

Wellingtonia



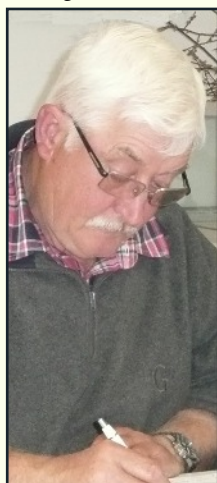
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NEWSLETTER SPRING 2014

From the President's Desk...



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The cycles of our traditional seasons come and go. Our Winter has passed with some exceptional frosts and even a sprinkling of snow. Now our Spring is here with its variety of 'new life'.

It's rather lovely to notice the emergence of shoots from bulbs, then their blooms. Camellias, crocuses, daffodils & jonquils, freesias, fritillarie, hellebores, hyacinths, irises, magnolias, and now viburnum.

And in the spirit of Tim Entwisle's recommended five seasons (mentioned in the last *Wellingtonia*), we have just emerged from two months of *Sprinter* to start two months of *Sprummer*.

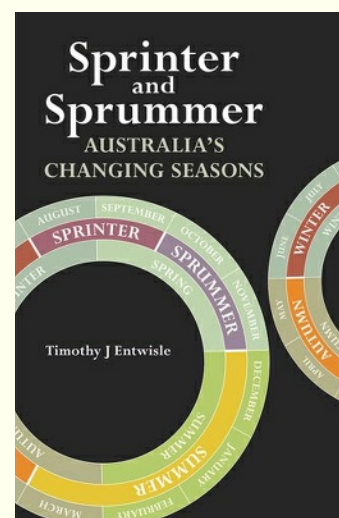
For the 'trivial pursuiter' or 'QI watchers': *What travels at a 1/3 mph from the south to the north of Great Britain?* (See page 4 for the answer)

Congratulations to those hardy souls of the Growers and Western Bed groups who continue their work outside, despite the elements. Yvonne and her Growers were delighted to achieve impressive monthly sales from their trolley at the Conservatory during August.

The refurbishment of the 'monocot bed' along the Gillies Street fence has now been completed. Beryl and her team are hoping to start a new project, possibly involving a dahlia bed. What better way to enjoy a lovely Ballarat Spring (Sprummer?) day than to stroll leisurely through the Gardens and admire all this work?

The Guides have had an opportunity to take a break during Winter and prepare for tour groups in warmer weather. The Educating group recently held another function in the RCHC for mums with their young children, with both indoor and outdoor activities. It's great to witness the enthusiasm of all involved. Hopefully the imminent appointment of a City of Ballarat (CoB) education officer will really extend the potential of this work.

The Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens Conference in August was highly successful, with stimulating presentations and visits to a number of botanic gardens throughout the region. Most of these botanic gardens are very young compared to those in Melbourne, Geelong and Ballarat. Whereas the major efforts of their Friends are focused on design, landscaping and planting, ours by comparison, are mostly on maintenance and enhancement. But that is about to change with the exciting opportunities residing in the Mark Richardson *Visionary Plan for the Ballarat Botanical Gardens*.



Prof. Tim's new book

continued on page 4

Thanks
to
Friends
of
Wilson
Botanic
Park for
this little
gem!

*"In the Spring, at the
end of the day, you
should smell like dirt."*

Margaret Attwood

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



Guiding Friends Report:

During the winter meetings the guides spent some time examining plants as medicines. John Garner's comprehensive and entertaining presentation to our meeting gave us a framework and overview. We are limited in the range available in Ballarat Botanical Gardens was not set up as a medicinal garden. The School of Mines garden was used for the instruction of pharmacy students by Longley and von Mueller. Some of the plantings there reflect specimens that were considered to be important and valuable in therapy at that time. Wendy Sandiford is hoping to take us on a tour of this garden in November. We will continue to follow up examples in BBG and John will work with those guides who want to follow up on particular examples. Use of plants by Indigenous Australians is also being covered and the wetlands will hopefully provide more examples.

