

## NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2014-15

### From the President's Desk...



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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT – SUMMER 2014-15

Welcome to this Summer edition of our *Wellingtonia*. A season featuring Christmas and New Year celebrations should be something to look eagerly forward to and appreciate. But signs all around us indicate that we may be in for a long, hot and dry Summer. Extreme temperatures coupled with strong winds are a major threat to gardens, lakes and rural areas. It will be a testing time for plants coping with higher temperatures and lower rainfalls.

Figures published in our local media highlight the problems facing much of central and western Victoria. Should our 'cool temperate' Botanical Gardens have an experimental section with indigenous plants and modern cultivars of them? What will our gardens look like in 50 or 100 years time? Our Sequoiadendrons have suffered from recent prolonged drought and exhibit die back in their crowns. How long can they last? Some of our Cycads are looking very sad. Is this through heat stress, repeat severe frosts or other reasons?

One thing is very clear: **more careful use of water is becoming essential**. We will need to focus our attention on the development of more efficient systems for household use, irrigation, recycling and storage.

In October, Genevieve Lowe, our inaugural Admin Assistant, decided not to renew her contract and to move towards a new career path in education. We are all indebted to Genevieve's organization and establishment of administrative systems. Her efficient manner and willingness to assist all members was commendable. We wish her every success in her chosen career.

A sub-committee has interviewed two applicants and recommended the appointment of **Luda Kedova** to this important support position. Luda, who recently joined the Growing Friends, brings considerable administrative, computing and academic experience to the Friends. We wish her well in this part-time, contract position which she will start early in the new year.

It has been a busy period over the past few weeks with several special events. **George Longley Day** was celebrated by a small group of members. **Ballarat Gardens in Spring** is always a lovely time, especially if the weather is kind. Our Growers had good plant sales and the Speakers' Lunch and Open Gardens were all highly successful.

continued page 4 ....



The Growing Friends are in need of plastic pots. If you have four, five or six inch standard pots or 'squat pots' that are surplus to your needs please bring them along to the Gardens. (See page 12 for times)

**FBBG Patron:**  
Prof. Tim Entwisle,  
Director and Chief  
Executive, Royal  
Botanic Gardens  
Melbourne.



## Guiding Friends Report:

Recent excursions by the Guides have provided opportunities to reflect on how botanic gardens have changed and will probably continue to change as they adapt to societal changes.

Early in the year we were investigating the use of plants as medicine. **John Garner** presented to the guides the many aspects to consider when contemplating plants as medicines and the effects of their use and what was sought for in particular plants.

We went to the SMB (School of Mines, Ballarat) garden as it was set up for the cultivation of plants for the use of the lecturers in botany and pharmacy. Lecturers in botany at SMB in 1880 had access to 150 medicinal plants that were tended in their garden. Borage, marigold, fennel, chamomile, caraway, comfrey, yarrow, pennyroyal and many others are the plants that would have been used for the academic study of Botany and Pharmacy.

The SMB garden was like the European medieval medicinal gardens known as *physic gardens*. It is these early physic gardens that are usually pointed to for the origins of Botanic gardens.

As examiner of Botany, Baron von Mueller, the Director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens, and later Guilfoyle, who succeeded him, donated collections of seeds and plants to the SMB garden.

The Ballarat Botanical Gardens were also placed at the service of the SMB instructor in Botany, and George Longley, the first curator of BBG, gave the school (SMB) considerable assistance. There were many links developed between these different institutions that were pursuing things horticultural – their common interest.

John Garner commented how it was at these places of study in the latter part of the 19th century that placed the use of medicinal plants on a more scientific basis. Western medicine had been dominated by concept of illness from humors and so methods devised to clear the body of their ill effects – purging, bleeding, scarifying, blistering, cupping etc. John pointed out how it was during this time that chemists isolated active ingredients from herbal medicine and pharmaceutical companies manufactured preparations more specifically targeting particular medical illnesses. As the result old herbal medicines were gradually replaced by tablets, mixtures and injections that we know today.

**Wendy Sandiford** had a series of photos to guide us through the changes over time with the SMB garden plantings and also the buildings. Fascinating to observe what remains and what has gone. Naturally this led to much discussion about what might happen next. What are the possible options for this garden in the future? Are these options feasible? Ballarat is rich in its heritage but to keep it functioning is not always easy. Shirley Faull, a former employee on site, joined us for the tour and she guided us to many interesting spots. We ended up at the gaol — what a building! So many talking points.

