

# Wellingtonia



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PP Number 100020008

## NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2017-18

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



### FRIENDS OF BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2017 has finished up with several very successful social events. First was our **bus trip** to the magnificent gardens of **Cloudehill** in the Dandenongs and the nearby **Gentiana Nursery and garden**. A most enjoyable trip and thank you to Carole Haines for organising this.

Then we had the amazing **Spring Gardens Luncheon and Open Gardens Weekend**. Three excellent speakers at the luncheon kept the capacity crowd enthralled, while the six open gardens were excellent choices, drawing large numbers. The great preparatory work of Helen Todd with her organising committee of Elizabeth Gilfillan, Wendy Taylor and Cherry Shultz, again resulted in a most professional and faultless weekend.

After ten years of organising these weekends, most of this committee will now be standing down so we hope that others will step up to continue this most worthwhile event on our annual calendar.

Finally we ended the year with our new format "**drinks and nibbles**", started last year to replace the former end of year BBQ. This is proving much more popular with our members, with over 70 coming to socialise and enjoy the excellent food provided by the catering committee of Doff Kemp, Helen Vincent and Heather Boyd and we thank them for their excellent work.

Our plant sales at **Springfest** in November raised about \$1400. Quite a commendable sum considering the wet start to the day. Thank you very much to Yvonne Curbach and all those who volunteered, especially setting up the marquee in the heavy rain.

Anyone driving along Wendouree Parade will have noticed that work has started on our **Gatekeeper's Cottage**. It is now settled

on its permanent foundation and work has commenced on restoration, initially the chimneys and gables with new roof to follow. We are very appreciative of all that the Council is doing to bring the cottage back to its original appearance.

With regard to the **Fernery redevelopment**, we are in on-going discussions with City of Ballarat Council and other interested persons to determine the best way forward for this project.

With the uncertainty regarding additional funding, it might be necessary to simply look at the best way to use the available funds which have been committed by Council to develop a much less ambitious design.

Alternatively a staged development could be considered in order to secure a more worthwhile design – more in line with the Discovery Centre concept which would be such a draw-card if it can be achieved.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, 22 February** at the usual starting time of **10.00 a.m.** and I look forward to seeing you there.

Included in this Wellingtonia is the annual call for nominations for Committee positions for 2018. This time we expect to have several vacancies, including Vice-President, to be filled as some of our long term Committee have indicated their intention to not stand again.

So please think seriously about nominating either yourself or someone known to you. You will find it interesting to be on Committee. We meet once a month to discuss all the current issues with which we are involved.

This will be my last President's Report for *Wellingtonia*. By February I will have served three successive years which is the maximum allowable under our Constitution. It has been a privilege to serve the Friends in this capacity and I look forward to continuing to support the Friends in future years.

**Raoul Dixon, President.**

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about nominating  
either yourself or  
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find it interesting  
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Committee.

**Hoy!**

The Friends' **Annual General Meeting 2018** will be held on **Thursday, 22 February** at the usual starting time of **10.00 a.m.** in the **Robert Clark Horticultural Centre**.



**Patron of the Ballarat Friends:**

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

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

**GOOD  
NEWS  
STORIES:**

Page 2: **SPECIAL  
PRESENTATION TO  
A SPECIAL FRIEND!**



Page 3: **CONGRATULATIONS  
KATHLEEN HOBSON:**

*City of Ballarat Senior Citizen Awards: Healthy  
Active Living Award 2017*





## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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

Warwick Sellens,	Sue Sidebottom,	Claire Rasmussen,	Julie Chandler,	Georgina Lygdopoulos,
Sue Coutis,	Andrew Lightfoot,	Lois Walker,	Joy Modistach,	Jenny McKinnon,
Pauline White,	Veronica Holmith,	Karen Skye,	Dianne McGlasson and Pamela Gaulke.	

These new members now bring our current membership up to 353 and we thank those members who have introduced their friends - keep up the good work!

Renewal notices have now been sent out to those members whose membership expires this year. I would very much appreciate a prompt response for my record keeping, and please remember to send the renewal form back with your remittance.

**On the renewal notice a mistake was inadvertently made with my email address – (adding an “.au” which should not be there). Some members tried and had their email bounce back.**

My correct email is [rdixon578@gmail.com](mailto:rdixon578@gmail.com) Sorry about that.

**Raoul Dixon, Membership Officer**

*“However bare the lawn, grass will appear in the cracks between the patio paving stones.”*

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO A SPECIAL FRIEND!

At the Growing Friends Christmas afternoon tea, Rudolph Heubner was presented with a certificate and gift, acknowledging his dedicated work with the **Friends’ Trolley**, restocking and watering it daily, as well as and collecting the often damp dollars.

Rudolph has also developed strategies to thwart thieves, who have taken advantage of our honesty system.

The Plant Trolley was reinstated three years ago due to Rudolph's commitment and now brings in over \$15,000 each year.



Growing Friends’ stalwart Rudolph Heubner receives a Certificate of Appreciation and Gift from President Raoul Dixon

## CITY COUNCIL INDUCTIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Members might be aware that all volunteers as well as employees working on Council controlled property are required to undergo an induction course to familiarise them with health and safety requirements as well as be informed about relevant Council procedures.

For our volunteers in the past, this has meant Council organising induction sessions which volunteers were required to attend. This has proved inefficient both because of the time lag between such sessions, and the inevitable problem of finding a date and time to suit everyone at once.

To overcome this problem, I have suggested alternative procedures to Council and, after some further discussions, we now have a much more workable system.

All relevant Convenors of Friends’ sub-groups have now been endorsed to directly conduct induction with new volunteers by going through a small set of documents with check lists.

This now means that new volunteers can be inducted without delay and with a minimum of inconvenience.

**Raoul Dixon, President**

## GROWING FRIENDS



Springfest 2017 was a great success for the Friends. A total of \$1395 was made despite the strange weather we had on the day. It started with thunder and lightning plus pouring rain and our helpers had to try and put up our marquee. They got soaked in the process! Still, they managed of course, and we had a great day. The weather was beautiful for the rest of the day and we had a great selection of plants for sale. Thanks to all the helpers that gave up their day to make this a success.

**Yvonne Curbach, Convenor**



## CONGRATULATIONS TO A DEDICATED FRIEND KATHLEEN HOBSON:

*City of Ballarat Senior Citizen Awards: Healthy Active Living Award 2017*

Kathleen has been a member of the *FBBG* for over 20 years, serving as Vice President, lobbying for the Guides and instrumental in the establishment of *Botanikids*. A regular contributor and researcher for the **History Group**, Kathleen was a key instigator in the development and publication of *An Eden of Loveliness: The Ballarat Botanical Gardens*, the digitising of over 1,000 hand-written records and cataloguing our library. She doesn't talk about what she will do, she just does things, quietly, thoughtfully and efficiently.

