BECK AT 2013 AGM



Help Needed

FBBG needs helpers for the news letter mail out. Four helpers needed per seasonal newsletter. Volunteer as little as once a year to help the group. Please contact Genevieve at the George Longley Centre on 03 53429354.

Spring Gardens

Hello Garden Lovers

Autumn ... such gentle, beautiful days in Ballarat – be sure to take time and enjoy them!

Even though spring is a long way off – we thought you would appreciate the date of the next Ballarat Gardens in Spring Speakers Luncheon for 2013 to pop into your diary:

Friday, October 25, 2013

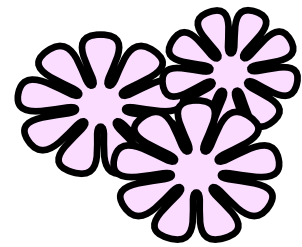
The Committee is also taking the opportunity to ask for feedback both on the Speakers Luncheon and the program in general - positive and negative is welcome regarding speakers, venues, catering, etc.

The Committee is already well underway developing this year's event and your comments would be most welcome.

Happy gardening

Helen, Wendy and Elizabeth

Committee



DID YOU KNOW? Placing several banana peels in the planting hole was popular among rose growers in the 18th century, but they did not know why the peels seemed to yield healthier roses. Today, we know the skins contained many useful nutrients, including calcium, magnesium, sulfur, phosphates and sodium. The peels rot quickly ensuring nutrients are readily available to the plant.

DISCOUNTS FOR FBBG MEMBERS AT LOCAL NURSERIES, 2013

Members will receive discounts when displaying their membership cards at:

- **Formosa Gardens Nursery** 104 Leith St Ballarat 5% off all stock
- **Grow Master** 9527 Western Highway Ballarat 10% off plant purchases excluding advanced trees
- **Spot on Pots** 13-15 Wallis Street Delacombe 10% off all purchases
- **Blackwood Ridge Nursery**, Trentham-Greendale Rd 10% off all purchases



Ballarat Botanical Gardens – taken from hot air balloon earlier this year. Supplied by Helen Vincent



Visitors from Colac included a look-see at the display of begonias



Peter Marquand and Cr. Samantha McIntosh welcome Friends and Garden Staff to Begonia Festival afternoon tea



FBBG Guide Jane Munro awaits her Colac visitors



Botanikids Backyard Blackboards wonders!



Backyard Blackboarders hard at it

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Information for 2013

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 53429354

Meetings and Events

Thursday, April 18	Special Morning Tea to welcome new Friends 10 am - 12 noon	Robert Clark Centre
Monday, April 29	Cloudehill Bus Trip	Depart 8.30 am ret 5.30 pm
Thursday, May 16	General Meeting 10 am	Robert Clark Centre
Special Guest Speaker: Kate Roud from Mawallok will deliver an address entitled "From Sissinghurst to Mawallok".		
Thursday, August 15	General Meeting 10 am	Robert Clark Centre
Thursday, October 17	George Longley Day 5pm	George Longley Building
Friday, October 25	Spring Lunch & Events	Robert Clark Centre
Monday, November 11	Melbourne Herbarium Visit (more information next edition)	
November 28	Meeting and Xmas BBQ	Robert Clark Centre

Educating Friends Activities 2013

April 23rd Coffee and Cake
June 11th Coffee and Cake
July 9th Holiday Activity
August 13th Coffee and Cake
Sept 24th Holiday Activity
October 23rd Big Garden Day
(22nd October booked for preparation)
Nov 12th coffee and Cake
First week December Christmas Activity

Winter edition of 'Wellingtonia' 2013 is expected to be produced late June;
published early July