The SMB garden is no longer actively developed because it is no longer connected with the teaching of botany. You will find some remnant medicinal plants but it is the trees planted as it developed into more of a pleasure garden that dominate now. Trees there now such as the Flowering Cherry (*prunus serrulata*), Norfolk Island Pine (*araucaria heterophylla*) and the Elm (*ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii'), the young Pin Oak (*quercus palustris*), the Cabbage Palm (*cordyline australis*), and the large Canary Island Date Palm (*phoenix carariensis*) still create interest. The vistas across the campus and nearby buildings highlighted against the city skyline adds to the enjoyment of the site today but the garden has lost its original vision.

The SMB garden is no longer actively maintained or developed. As a point of contrast *the Visionary Plan for the Ballarat gardens* prepared for the City of Ballarat by Mark Richardson is challenging us to think about the functions of OUR gardens! What is the role of the gardens in the 21st century and beyond?

Indigenous flora is much underexposed in our Botanical Gardens. The wetlands and the surrounding areas are seen as an area where this can be addressed.

Conservation, bio-diversity and sustainability are some of the key drivers in our society today and the Botanic Gardens, if they are to reflect today's society and needs, has to reflect these changing community perceptions and values in relation to the environment.

**The Wetlands** in the north of the Gardens are a clear example where we can show environmental sustainability. It is an appropriate place to show off native flora and it is a place for guides to tell visitors about the sustainable water supply for our gardens.



John Garner (fourth from left) provides commentary on plants at SMB Garden to FBBG Guides and friends. Wendy Sandiford is on John's right.



Ian Rossitor explains the 'system' that applies to the capture and re-use of water in the Wetlands.

(Cont'd next page)



**Ian Rossiter** (who was Executive Manager Sustainability, City of Ballarat, when this water harnessing project was proposed and developed) took the Guides on a tour of the wetlands. The tour was excellent. One guide commented, “..best we have had”.

The significance of this project for the gardens is well borne out when you reflect on what was happening during the drought conditions from 1997 to 2010. Contrast this with the security we now have when irrigating the gardens.

Previously the Gardens relied on the supply of potable water for irrigation and when facing supply crisis the critical question of priority was ...water for humans or for plants? Now with the harnessing of storm water into the wetlands the gardens are safeguarded because we now reuse urban storm water for irrigation requirements in the gardens. Delivery pipelines, storage tanks and pumping infrastructure are now used for irrigating the gardens without competing for Ballarat's domestic supply.

Its sustainability aspect is also enhanced by its carbon-neutral operation. Photovoltaic panels were installed to feed electricity into the grid to match the periodic demand for electricity for operation of the pumps in the system. The Ballarat Gardens are now so much more fortunate than many other Botanic Gardens that may be constrained in their development by access to reliable water supply. As guides we need to be highlighting this very positive aspect of our gardens to our visitors.

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### During the millennium drought:

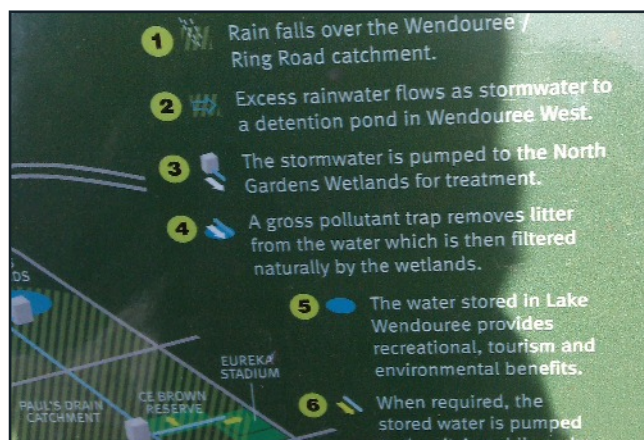


(Above) Peter Marquand Ballarat Botanical Gardens curator beside a felled sequoia during the recent drought



(Above) The exposed hard-baked clay pan of Lake Wendouree during the 1997-2010 drought

### Now:



(Above) Water harvesting diagram developed so we now have security of supply for irrigation in the gardens

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### TOURS:

Our last tour for 2014 was a large tour group from Leongatha – 48 members of the Leongatha Horticultural Society.

Carole Haines and Diane Dunn organised the catering beautifully and a local CWA group provided sandwiches, cakes and slices in abundance.

On a day where we had 11mm of rain in Ballarat with many heavy showers we were blessed with a long sunny break as we conducted the tours. Unfortunately some of the groups missed out on seeing the Conservatory display as it had closed at 4.30.

Similarly for the Sunday Spring tour at 11 am the weekend before, the tour was also unable to gain access the Statuary Pavilion. These closed doors are not welcoming for our visitors.