Many would be surprised at the range of volunteer work she has undertaken over five decades, including Meals on Wheels, St Peter's Opportunity shop and sharing her love of flowers with young and old. Though a wonderful example of healthy, active living; Kathleen was a reluctant receiver of the award, preferring to stay out of the limelight.

Kathleen's son, singer David Hobson, in an article "*What I Know About Women*" (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 2016) describes her as a positive and independent person and 'a very demure woman and softly spoken. She's not someone who talks about herself, rather she is a person who is interested in others.'

The *History Group* are developing a history of Begonias in Ballarat. It is planned that the booklet and small exhibition will be launched at the 2018 Begonia Festival.

**Susan Pilbeam**



Kathleen researching the 1911 *Ballarat Botanical Gardens Visitors Book*, for information about the appreciation of Begonias and comments on the gardens.

*"The philosopher who said that work well done never needs doing over never weeded a garden."* Ray D. Everson

## CURATOR'S REPORT: Christmas 2017

The Ballarat Botanical Gardens team has put together a special Christmas display outside the Conservatory. One of our plant towers was planted up in seasonal colours of red and white and was complemented with silver plants around the base. (See right)

The traditional carols by candlelight was held in the North Gardens on December 17.

Running from December 15 to 17 the Robert Clark meeting room hosted an exhibition of more than 300 nativity sets collected from more than 40 countries by a number of passionate private collectors.

The Conservatory **summer display** includes hydrangeas and pelargoniums from the City of Ballarat's collection and includes other plants such as maples and summer bulbs. Opened to the public mid-November and will run through until the end of February. (See left)



**Floral clock unveiling:** This occurred on **November 23**. Descendants of Mayor Cutts were on hand for the special unveiling. They included Esther Cutts, the five-year-old great, great granddaughter of Mayor Cutts as well as her father, City of Ballarat Rural Access Officer Phil Cutts. (See right: Mayor Samantha McIntosh at the Floral Clock 'opening')



The floral clock was originally presented to the citizens of Ballarat in 1954 by the Ballarat Begonia Festival Committee. The clock was moved to the Ballarat Botanical Gardens from the Sturt Street gardens in 1980.

The clock has not been operational for 14 years after the clock hands were used to destroy statues in the Gardens' Stoddart Collection. In 2003, the hands were removed after further vandalism, and the area was planted as a round garden bed.

As part of the 160th anniversary of the gardens, a new clock mechanism, metal numbers and light alloy metal hands have been installed. The surrounding garden bed has been replanted with red and white petunias to celebrate the festive season.

**Peter Marquand, Curator**



### ***Experienced Gardener Wanted***

*The woman applying for a job in a Florida lemon grove seemed way too qualified for the job.*

*"Look Miss," said the foreman, "have you any actual experience in picking lemons?"*

*"Well, as a matter of fact, yes!" she replied. "I've been divorced four times."*

## NEW LIVING COLLECTIONS PLAN

Mark Richardson from Adelaide has been engaged to create a '**Living Collections Plan**' for the Ballarat and Buninyong Botanic Gardens. This project will provide an in-depth evaluation of our current collections, and provide a focus for future inclusions.

A workshop will be conducted by Mark for the 'Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens' to discuss the current plant collections on Tuesday 16 January 2018 from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm in the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre. All 'Friends' are welcome to attend and contribute ideas!

## CONSERVATION PROJECT – RARE BASALT PEPPERCRESS

*(Lepidium hyssopifolium): (Perennial herb to 50 cm high; stems erect, covered with fine, short hairs. Basal leaves pinnately lobed or toothed; stem leaves. Source: <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/>)*

At the Ballarat Gardens we have recently commenced a joint conservation project with the State's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), to help save the rare Basalt Peppercress from local extinction.

We recently received 14 plants that will form a 'living seedbank' to help preserve the species for the future. Seed collected from our plants will be put into storage at both the Royal Botanic Gardens Herbarium (Melb), and the seedbank at Kew Gardens (UK). The seed will be used to produce new plants for the Ballarat North Gardens. New Ballarat Indigenous Plant Collection.



© Basalt Pepper-cress - John Eichler/Viridans Image

**AUSTRALIA GARDEN AT BALLARAT:** The Australia Garden now hosts a new collection of Ballarat Indigenous plants. Over 600 new plants (44 species) have been planted, all of which occur naturally within a 50km radius of Ballarat and many within the indigenous grasslands of Victoria Park. Thank you to the 'Western Bedders' who were a great help with bed preparation and planting!

## 'CARE FOR THE RARE' PROJECT.:

In a separate conservation project, our application for the BGANZ '*Care for the Rare*' project was successful and we look forward to being a part of this exciting project in early 2019 curating rare Australian plants.

**Donna Thomas, Plant Collections Officer BBG**



## Talking Plants ... every plant has a story to tell.

FROM TIM ENTWISLE'S BLOG - December 26, 2018.

While visiting in October I noticed smudges of orange and red in the plentiful urban forests around the city. They are part of the remnant or regenerated forest that carpets the hillsides in Chongqing in central China, but also planted in formal garden beds and as a street tree.

You might call them **golden rain**, **flames** or **bougainvillea-like-sprays**. These words combine to provide some of the names for the local *Koelreuteria bipinnata* with its orange-shaded, puffy, three-winged, papery fruit.

The Bougainvillea Golden Rain Tree as one common name has it, has small, yellow flowers, with a fleck or red at the base of the petals. But the flowers are produced in large clusters, presumably the golden rain.



Or maybe that's the flush of yellow leaves in autumn? The Chinese Flame Tree common name hints strongly to its origins, and to the colour of the fruits.

There [are](#) three species, two in China and Japan and one split between Taiwan and (apparently)

Fiji. All seem to be tolerant of tough urban conditions, tolerating pollution and '[challenging](#)' soils.



*You can read more of  
Tim's Blog about this  
topic amongst many  
others at:*

*<http://talkingplants.blogspot.com.au/>. Tim has recently  
included a series of reports on his travels in China*

*"Men are like a fine wine. They all start out like grapes, and it's our job to stomp on them and keep them in the dark until they mature into something you'd want to have dinner with." - Female Author Unknown*





## FRIENDS' COMING EVENTS - 2018

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 22, 2018:** Guest speaker will be Justin Buckley (PICTURED LEFT). Justin is Manager of Horticulture for the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). His talk '*Tree Succession Planning in Heritage Gardens*'. Ballarat has many fine examples of trees to be managed.



**EXCURSION - WEDNESDAY, 11 APRIL 2018.** Visit *Tugurium* - Stephen Ryan's Private Garden and also his Nursery - *Dicksonia Rare Plants*. Stephen (PICTURED RIGHT) will take us on walk and talk through his fabulous garden. This Garden is filled with a collection of rare and unusual plants, including species on the Plant Trust National Plant Collections Register. The nursery has hundreds of rare and different plants for us to admire and purchase. More information about this trip will be available in February 2018.



**GENERAL MEETING - 17 MAY, 2018:** Our member Elizabeth Gilfillan is our Guest Speaker. Elizabeth (PICTURED LEFT) will talk to us on her trip overseas. "JOURNEY TO AND THE 6th GLOBAL CONGRESS BOTANIC GARDENS IN GENEVA, 2017." Elizabeth will include her visit to other places as well as the interesting Global Congress.

**GENERAL MEETING - 23 AUGUST, 2018:** Kate Toll will be our Guest Speaker. Kate has an interesting talk on the beautiful homestead - **MOUNT MITCHELL**. Mount Mitchell is a stunning historic homestead within the renowned Pyrenees wine region of Victoria. The property established in 1838 captures early Victorian Rural History. Its beautiful formal gardens cover an area of ten acres and include the kitchen garden, orchard, nut lawn, parterre rose garden, extensive hedged rooms and park like spaces.



**EXCURSION - OCTOBER 2018** (Date to be confirmed): Following on from Kate's talk, this excursion will be to visit MOUNT MITCHELL (PICTURED ABOVE RIGHT). Kate will take us on an historic tour of the gardens as mentioned above and the restored outbuildings. More details on this visit and other information will be in the Winter *Wellingtonia*.

**CHRISTMAS NIBBLES AND DRINKS - 22 NOVEMBER, 2018.**



Carole Haines, Events Convenor

*If, instead of talking to your plants, you yelled at them, would they still grow, only to be troubled and insecure?*

## FRIENDS BOTANICAL ARTISTS GROUP

The botanical illustrators continue to meet in the George Longley building at the botanical gardens each Monday.

2017 has been another successful and very enjoyable year of botanical illustration by the group.

We held some guided sessions, which produced an excellent body of work. All were justifiably proud of their results from these sessions and all other painting activities during the year.

In 2018 we will begin painting the begonias specifically linked to Ballarat Botanical Gardens. This will be done with the assistance of Donna Thomas, who will provide access to the plants. It will be exciting to continue painting these beautiful plants.



Our plan is to run at least two workshops over the year, with noted tutors from around Victoria.

If you would like to join us as in 2018 as we start another year of friendship and support while developing our skills, contact:

Valerie Richards, Convenor, Botanical Art Group. 5341 2649  
Or email : [valerierichards@iprimus.com.au](mailto:valerierichards@iprimus.com.au)

**Valerie Richards, Convenor, Botanical Art Group**

Thank you to all who supported the 10th annual Ballarat Gardens in Spring. Perfect weather leading up to and over the three day event ensured gardens were looking at their best and visitor numbers were positive.

This year's **Speakers Luncheon** was again inspiring, educational and fun with our three speakers; **Andrew Laidlaw, Steven Wells and Natasha Morgan**. Our theme this year touched on connection to nature, the importance of green spaces and engaging the community. The weather was perfect with a delicious lunch prepared by Peter Ford Catering enjoyed by all in the Conservatory with the spectacular Schizanthus display being a colourful backdrop.

The **open gardens** on the Saturday and Sunday were well received with visitor number breaking all records. Each garden received between 550 - 1500 visitors over the weekend (5502 adult paying visitors) a fabulous response to our increased publicity and popularity. Garden owners also provided coffee, steel art, refreshments, produce and plant sales which further made money to various charities and clubs. The new website certainly was successful in terms of clear and concise information and social media - Facebook and Instagram proved extremely popular.

Special thanks to our **Open Garden** owners for their willingness to open their gardens, hard work and commitment: **Tracey & Stuart Fraser, Di & Ian Fulton, Andrea & Mark Weigall, Celia & Graeme Burnham, Anne & Berry King and Ricky & Eric McLeod**. A fabulous effort was put in to have all the gardens looking amazing and welcoming the many interested visitors.

A special mention to **Lorraine Powell** for again hosting the Melbourne Visitor Coach tour to the open gardens on the Sunday - guests were delighted to receive first hand detail, stories and history not only about the gardens but Ballarat in general. **Doff Kemp** and her team for setting up for morning tea, **Jane Monro** for her delicious homemade biscuits and all who assisted with the setup & pack up after the luncheon and garden openings. Special thanks to **Raoul Dixon** for his overall calmness and IT assistance. Thanks also to all the **volunteers** who assisted at the Open Garden either on the entry gate or assisting the garden owners in preparation - for without you this event would not be possible.

Thanks also to our event and raffle **Sponsors** who contributed to our event so generously please support them where possible:-

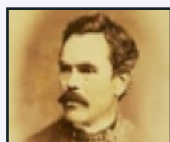
City of Ballarat Community Impact Grant Program	Ballarat Regional Tourism	Red Lion Hotel
Central Highlands Water	Gull & Company	Bunnings - Ballarat
Stems Flower Market	Bed Bath n Table	La Vita Cafe & Nursery
Michael Unwin Wines - Beaufort	OfficeWorks - Ballarat	Yacht Club Ballarat
Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens	Such'n'Such	

**Helen Todd & Committee** (Elizabeth Gilfillan, Wendy Taylor and Cherry Shultz)

***When gardening, always leave extra time for unraveling the hose.***

## Beckler's Bounty

Convenor of the Botanical Art Group Valerie Richards, will have her work exhibited (24 February - 27 March) at the Art Gallery of Ballarat as part of the 150th anniversary of the ill-fated Burke and Wills expedition. Beckler's Bounty celebrates the work of Dr Herman Beckler, who collected and documented 120 species at Menindie.



Dr Herman Beckler

Valerie has been part of a group, who over eight years have travelled with artist Mali Moir to far west NSW to illustrate these species.

The Art Gallery of Ballarat continues this theme with three other parallel exhibitions, **Eugene Von Gerard: Artist-Traveller** (24 March - 27 May), **Pastoral Settlement in the Wimmera** (3 March - 11 June) and **Animalia Australia** (3 March - 6 May).

**Susan Pilbeam**







## GUIDING NEWS:

**TOURS:** Range of different group tours kept the Guides busy in Spring. We all find pleasure in showcasing the gardens and hopefully the fulsome praise of the visitors for the displays does get communicated to the staff who work to achieve the much admired results. The problem is always trying to do justice to the different sections in the gardens when time, distance and mobility and interests of the groups and individuals have to be sorted through in managing the tour. Do we have enough time to get to the Rose bed? Perhaps they may want to see the new native garden bed? If we do that we won't see the.... and so on it goes. More guides are needed. **Refer to the 'Joys of Guiding'**, article by Jane Munro on **page 8** of this edition. Let Jane or myself know if you would be interested in joining the Guiding group.