The Leongatha group was an excellent way to end our tours for 2014 and they were a very appreciative and engaged group. One in the group was related to the Summers family and helped heighten the connection with our five marble statues by the Australian sculptor, Charles Francis Summers.

Guides tend to have a break now until the demand picks up again in Feb/March. We farewelled the 2014 guiding year and did some planning for 2015 with a lunch at the Sandifords. Thank you Wendy and Tim for arranging this and thank you to all the guides for their friendship and dependable support in our endeavours to be both knowledgeable and advocates for BBG.

**Terry O'Brien Convenor of the guides for FBBG**

In this centenary year of the **departure of the ANZACs** from Australia, the History Group staged a very poignant tribute to the contribution by Ballarat Botanical Gardens staff and their families to WW1. The photographic display in the Conservatory was opened by the Hon. Senator Michael Ronaldson. Much of the artwork was arranged and designed by Andrew Thomas, to whom we are most grateful.

Our Educating Group, through their **BotaniKIDS**, staged several activities for new mums and their families with the Big Garden Day and Coffee and Cake mornings. The Friends' Christmas twilight BBQ in the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre and the adjacent courtyard for FBBG members was well attended. An informal lunchtime 'thank you' BBQ for Gardens staff just before Christmas was a very pleasant event.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the planning and execution of these most worthwhile events.

The **changes within the Conservatory** have brought mixed reactions. Adjustment to the redeployment of City of Ballarat staff with new duty statements needs careful monitoring and evaluation. Loss of income from the sale of plants from the Growers' trolley is of considerable concern. There have been many positive comments on the quality of the expanded horticultural display, from both locals and visitors. The quality of visitor experience is a major criterion on which to assess the early stages of the implementation of the Visionary Plan for the gardens as a whole.

We will start 2015 with our first Committee meeting for the year on **Thursday 22 January 2015**. This meeting will be an important opportunity to address several governance and procedural issues for the Friends and be followed by the Symposium at 1pm. The AGM is on **Thursday 19 February 2015** with Mark Richardson as guest speaker.

All members are encouraged to nominate for positions on the FBBG Committee. We also encourage all members to have a say in the events and visits to be organized for the future.

Use the form enclosed for this purpose. Become involved in the significant and exciting developments for the short and long term futures of your Gardens.

Begonia Festival 2014 was a most deserving recipient of awards and praise from a variety of sources and the Friends look forward to contributing to an even bigger and better Begonia Festival in March 2015.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas/New Year break.

Mike Sorrell  
President, December 2014

P.S. **Support the Growers by joining their watering roster** – every little bit helps and will be greatly appreciated. Call 5342 9354 or email: [info@fbbg.org.au](mailto:info@fbbg.org.au)



### FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Those members who need to renew their membership will receive their renewal notice in the mail early in January. You can use **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER** to renew

Please use your **surname** and **first initial** as your id.

Account name: **Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens**

BSB 633 000

Acc. Number: 125334615

Raoul Dixon, Membership Officer

**WANTED:** *Friends* to join a watering roster for the Growers' Nursery over the summer period. Help Yvonne and her team hand water plants for about one hour in the morning or late afternoon, whenever you can. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Call on (03) 5342 9354 or email your details: [info@fbbg.org.au](mailto:info@fbbg.org.au)



*"When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant."* (Author Unknown)



## CURATOR'S REPORT:

Over the last few weeks garden staff have completed the summer annual planting, installed the conservatory summer display as well as prepared the Botanical Gardens for events including the Iron Man competition and Carols by Candlelight in the North Gardens.

Other works have included the growing on of the begonia crop, watering and general on-going maintenance in the gardens.

The Eureka stockade gardens hosted Eureka 160 with several events and activities held to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the Eureka rebellion. I was able to attend the 4.00am performance of Blood on the Southern Cross at Sovereign Hill which was followed by breakfast, a memorial service and the unveiling of the Pikeman's Dog Memorial.

The photo at right shows the recently installed "Summer Display" in the Conservatory.

During January the Summer Sundays program will be held on the main lawn of the gardens near the conservatory.



A range of entertainment and food will be available on each of the four Sundays of January.

The Summer Sundays program was last year held in Fairyland but makes a welcome return to the gardens this year.

Local irrigation company *Ultimate Pumps and Irrigation* has installed an irrigation system at the Buninyong Botanical Gardens. (See left)

This project was initially begun over ten years ago but due to the severe drought conditions completion was put on hold.

The project will see the whole of the heritage listed gardens under irrigation and has been financially supported by the Friends of the Buninyong Gardens.

A feature of the summer display will be the topiaries recently installed in the garden beds near the Statuary Pavilion.