**U3A/FRIENDS GARDEN COURSE:** In 2018 we will run the U3A/FFBG Garden course and details are advertised in this issue. (**Page 10**) This is a good opportunity and worth considering if you want to get to know more about these gardens.

**"SHARING THE JOURNEY":** Lots of open garden visits take place in Spring and tend to motivate people with their own garden. Like all interests it has to be nurtured and by seeing other gardens as well as having conversations with like-minded people is part of this. **Ballarat Gardens in Spring** does this and FBBG has been a keen supporter of this program.

Some of the guides and committee members have also participated and contributed to a recent U3A program **'Sharing the Journey'**. This has involved about 25 people visiting nine local gardens and hearing the story about the garden's development from the owner.

The gardens ranged from small to large, from country to suburban, included a community garden and there was a wide range in style, establishment costs, design features, maintenance challenges, etc.

This was a great opportunity to learn and be excited by what is achieved in gardens. In a time where we see less evidence of people being excited and making gardens a priority it is hoped more of these programs will flourish to both stimulate and widen the involvement in gardening.

**JAPAN VISIT:** My wife and I visited Japan recently. A lack of space is the challenge for the Japanese gardeners but it is not used as an excuse not to create a beautiful small garden spot. Sometimes it was just a pleasing arrangement of a few pots; sometimes a small courtyard, sometimes just a tree trained to an interesting shape but more often than not in their crowded space would be an expression of their inclusion of nature and its beauty. This quietly sophisticated approach amongst so many in that nation does Japan proud.

Perhaps we need to do more to help stimulate Australians and their approach to our gardens? The Gatekeepers Cottage when renovated and extended will have the potential to incorporate into its role one that provides education and inspiration and demonstrate gardening ideas in practice to our wider community.

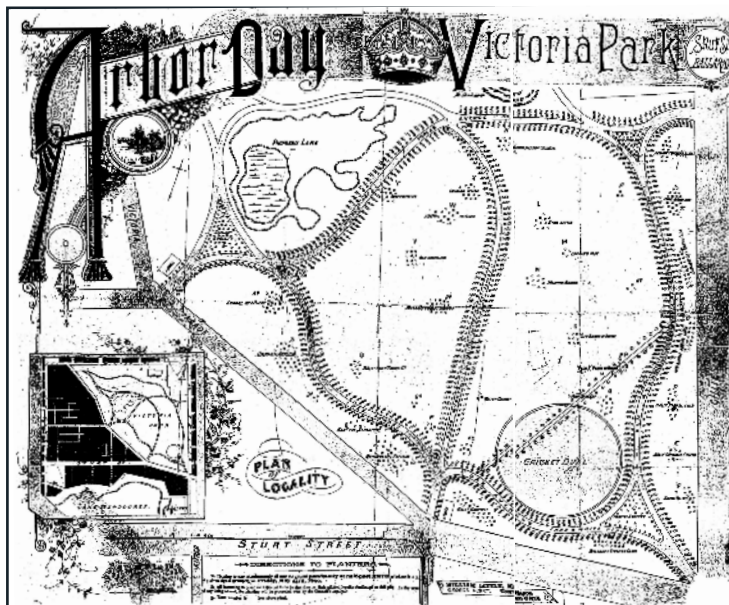
**GUIDES EXCURSIONS:** Guides had two very interesting and informative tours in Spring.

The first was to **Victoria Park**, the *'lungs of Ballarat'*. How lucky is Ballarat to have over 130 hectares so centrally located and where there is still the experience of discovery and exploration!

**Ann Ottrey** took us on a tour and shared her historical research on the park. Ann entertained us with many of the colourful and diverse stories. It once was a windswept place with ugly mullock heaps and an early site for the City night soil.

..Victoria Park,  
the *'lungs of  
Ballarat'*.

It was transformed on **Arbor Day** on 23 May 1890 when the sound of a bugle commenced the planting of hundreds of trees in ten minutes! Today we have the resultant arboreal beauty of grand avenues.



(Above) **Arbor Day Plan 1890** - This plan shows the original layout of avenue trees and specimen clumps. This design is largely intact today with many of the original trees still in place.

In 1942 Victoria Park was used as an **army camp** when American troops moved to Ballarat. Included was a large Military Hospital.

The **Australian Scout Jamboree** in 1992 was also another key event in the Park. Ann also helped us locate many of the significant trees. Peter Marquand (BBG Curator) provided an account of more recent happenings and the steps taken to help preserve the significant indigenous grasses.

Our second excursion was to **St Kilda Botanic Gardens and the Port Phillip Eco Centre**. We were fortunate to have as our Guide Neil Blake who has had long association with both the gardens and the Centre. The EcoCentre is located in the St Kilda Botanic Gardens old Park- keeper's house and is an environmental hub for community groups.

The gatekeeper's cottage in our own Ballarat gardens has the potential to also widen its role in education and be the centre for projects and support sustainable gardening approaches. So the visit provided plenty of interest for the Guides.

Both Victoria Park and St Kilda BG are in urban areas that have high population density that impacts on how these sites are used. There are challenges but there are also opportunities. Vic Park Master Plan and Directions for St Kilda Botanical Gardens Future Directions Plan have endeavoured to engage the community in how these areas should be developed. These plans provide the opportunity to balance contemporary values and promote new cultural vitality and also preserve and respect their cultural and heritage significance.

As Guides and Friends we are always interested in how the botanic function is strengthened.

A big **'thank you'** to our guides for another year of happy guiding and supporting each other in our quest to know more about the gardens and gardening. We look forward to including new Guides in 2018!

**Terry O'Brien, Convenor of the Guides for FBBG**

(more 'Guides' photos on the next page)

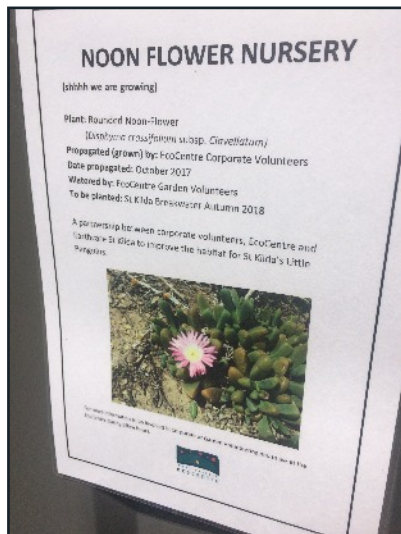




**Above:** Neil Blake of St Kilda Botanic Gardens chats with Sue, Sandie and Peter from Ballarat



**Above:** Victoria Park 1942. The 147th American Battery Group. In the early months of 1942 a 5200-strong contingent of US troops moved into Ballarat and were billeted in private homes. Within a few months they had set up camp in Victoria Park for a tank battalion, several field artillery units, infantry divisions, airmen and later, marines. The 108th Australian Army Convalescent Hospital was also stationed in Victoria Park.