The menagerie of animals that have been grown by Glen on frames sourced from Tasmania have already created a lot of interest. (See bottom photo)

**Peter Marquand, Curator BBG**

**Administrative Assistant Position.** As mentioned in President Mike's report, *Luda Kedova* has been appointed to the position of Administrative Assistant to the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. Luda is a member of the 'Friends' and brings considerable experience to the role. She will begin in the position in January 2015. Welcome Luda! Luda will be able to be contacted via phone at the **George Longley Building 5342 9354** or by email.

**Have YOU ever thought about joining the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Committee or one of its sub-Groups? A Nomination Form for the 2015 Committee is enclosed.**

## HISTORY GROUP REPORT FOR SUMMER 2014–15

The History Group wrapped up the year with a pleasant lunch at the Wombat Hill Botanical Gardens in Daylesford. We celebrated a successful year culminating in the installation of our exhibition '**The Ballarat Botanical Gardens and WWI**'. This exhibition was generously supported by the Ballarat Ranger Military Museum with a loan of WWI helmets and slouch hat for our display box. The City Council allowed us to use some items as well. The FBBG BotaniKids produced felt poppies and generally made sure the display 'looked good', the Botanical Artists also contributed producing images of rosemary and poppies.



**Exhibition Opening.** The Hon. Senator Michael Ronaldson declared the exhibition open. The Exhibition ran during November and we hope to see the panels used again in 2015 commemorations.

Congratulations are extended to member Jennifer Burrell who received a State commendation for her work on the Genealogical Society Website, and also to Kathleen Hobson for her part in the St. Peter's playgroup which received an accolade for their contribution to children's services.

In 2015 we hope to make a good start on the following projects: '**Begonias and Ballarat**' and '**The Zoo**'. Anyone interested in being part of these projects or has information regarding the topics can contact the History Group via the George Longley Building.

Interesting items continue to come out of the archives. In the 1860s a regulation had to be established regarding 'dogs in the Gardens' – a Fido walking at heel was in danger of being shot on sight unless attached to a leash. By the 1960s the Victorian Sporting and Gun Dog Association was holding their National Titles at Fairyland, promising to use only blank cartridges in the retrieval trials! Today guns have no place in the Gardens and dogs are unwelcome in the Conservatory.

Please note there is **NO MEETING IN JANUARY**. Our next meeting is February 3 at 4pm.

**Lorraine Powell, Convener**

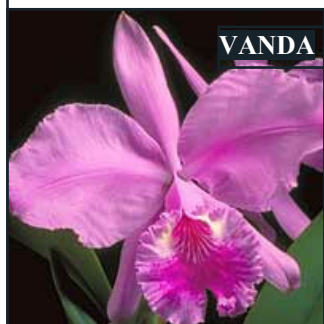
### Orchidaceae PART 1 (CONTRIBUTED BY BERYL PLUMMER, CONVENER WESTERN BED GROUP)

**O**rchidaceae is the most numerous family in the monocotyledons. There are between 21,950 and 26,049 currently accepted species, found in 880 genera. The number of orchid species nearly equals the number of bony fishes and more than twice the number of bird species, and about four times the number of mammal species. The family also encompasses about 6 - 11% of all seed plants. The largest genera are *Bulbophyllum* (2,000 species), *Epidendrum* (1,500 species), *Dendrobium* (1,400 species) and *Pleurothallis* (1,000 species). Orchids occur on every continent, except Antarctica.

The genus after which the family is named is *Orchis*. The genus name comes from the Ancient Greek, literally meaning "testicle", because of the shape of the twin tubers in some species of *Orchis*. The term "orchid" was introduced in 1845 by John Lindley, as a shortened form of *Orchidaceae*.

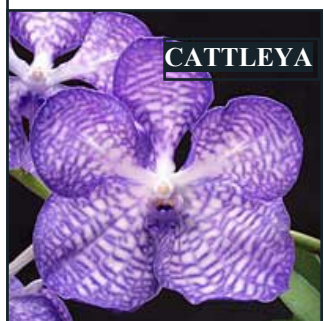
Orchids vary in size from tiny – about 5mm long (*Bulbophyllum*) to gigantic – up to 3metres (*Grammatophyllum speciosum*). The latter is found in New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. This plant grows to around 2metres, with flower spikes reaching up to 3 metres long and can form huge clusters weighing from several hundred kilograms to more than one tonne.