**Left:** Signage at St Kilda Gardens; **Above:** Neil Blake leads the Ballarat Guides on their St Kilda Botanic Gardens visit; **Right:** Entry to the St Kilda Botanic Gardens.



*'Nothing ever looks like it does on the seed packet.'*

## JOYS OF GUIDING

The Guiding Friends have been busy this year. Tours tend to come all at once, in Autumn and in Spring. Some groups come in a large busload, some in just twos and threes.



During Spring and Autumn some guides are available on Sunday mornings at 11 am. As many as ten or eleven people might turn up, or maybe no one at all, especially it is raining. Some are local, and some come from far away.

People from all over the world and all over Australia come to see our gardens. Many comment on our wonderful borders and massed plantings of annual plants between the entrance gates and the conservatory, and often say "our Botanic garden used to have these but they don't any more, and it's so good to see them again."

Some groups come on a sort of whirlwind tour and tumble out of their buses looking tired and even grumpy, but most react well to the beauty and peace of the gardens. Even if they don't listen very closely to their guide they enjoy the trees and the odd story that catches their attention.

People from hotter more northerly states love to see our cold climate plants. Recently a group from Queensland were overjoyed to see the horse chestnuts in flower, describing the flowers as "tiny orchids".

The Western Bed can be a source of encouragement to many local people, because they can do a bit of planning for their own gardens and see the size and colours of so many perennials that they would be able to grow.

Guiding is a rewarding occupation. Each guide has their own favourite plants, and areas to take people to. With an interested group it is often hard to confine ourselves to the hour that is allotted; there is so much history and so many beautiful nooks and crannies to explore.

We would be delighted if more Friends could join our group.

We meet once a month to work out rosters and spend the rest of our meetings listening to presentations about plants, gardens and history.

At first new guides are encouraged to tag along on tours with the more experienced guides.

In the George Longley Room there is a library and other sources of information. We have our own specialties. No one can be an expert on everything! We would welcome any interested persons.

Jane Munro



## THE EDUCATING FRIENDS GROUP AND BALLARAT BOTANIKIDS REPORT:

The following is an unsolicited letter from a very happy Ballarat Mum!

Thursday 14 December 2017

The Secretary  
Friends of The Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc PO Box 33W  
BALLARAT WEST VICTORIA 3350

Dear Friends of The Ballarat Botanical Gardens,

Just a short letter to say how excited I am about the restoration of the gate keeper's cottage for the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

I was prompted to write this letter after wandering around the gardens with my children a couple of weeks ago, when we came across the cottage. My four year old son was very interested in what the building was and where it had come from.

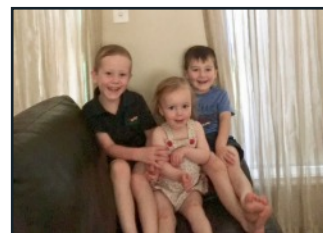
As a local primary school teacher, I was thrilled to learn earlier this year that the cottage would be restored and used for education. The lake and gardens are already such a wonderful resource for the children of Ballarat and the cottage will only add appeal with its rich history and restored beauty.

My mother, children and I often participate in the Botanikids sessions run by Julie Bradby and all the other lovely Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens volunteers. Here we have enjoyed many nature walks around the gardens and lake, as well as lots of fun and engaging craft activities. The volunteers are really welcoming and helpful and include retired teachers, nurses and grandparents - so we are always very well looked after! Children are often provided fruit for morning tea and parents are offered tea, coffee and home made cake!! For a gold coin donation, this program has a lot to offer!

From learning about the environment to our political history, smelling the herbs in the sensory garden or having a ride on the tram, The Botanical Gardens has it all! I can't wait to see what will become of the gatekeeper's cottage. From a parent's, and certainly a teacher's perspective, I look forward to learning more about Ballarat's history and enjoying this new addition to the gardens.

Thank you for offering such a wonderful program for our children and good luck with restoring the cottage.

Kind Regards,  
Jasmine Oldaker



## THE GATEKEEPER'S COTTAGE:



The Cottage is now settled in its new home at the entrance from the North Gardens. The Ballarat City Council have been generous in managing and financing this first stage of the renovation!

Funds spent on the Cottage has been mostly not evident. A gas main needed to be relocated, a floating slab and foundation stumps built, the cottage then settled in place. The chimneys have been beautifully re-built and the roof line re-established mostly using the original bearers.

I think you will agree the Cottage is beginning to look as if it is meant to be there!

The next stage is now gaining funding and support from various sources including fundraising and grants. After our last meeting with Council it was decided to advertise for an architect to create a design renovated interior to the Cottage as well as the extension at the back to accommodate The Friends Education groups and Botanikids activities. We have prepared initial architects briefing notes outlining how the Friends wish to utilise the Cottage. Please feel free to ask for a copy for your information.

We shall be very busy in the New Year working with the Council and various other groups and bodies to clarify our vision and to gain support and funding for Stage 2 of the renovation. Any help or advice would be so very welcome.

**Julie Bradby, Botanikids Convenor**



Developments at the Gatekeepers Cottage: Now re-stumped on the new slab with work being undertaken replacing the roof

### IF YOU NEED TO PAY US SOME MONEY:

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

A good method is to use your surname and initial/s as your ID.

Please state what the payment is for, e.g. membership, bus trip, etc.

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



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

Contact the Friends Office **5342 9354**



**U3A/ FBBG (Friends  
of Ballarat Botanical  
Gardens) Course 2018**

This extended program for those who want to learn more about Ballarat's Botanical Gardens will be available to members of U3A as well as Friends of BBG.

Through a series of presentations by a wide range of speakers and some tours and excursions it will examine the actions and thinking over time that has shaped and is shaping our BBG.

It will be held on 8 Fridays from 10 am – 12 noon from 20 April to 8 June at the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre in the Gardens.

If interested in joining this program please pass on name and contact details to Susan at the FBBG office (534 29354).

**Terry O'Brien, Guides' Convenor**



**AAFBG Member's Biennial Conference Benalla 2018**

*"Cultivating Friends"*

April 20 - 22, 2018

Congratulations to The Friends of **Benalla Botanic Gardens and Riverine Parkland** for hosting next year's Conference. We look forward to an exciting program which includes:

- Welcome drinks at **The Benalla Art Gallery by the Broken River** on Friday evening hosted by the Mayor.
- Speaker presentations on Saturday/Sunday at the Benalla Performing Arts and Convention Centre with **Dr Lucy Sutherland**, Director of Adelaide Botanical Gardens, **Chris Russell**, Director of Cranbourne RBG, **Andrew Laidlaw** on the new Children's Adventure Playground and others.
- **AAFBG AGM** on Sunday. Morning Tea and Lunch provided both days.
- **'Gardens as Glue'** AAFBG Members' Presentations.
- **Conference Dinner** on Saturday Night
- **Tour of the Benalla Botanic Gardens**, a Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden with afternoon tea provided by students of Benalla College.
- Optional Tours to the *Winton Wetlands* available.