All orchids are perennial herbs, lack any permanent woody structure, and can grow according to two patterns:



**VANDA**

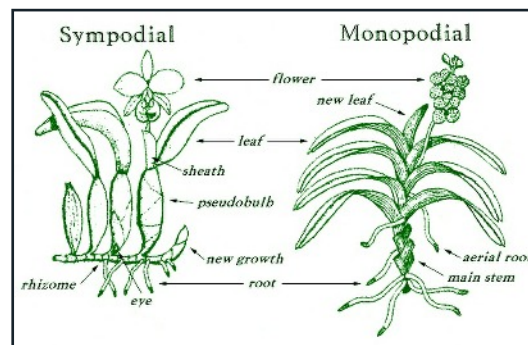
- **Monopodial:** The stem grows from a single bud, leaves are added from the apex each year and the stem grows longer accordingly. The stem of orchids with a monopodial growth can reach several metres in length, as in *Vanda* and *Vanilla*.



**CATTELEYA**

- **Sympodial:** Sympodial orchids have a front (the newest growth) and a back (the oldest growth). The plant produces a series of adjacent shoots which grow to a certain size, flower, stop growing, and are then replaced. Sympodial orchids grow laterally rather than vertically, following the surface of their support. The growth continues by development of new leads, with their own leaves and roots, sprouting from or next to those of the previous year, as in *Cattleya*.

Orchid flowers are among the most beautiful (and addictive!) of any plant. They appear in almost any colour imaginable, except for true black. The flowers vary considerably in size, but the floral arrangement is mostly the same, coming in six parts. The outer parts are sepals and the inner, petals. The petals include the labellum, or lip on which pollinators land to access the pollen.



THIS ARTICLE WILL BE CONTINUED IN THE AUTUMN WELLINGTONIA, 2015...

"A garden is a thing of beauty and a job forever." **Richard Briers**



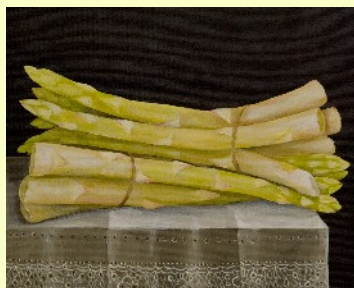
# A Special Event: Still Life Painting Workshop with Charlotte Thodey

The Botanical Art Group is extremely excited to announce the arrangements for a two-day Workshop with **Charlotte Thodey**. The Workshop will be held in the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre on Monday and Tuesday, March 23 and 24, 2015.

The cost for the two days is \$240. A deposit of \$50 needs to be paid by February 28. Lunch is included on both days.

Working with a wide parameter of 'choice' (objects, colour decisions etc) you will go on a practical search for compositional solutions for the still life genre, creating fine finished, detailed work using acrylics. Learn to make big decisions about small things - both meditative and exhausting.

**Charlotte Thodey** has exhibited her work for over 25 years and has produced a number of posters for the Botanic Gardens and Historic Houses Trust as well as devising and illustrating books. Charlotte regularly teaches classes at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney and exhibits her work in Australia and France. As well Charlotte was a fantastic speaker at the Friends' Spring Luncheon a few months back.



**For all enquiries contact : Elizabeth Gilfillan.**

***thegilfillans@gmail.com***  
**Ph. 0407845034**



**Above:** Part of the Western Bed before work began.



**Centre:** Not all the work could be done by hand. The photo shows a contractor excavating for the new path.

## DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WESTERN BEDS OF THE BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS 2014

Members will be thrilled to see the changes that are taking place along the Western Beds. Earlier this year a small group of 'Western Bedders' started to redevelop the somewhat neglected beds running along the Gilles Street boundary of the Gardens.



**Right:** After works were completed – new plantings in place.

## On the Classification of Plants – Part 2

### WHAT ARE PLANTS?

Most people are quite comfortable answering the question “**What are plants?**” And most people would give similar answers. They would think of the dominant land plants that exist in their daily lives: trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses. How many would think of aquatic plants, both fresh water and marine? How many would think of algae, from microscopic phytoplankton to massive seaweeds? How many would think to include mosses, liverworts, lichens, fungi, bacteria and maybe viruses?

There are no fundamental or universal laws in taxonomy, as there are in other branches of science such as physics and chemistry. However, there are prevailing and more generally accepted systems for the classification of living things and there is increasing consensus as new techniques unravel relationships between them.

A rather basic but useful starting point is to consider living things as either producers or consumers. Plants are producers. In the presence of sunlight they convert  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  into simple sugars ( $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$ ) and release  $\text{O}_2$ . This process is called photosynthesis. Animals are consumers. They get the energy they need for the functions of life by either eating plants or other animals that in turn feed on plants.

The basic unit of all living things is the cell. As a general rule plant cells tend to be box like. An outer cell wall composed of cellulose encloses the cellular materials and structures within a permeable membrane. Animal cells do not have rigid cell walls and are more variable in shape.

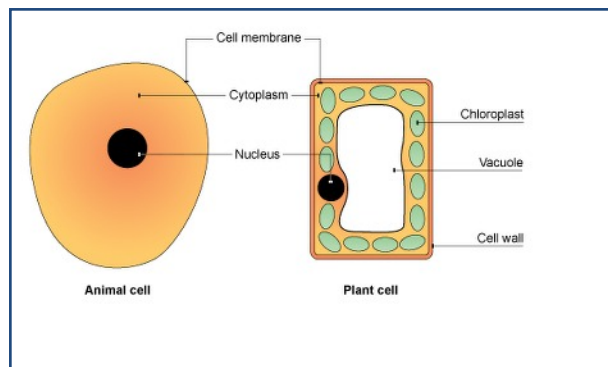
Many microscopic forms of life are single celled. Many of these forms exhibit features of both plants and animals and so, for convenience, we can put them in a group on their own – the *Kingdom Protista*. As life forms evolved and became structurally more complex it became easier to classify them as plant – *Kingdom Plantae*, or animal – *Kingdom Animalia*.

So back to bacteria, fungi and viruses. Are these living things? Do they consist of cells, with or without cell walls? Are they producers or consumers?

The prevailing view with respect to viruses is that they are not living organisms. They are non-cellular complex protein molecules that can reproduce within living animal or plant cells.

Bacteria are recognised as the simplest forms of living organisms. They used to be considered part of the plant kingdom but more recently evolved forms have been given their own kingdom – *Kingdom Eubacteria*, while primitive bacterial forms are placed in the *Kingdom Archaeobacteria*.

Fungi were also considered part of the Plant kingdom but are now acknowledged to be more structurally and functionally related to animals. They have also been given their own kingdom – *Kingdom Fungi*.



**Mike Sorrell**

### FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT THE BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS - A SHORT COURSE

Do you want to know about our heritage-listed botanic gardens?

A course has been arranged for Ballarat U3A (University of the Third Age). The course is also open to members of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. The course is filling up quickly and so if members are interested in being part of this course please contact Terry O'Brien on 04 3845 9504 or 5341 7520 or email [tobrien1@tpg.com.au](mailto:tobrien1@tpg.com.au).

The cut off date for accepting enrolments is 12 January 2015. The course starts February 4 and runs on the first and third Wednesdays until June 17. It is held in the George Longley Room from 10.00 – 12 noon.

There will be a range of speakers and excursions and we aim to be up and about the gardens as well as attending information sessions and visual presentations.

The Ballarat Botanical Gardens will be the main focus of our study but other local examples will also be explored.

Participants will be finding out about the history and development of the Botanic Gardens. We will look at the changing role of botanic gardens today – experiences, challenges, and directions.

This is a great opportunity to get to know more about the gardens.

**Terry O'Brien**



The 2014 U3A class in action with guide /tutor Sandie de Groot in March last year.





## Ballarat Botanikids

### Under Five Activity held Nov 11:

"What a lovely morning we had together this morning on this special Remembrance Day.

We listened to stories, rose above the challenge of finding a spot on the mat, created poppies on the craft table, remembered the brave people in our own special little Remembrance service in the Conservatory, walked the Gardens where we were allowed to pick the flowers! Glen the kind gardening man said we could, as the flower beds were being replanted.

Then it was back inside to have a fruit platter, ANZAC bikkies and a cuppa for Mum and one brave and thankful Pa!"

### At our BotaniKIDS Christmas Coffee and Cake session on December 3:

We listened, we crafted, we created, we stuck stuff, we painted and rubbed. We even played our own music as Sue let us all have a try of the accordion.

The Christmas Elf did come to our Botanikids Christmas party! We were really good and sat and listened to all the words the big guy said. Then when we found out the Christmas Elf had lollies! Ww

We did our nature walk in the Gardens and found heaps of nature's treasures under the giant redwoods in the North Gardens. We even visited the Craft Cottage and found some great Christmas bargains.

We discovered the gardeners planting animal plants! It was very strange but fun to watch

We even found magic snow on the ground near the Craft Cottage some of us took it home for our Christmas trees. We even found huge Christmas trees for giants!"

*Julie Bradby*

**News:** The newly renovated "Little Shed" will be stocked with our resources soon.



**Ballarat 'Gardens in Spring' FBBG Committee Report:** Thanks to the the hard working Open Gardens team (Elizabeth Gilfillan, Helen Todd, Wendy Taylor, Kylie Blake) for the wonderful effort and fantastic community feedback on the whole event.