Conference registration forms are available from George Longley Room or download from:  
<http://www.friendsbotanicgardens.org/conferences/2018-agm>

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





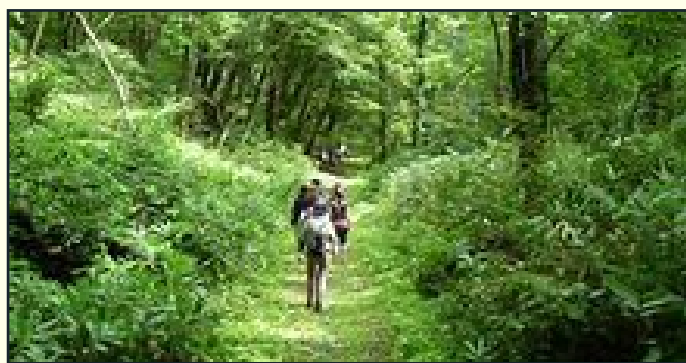
Forest bathing, or Shinrin-yoku, was developed in Japan in the 1980s. This practice of forest bathing is proven to lower heart rate and blood pressure, reduce stress hormone production, boost the immune system, and improve overall feelings of well being.

Forest bathing—basically just being in the presence of trees—became part of a national public health program in Japan in 1982 when the forestry ministry coined the phrase shinrin-yoku and promoted topiary as therapy. Nature appreciation—picnicking en masse under the cherry blossoms, for example—is a national pastime in Japan, so forest bathing quickly took.

The environment's wisdom has long been evident to the culture: Japan's Zen masters asked: If a tree falls in the forest and no one hears, does it make a sound? To discover the answer, masters do nothing, and gain illumination. Forest bathing works similarly: Just be with trees. No hiking, no counting steps on a *Fitbit*. You can sit or meander, but the point is to relax rather than accomplish anything.

Forest air doesn't just feel fresher and better—inhalating phytoncides seems to actually improve immune system function.

Find out more on this simple 'stress release' technique by searching on the [www](#) for 'Forest Bathing'.



Trees soothe the spirit too. A study on forest bathing's psychological effects surveyed 498 healthy volunteers, twice in a forest and twice in control environments. The subjects showed significantly reduced hostility and depression scores, coupled with increased liveliness, after exposure to trees. "Accordingly," the researchers wrote, "forest environments can be viewed as therapeutic landscapes."

City dwellers can benefit from the effects of trees with just a visit to the park. Brief exposure to greenery in urban environments can relieve stress levels, and experts have recommended "doses of nature" as part of treatment of attention disorders in children. What all of this evidence suggests is we don't seem to need a lot of exposure to gain from nature—but regular contact appears to improve our immune system function and our well being.

*Life's a garden — dig it. ~ Gardening Saying (by a '60's hippy? Ed.)*

## CONSERVATION OF STATUES: JUDE SCHAHINGER

The Ballarat Botanical Gardens are home to the priceless **Stoddart Collection** of marble statues, metal busts of our **Prime Ministers** and Robert Clark, as well as other sculptures and fountains. Previously, members of the Friends assisted with their cleaning, as Ballarat is a harsh environment for outdoor sculpture.

Since the early 2000's Conservator Jude Schahinger has been responsible for the restoration, conservation and cleaning of Ballarat's most important sculptures. Her initial training in Science led to conservation studies and she has worked throughout Melbourne and regional Victoria on a wide range of projects, including World War I Honour Rolls and the Dai Gum Loong Chinese dragon in Bendigo.

Jude specializes in 3D works of art and restored Perseus, Hebe, Leda and Flora after they were vandalised in the early 2000's and again in 2008 and 2011. The work is more than just putting the pieces back together. The process must be reversible and uses inert materials, with a special putty using marble dust. Most recently she restored the **Claxton Memorial**, with the support of the Friends, in celebration of the Gardens 160th Anniversary.

All the statues receive an annual clean to remove dirt and insect debris and prevent accumulation of residue. For cleaning the *Flight from Pompeii* located in the Garden's Statuary pavilion Jude has to work from a scissor lift. Her work ensures that future generations of visitors will continue to enjoy our statuary.



## WHAT HAS CHANGED IN THE GARDENS?

This history report is based on the *Botanic Gardens Report Book 1870-1887*, which contains George Longley's reports to the Gardens Committee during this period. So, we pose the question "What has changed in the Gardens?" The following extract – the very first entry in the report book commences:

*Chief work from the last fortnight – hoeing and cleaning plants, watering borders and raking walks. Carting dung from the park, mowing croquet ground, collecting seeds, put in various cuttings. 12 prisoners still working on the margin of the swamp. Potting shed put up and wire around the aviary also a batten fence. Also from Dr Mueller 14 plants, 6 oaks, 2 pines, 1 walnut, 2 Canya tomentos (sic) of North America Nut about 30 feet high, 1 tea plant, 2 white birch.*



Reading through this later report book, it is clear that George Longley's work load had expanded greatly, as he now had responsibility for areas such as "the western cricket ground [which] needeth very much attending to"; "trees down Sturt Street"; as well as sundry "Blocks and reserves", and the Croquet green. This expansion in responsibility explains remarks Longley made such as "Planted several thousands of seedling pines in the nursery."

In referring back to the 1864 Garden's Fete which was one of the largest held in the gardens, Longley said "we had but 8 acres under cultivation [while now] we have upward of 30 acres of cultivation and 1200 to 1300 forest trees and shrubs planted outside the original garden boundary." He went on to say that "it would require .... great care [for the fete] to escape with the same [low] amount of damage as previous years".



Avid readers of our reports will also note that prisoners were now working at the Gardens. This innovative move was being discussed as our previous report book was drawing to a close. George Longley did not have a large staff at his disposal – certainly not enough to garden 30 acres of gardens – so the prisoners were a great help to him (see page 15).

In reporting upon a letter from Dr Mueller, George Longley said that "the Erenyteen (sic) oak is a handsome tree and specimens are to be seen in and around Sydney. – Ballarat have some plants that have been planted seven years and appear to be of a very slow growth. Some walnuts five years planted are making good progress" but "nuts in a public garden is an inducement for lads to commit depredation...."

Well, certainly the size of the gardens had changed greatly, as had the Longley workload but, as we will see in future reports - life in the Gardens was to become much more varied and interesting.