We were blessed with wonderful weather as well as fantastic open gardens following the Speakers Luncheon where 99 people enjoyed three terrific and inspiring speakers accompanied by delicious food. An average of 550 people visited each garden over the two days.

Thank you to all FBBG members who supported and assisted with the Luncheon as well as manning gates at the gardens. It is anticipated that we will make an approximate profit \$3,400. (\$2,800 + \$600 contribution from Ballarat Tourism.)

However, the reward for such an important event is not solely financial; benefits are far greater by way of community involvement, demonstration of gardening practices and outcomes, personal well-being and, of course, the highlighting our wonderful Botanical Gardens.

*Elizabeth Gilfillan*

**PLEASE NOTE:** the wooden fence erected between the Friends Nursery (plant sales area) and the driveway leading to the Gardens' workshop area is there for a reason!

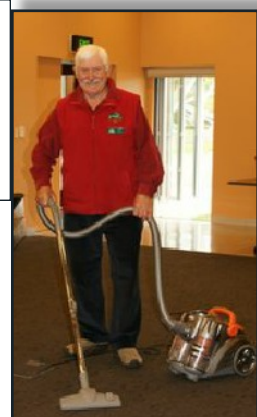
**Members MUST NOT access the Friends' area through the drive way!**

Please use the single wooden gate at the rear of the Robert Clark Centre only.

**This is an on-going safety issue. Please use the gate.**



(Right): When he isn't busy on Friends' business, playing bridge or fly-fishing, President Mike loves nothing better than a spot of Spring cleaning!



## DISCOUNTS FOR FBBG MEMBERS

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

*You will need to show your FBBG membership card*

## BOTANICAL ART:

"The painting (right) is of a tree in the Western beds in the Ballarat Botanical gardens.

It inspired me with the beautiful pollen on the ends of each leaf.

I have been painting botanical subjects for about ten years and continue to be fascinated by the beauty and detail of so many plants."

Valerie Richards



Bhutan cypress, *cupressus torulosa*  
artist: Valerie Richards

Enclosed in this edition of **Wellingtonia** you will find two forms. One is a nomination form for the Friends Committee; our AGM is coming up in February, and you are encouraged to consider standing for the Committee. The second is a form asking for your input into suggesting events or places to visit that would be of interest to members of the FBBG.

## PROJECT GROUP: (VISIONARY PLAN AND RE-DEVELOPMENT OF FERNERY PROJECT)

It is very exciting to know that Andrew Laidlaw, after full consultation, is well underway with the plans for the new "Fernery" development.

One suggestion for a name has been put forward to our group – **Ballarat Botanical Gardens Shade Pavilion**. What do you think? Further ideas for suitable names would be very welcome.

The Landscape concept will look at how the plan articulates into the rest of the gardens. The relationship of the design to the proposed architecture.

The living collections themes will be developed. The revised Architectural concept will be developed and pre- application approval will be sought from Heritage Victoria.

By February 2015 there will be a draft of the Final Concept which will be proposed to a City of Ballarat Council meeting.

A costing program for the project will also be established.

In March it is anticipated that the concept will be presented to the public along with a funding campaign.

In the light of new developments regarding use of staff in the Gardens, the Project Group will be advocating for a re-instated staff presence in the Gardens at weekends and on public holidays.

As well we will be requesting that there be included adequate signage and interpretive information throughout the whole Gardens, with a view to further enhance visitor experience.

Elizabeth Gilfillan, Co-ordinator

*So many weeds, so little Thyme*





**UNVEILING OF THE  
BUST OF PRIME  
MINISTER GILLARD,  
BALLARAT  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS,  
OCTOBER 9 2014**



**(Top row):** Former PM Julia Gillard; Cartoonist and Sculptor Peter Nicholson; part of the large crowd in attendance.

**(second row):** The Bust Awaits; 'Ready'; The Wraps are Off; Twins?.

**(third row):** Ms Gillard meets Friends: (from left Lorraine Powell, Trish Twaits, Maria Marco, Ms Gillard, Yvonne Curbach, Elizabeth Gilfillan, Joy O'Brien, Julie Bradby, Bruce Holland and Terry O'Brien.); The newly installed bust on the Prime Ministers Avenue.