**Zelda Martin for the Friends History Group.**

Source: *Botanic Gardens Report Book 1870-1887* courtesy of Ballarat Historical Society Inc.



### 'Garden Cuttings' by Green-Thumb

Do you like to 'party'? Are you a reader? Do you read quietly to yourself? Then come to the Ballarat Gardens on Saturday February 10 at 6pm for a one hour **'Silent Reading Party'**! This is to be conducted by the Ballarat Libraries and is a 'pop-up' event. It's BYO reading matter and picnic. All ages welcome. Bookings NOT required.

It was really nice to see the family of the late Mayor F.J. Cutts (1953-54) attend and participate in the re-dedication of the floral clock in the eastern side of the Gardens.

GT recently had a discussion with a visitor to the Gardens from the Mittagong area. We were discussing the current state of the sequoias and she enthused about a new book called *'The Hidden Life of Trees'* by Peter Wohlleben a German forester. GT has bought same. Interesting read and certainly provocative.

As a regular visitor to the Gardens GT has long been concerned about the 'parlous condition' of the sequoias. Justin Buckley is the guest speaker at February's AGM and is Manager of Horticulture for the National Trust of Australia (Victorian branch). Should make for an interesting session since it will be about 'succession planting'!

Have you got a bit of 'spare time'? Maybe you should be considering becoming a member of the Friends Committee, or a Guide, or an Ambassador, or a Growing friend, or a Western Bedder? Costs nothing! Just time! Organisations need a regular influx of NEW blood. Please give it some thought. It is often a lot of fun, and you get to meet people!

Till next time .....**Green Thumb**



# BEGONIAS AND THEIR DEDICATED FRIENDS

After 125 years of purchasing, propagating and promoting Ballarat's renowned Begonias, it seemed timely to celebrate these plants, which attracted the dedication of Ballarat Botanical Garden's Curators, such as Beaumont, the commitment of the Ballarat City Council, and the continuing interest of nurserymen and amateur gardeners over many generations. And especially since 1953, when the first Begonia Festival was held, the viewing of the magnificent displays of these plants every Autumn, by the general public, from near and far have made Ballarat famous to the present day.



And so, to celebrate the Begonias and in order to share the history and some of the secrets about Begonias, on a beautiful Spring day, the FBBG History group had their fourth meeting about the preparation of a booklet on Ballarat's splendid Begonias.

All of the History Group's members have been enthusiastically

combing through archival materials, diaries, newspapers and photographs.

Enquiries have been made into international, national and regional Begonia societies as well as interviewing those with expert knowledge of Begonias. The History Group have discovered a huge treasure trove of materials available on Ballarat's Begonias.

Some of the questions and topics currently under discussion include: where do Begonias originally come from? How and when did they come to Ballarat? Are the seeds really as small as dust particles? How are tuberous Begonias cultivated and grown from cuttings today? What of the medicinal uses of Begonias; they were a panacea for many ailments in the past.



As a food source, they are sometimes used in salads even now.

However, their main use at present, from Ballarat to China, from England to Latin America is as decoration.

There is a popular fascination with stories of the so-called "Begonia Curse", as featured in **Doctor Blake's Murder Mysteries** set in Ballarat. And then there are the notable events, visitors and amusing anecdotes associated with the Begonia Festivals.

So, from the classification of Begonias to the many aspects and stories about Begonias, volumes could be written on this subject.

For now, a start is being made in the forthcoming FBBG booklet on delving into this fascinating study of Ballarat's Begonias.

**Stephanie de Boer, for the FBBG History Group.**

*"A dirty hoe is a happy hoe."*

## OUR AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

No one really knows how many visitors the *Ballarat Botanical Gardens* receives each year. Over 60,000 attend the *Begonia Festival* and thousands more, other events. People visit from all over the world, inter-state and Victoria and together with local and regional residents, often bringing their friends, families, and even dogs! Changing displays mean there is often something new, as well as the permanent attractions.

As the *City of Ballarat* staff are not in attendance on weekends, when many people visit, the FBBG developed a series of leaflets, available at the Conservatory. FBBG Guides also offer free tours on Sundays in Autumn and Spring.

Beth Dixon saw a new direction, having Ambassadors in the Conservatory on weekends, to greet visitors and help with inquiries. Beth liaised with Curator, Peter Marquand and convened a meeting of interested Friends. A comprehensive information folder has been prepared with input from the Guides and the History Groups. Donna Thomas is very supportive of the initiative and also assists with any difficult questions from visitors, as well as providing information on the current Conservatory display.

Since March, two Ambassadors have been in attendance for three hour shifts on weekends (excluding July/August), and this is their first Summer. So far 27 Friends have become involved and the program has been a great success, assisting between 100 and 300 visitors each weekend. Whether they come as a group or individually, visitors are happy to see a friendly face and have a question answered. As some Ambassadors were a little nervous, Beth matched new with experienced members, but all have rapidly gained confidence and are enjoying the experience.

The Ambassadors are a varied group, some new to Ballarat, others born and bred here, but all have an interest in meeting people and helping them to appreciate our Botanical Gardens and our city. All look forward to their monthly role, knowing they are sure to learn something new, have some stimulating conversations and a few laughs. As members work in pairs, new friendships are formed and husbands and wives or friends can volunteer together. An unexpected aspect is that when Ambassadors are in attendance, donations to the gardens rise significantly!

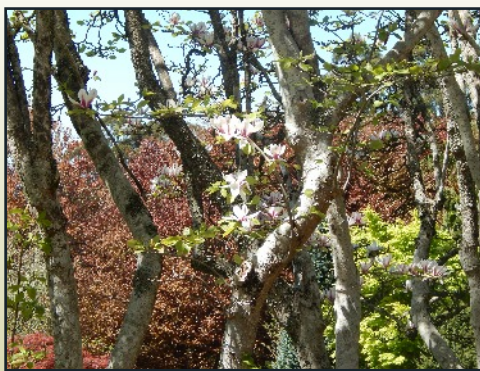
Summer will be a busy time and many people are away, so if you would like to be part of the program or find out more contact Beth on 5335 9052 or email [rdixon578@gmail.com](mailto:rdixon578@gmail.com).

**Susan Pilbeam**



Ambassadors Heather Boyd and Trish Twaits on duty in the Conservatory





Top row: Friends at Seasons Restaurant, Cloudehill and with guide Jeremy Francis.

Middle row: Gentiana garden and nursery, Craig Wilson, and the Bonsai Collection

Bottom left: John King, Arthur and Merrill Shulkes (new members of the Friends) and Denise King

Bottom right: 160th Celebration, Sandie de Groot and Friends VP John King



**FLOWER SHOW:** Two older ladies were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress. One leaned over and said, "Life is so boring. We never have any fun anymore. For \$5 I'd take my clothes off right now and streak through that stupid flower show!"