**Above and right: STORM DAMAGE AND THE SUBSEQUENT CLEAN-UP; BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS, OCTOBER 28, 2014**



**THE BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS AND WW 1:**

**Far left:** Lorraine Powell, Friends' President Mike Sorrell and Senator Michael Ronaldson at the launch of the History Friends' World War 1 exhibition *The Ballarat Botanical Gardens and WW 1* (November 2014);

**left:** The launch in the Conservatory.



**FRIENDS RECENTLY  
VISITED  
MORANGHURK  
HOMESTEAD (left)  
AND GEELONG  
BOTANICAL  
GARDENS (right)**



**Photo credits:** Thanks to Raoul Dixon, Beryl Plummer, Terry O'Brien, Helen Vincent, Mike Sorrell and Peter Marquand for providing photographs used in this edition. The photo of Peter shown on page 3 is from an unknown source. Ed.



# Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Information 2015

Email: [info@fbbg.org.au](mailto:info@fbbg.org.au)  
 Website: [www.fbbg.org.au](http://www.fbbg.org.au)

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

Tel. George Longley Building 03 5342 9354

## Meetings and Events:

January 22 (Thurs) 1 - 4pm Symposium (Robert Clark Horticultural Centre) (\*)  
 February 19 (Thurs) 10am AGM (RCHC)  
 March 24 (Tues) 7pm Twilight Meeting (RCHC)  
 April 6 (Mon) Friends **Bus Trip** to Wombat Hill/Frogmore Gardens  
 April 16 (Thurs) 10-12 noon Special Friends Morning Tea (RCHC)  
 May 21 (Thurs) 10am General Meeting; **Speaker** Chris Findlay - Flora Victoria (RCHC)  
 August 20 (Thurs) 10am General Meeting; **Speaker** Janet O'Hehir, urban landscape researcher. (RCHC)  
 October 5 (Mon) Friends **Rail Trip** to Royal Melbourne Botanical Gardens  
 October 15 (Thurs) **George Longley Day**; George Longley Building  
 October 23 (Fri) **Spring Lunch** (RCHC)  
 October 24 & 25 (Sat/Sun) **Gardens in Spring** (Ballarat area)  
 October 26 (Mon) Coombe Gardens **Bus Trip** (Coldstream)  
 November 26 (Thurs) Friends Christmas Breakup BBQ. (RCHC)

## MEETING TIMES 2015

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

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

**Growing Friends** - Tuesday each week 1 pm-4 pm,  
 and the 2nd Sunday every month, 1 pm-4 pm.  
 (During summer also open on 4th Sunday as well.)

**Plant Sales** at the above times.

**Guiding Friends** - 4th Tuesday each month 10 am.

**History Group** - 1st Tuesday each month 4 pm.

**Educating Friends** - 2nd Tuesday each month, 10am

**Plant Labelling** as required.



## Friends Committee Meetings 2015:

February 17; March 17; April 21; May 19; (no meeting June); July 21; August 18; September 15; October 20 and November 17.

## BotaniKIDS 2015

*"Coffee and Cake"* @ 10.00 a.m. on Tuesdays  
 – February 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, September 8 and December 8.

*Children's Craft Day* Thursday, October 22

## Early Notices:

**The Friends Symposium from 1pm** on 22 January will discuss: the CoB and the implementation of the Visionary Plan for the Gardens; the Fernery Re-Development; and the Begonia Festival 2015!

**Mark Richardson** will be guest speaker at the 2015 AGM on 19 February. Mark is the author of the Visionary Plan for the Botanic Gardens.

**Begonia Festival:** Labour Day weekend, 7 to 9 March.

## 2014-15 FBBG Committee Appointments (\*)

POSITION	NAME	POSITION	NAME
<b>President</b>	Mike Sorrell	<b>History Convener</b>	Lorraine Powell
<b>Vice president</b>	Vacant	<b>Hospitality</b>	Carole Haines/Diana Dunne
<b>Secretary</b>	Trish Twaits	<b>Membership</b>	Raoul Dixon
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bruce Holland	<b>Merchandise</b>	Helen Vincent
<b>Past President</b>	Elizabeth Gilfillan	<b>Western Bed Convener</b>	Beryl Plummer
<b>Education Convener</b>	Julie Bradby	<b>General member</b>	Kathleen Hobson
<b>Grants/Proposals</b>	Glen Lake	<b>General member</b>	John King
<b>Growers Convener</b>	Yvonne Curbach	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Michael Bird
<b>Guides Convener</b>	Terry O'Brien	<b>Engraving Convener</b>	Joy O'Brien (non Committee)

(\* 2015 AGM will be held February 19)

**Disclaimer:** The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens or those of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. Neither the Friends nor the Ballarat Botanical Gardens accepts responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed, although every effort will be made to publish reliable and accurate information. **Contributions for Autumn Wellingtonia 2015 are due by mid-March.** Michael Bird, Editor.