"You're on!" said the other old lady, holding up a \$5 note.

As fast as she could, the first little old lady fumbled her way out of her clothes and, completely naked, streaked through the front door of the flower show. Waiting outside, her friend soon heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause.

The naked lady burst out through the door surrounded by a cheering crowd. "What happened?" asked her waiting friend.

"Why, I won first prize for Best Dried Arrangement."

(Note: this did not happen in Ballarat I am led to believe. Ed.)



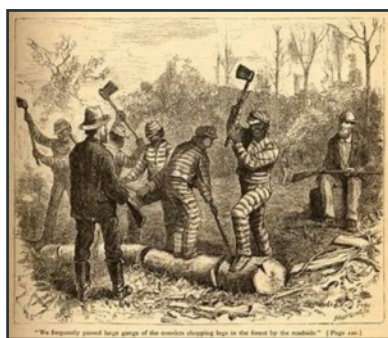
## THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY PRISONERS

Although mention of the use of prisoners working in the gardens appears occasionally through the various Gardens Report books, there is very little explanation of the role they played, how many prisoners were used or indeed how often they were used.

Without any real evidence, I assumed that their availability/usage was somewhat spasmodic. However, over a six month period in 1870, George Longley detailed the work carried out by the prisoners and by "free" men (presumably 'free' meant not being a prisoner).

Although George Longley's reports are not totally consistent, it does appear that, at this time, the prisoners worked about 23 days a month, which is consistent with a five-day week. The numbers employed did not vary greatly, averaging about twelve workers at any one time.

Again without having given it much thought, I assumed the prisoners were only used on rough labouring work. On closer examination, I was to be proven wrong in this respect also.



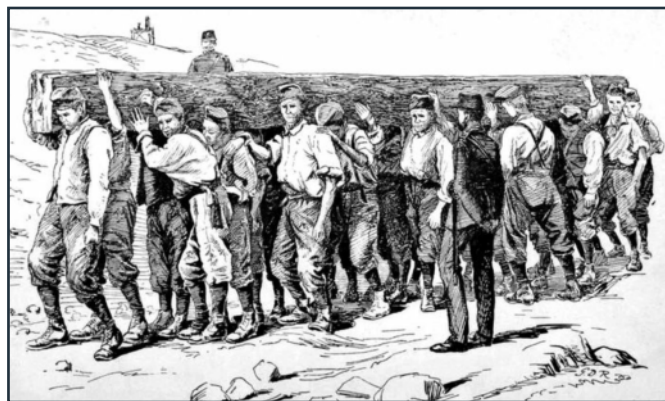
Of course, much of the work the prisoners carried out was mundane and boring and included vast amounts of digging – paths, blocks, and borders – trenching, grubbing trees, cutting firewood, quarrying stone, filling up and spreading gravel. This type of work was typical of the work being carried out in the establishment of new gardens.

To my surprise, I discovered much of the digging was accompanied by the planting of various Oriental Planes, Pinus Insignis, Cyprus Macrocarpa, silver poplar and many English grasses. These plantings could have made their work far more interesting. However, the prisoners also took part in some rather more interesting activities, for example in March, 1870, they made a kitchen – unfortunately there was no description of the kitchen, so it was possibly very basic.

(The above pictures are illustrative only; not necessarily what occurred in Ballarat. Ed)



In addition, the prisoners did have some continuity in some of their work, for example, in August, it was reported that they had made 400 yards of drains, "wheeling dung soil upon the borders". In September, it was reported that they worked half the month raising the north embankment 15 inches. Presumably the longer tasks could provide some prisoners with a little satisfaction with a job well done.



George Longley was also quite well satisfied with the work carried out by the prisoners, as this extract from the Report of November, 1870 shows. "I would here beg to remark that this month gives me more work than any other month of the year. For all the borders require to be dug over once in the year and this would show at once to you the difference between labour and prison. Free labour has cost 9d (nine pence – about 7 cents) per rod and **prison labour can be done equally as well at 3d (three pence – two cents) per rod.**"

Zelda Martin, History Group

Source: *Botanic Gardens Report Book 1870-1887* courtesy of Ballarat Historical Society Inc.



## OUR LIBRARY!

Our library of over 1000 books, magazines and periodicals is located in the *George Longley Building*.

Its core is the wonderful *Jessie Scott Collection*, augmented by donations from other members and supporters.

A wide range of speciality gardening books, journals and magazines has been catalogued by the History Group. Members of the Friends may now borrow books by simply filling out the Borrowing Book.

Information about our focus categories and how to find topics is displayed, though you might just want to browse. You might like to borrow some books if you are going away over late summer or for those days when it is too hot to garden.

The library is open on Tuesday afternoons 1-4 pm and on Friday mornings 10.30 am-12.30 pm. Other times by appointment: Ph. 5342 9354 or contact [info@fbbg.org.au](mailto:info@fbbg.org.au)



**I DROPPED A BOTTLE  
OF TOMATO SAUCE  
ON MY FOOT. IT  
CAUSED IMMENSE  
PAIN TO MA TOES.**



# Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Information 2018

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

## 2017 FBBG Committee and Areas of Responsibility

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

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



## MEETING TIMES 2018

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

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

**Botanical Artists** - Mondays 10 am - 3 pm during school terms.

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

**Plant Sales** at the above times.

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

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

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

**Plant Labelling** - as required.

## FRIENDS OF THE BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS INC

### NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting** of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc. will be held on **Thursday, February 22, 2018** in the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, commencing at **10.00 a.m.**

Business to be conducted:

1. Presentation of reports of activities for 2017;
2. Election of Committee for 2018;
3. Any other general business.

This will be followed by a **General Meeting** when we will enjoy a talk by **Justin Buckley**, Manager of Horticulture for the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) on the topic of: *'Tree Succession Planning in Heritage Gardens'*.  
**Raoul Dixon, President**

**NEXT EXCURSION** - WEDNESDAY APRIL 11 2018. Visit **Tugurium** - Stephen Ryan's Private Garden and also his Nursery - **Dicksonia Rare Plants**. More information in February and in Spring **Wellingtonia**.



**Photo credits:** Thanks to Raoul Dixon, Helen Vincent, Peter Marquand, Tim Entwisle, Julie Bradby, Susan Pilbeam, Terry O'Brien and Michael Bird for providing the photographs/illustrations used in this edition. Ed.

**Disclaimer:** The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens or those of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. Neither the Friends nor the Ballarat Botanical Gardens accepts responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed, although every effort will be made to publish reliable and accurate information.

**Contributions for Autumn Wellingtonia 2018 are due by mid March please.** Michael Bird, Editor.

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