Oh how we do anticipate spring during some of those bleak winter days but let us not forget the pleasure the bare trees gave us in winter. How could you not walk through the gardens on those grey winter days and not marvel at the majestic structure of the Turkey oak or Pin oak and Dutch elm. Sometimes I think we need to take stock of just how lucky we are with what we have in these Ballarat gardens and the different pleasures that come with each season.



Our gardens in Spring 2014

And now spring has sprung. Or we have had **the sprinter** and are we now starting our **sprummer**?



One of the heralds of spring in the gardens is the weeping apricot (in the western bed) *Prunus mume* 'Pendula' and surprisingly this year it was coming into blossom in late June (left).

Our patron, Professor Tim Entwisle, Royal Botanic Gardens director discusses this "spring creep" in his new book ***Sprinter and Sprunner: Australia's changing seasons***. At the Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference on the Gold Coast in August this year Tim spoke about Australia's changing seasons and encouraged Botanic Gardens to document things like the date when different plants flower each year. He thinks that spring flowering is about ten days earlier than in 1950. Too many of our observations are not

recorded and only remain anecdotal. We need to have the data recorded so that we can be more scientific in discussing these changes.

The Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne has organised a walk for guides with a Climate Watch scientist to record observations of specific plants and animals in the Gardens (using the smartphone 'Climatewatch' app) which then feed these into a database that helps scientists see what impact climate change is having on particular species and therefore inform Australia's response to a changing climate. Some of the Ballarat guides will participate in this event and look at its possibilities for our Ballarat Gardens and ways we can be more observant of the changes occurring.

The Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference in August provided us with lots of examples of ways that encourage people to better appreciate plants and botanic gardens. The Gold Coast Regional Botanic Garden that hosted the conference has a herbarium managed by the Friends.

Apps (for smart phones and tablets) are now becoming a very accessible way to educate and help identify plants. We were acquainted with one for the local flora in SE Queensland (Grows@Griffith) and one very large one for rainforest plants of Australia. The key for this one includes 1,139 species of rainforest trees, shrubs and climbing plants of mainland eastern Australia from Rockhampton to Victoria. Interacting with these devices markedly increases access to the data and some gardens are exploring ways to provide information this way.

There was a strong emphasis throughout the conference on conserving and promoting Australian flora. Regional Botanic Gardens located in the various bio-regions of the Australian continent can be ideal repositories of this local flora. Ballarat Botanical gardens do not have a repository of our local flora. The Visionary Plan for the Ballarat Botanical Gardens recommends developing a collection of what used to grow naturally around Ballarat, and the wetlands suggested as an appropriate place. For the guides the wetlands are an area we have tended to neglect in our understanding of the gardens development. At the

(Cont'd next page)

October meeting of the Guides, Ian Rossiter, former General Manager of Ballarat's City Sustainability, is going to familiarise us on what has occurred in the wetlands over time and its important role in contributing to a sustainable system of water resource and space.

The conference also devoted a lot of time to stories of Botanic Gardens securing successful partnerships and achieving the synergies that make a Botanic garden prosper. On the way to and from the conference I visited several botanic gardens. This task of finding the gardens was made easier in Queensland as they have produced the Queensland Botanic Trail that gives brief notes and locations of the 20 Queensland Botanic Gardens. One is struck by the variety of approaches, styles and ages of these botanic gardens. In the Botanic Gardens where there is support and energy it is quickly evident. The Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens is near Buderim on the Sunshine Coast. It is an old eucalypt forest setting of 82 hectares. Into this setting they have made a new garden with lagoons and creeks, walking tracks and glades, art works and native plants.

Even the signage was restful and uplifting. Vision, partnerships and years of hard work have created a very special place.

Spring's arrival has meant tours are on the go again for the Ballarat Guides.. We have several group bookings coming up. Sunday morning tours at 11am are now running for the Spring months.

If you have some visitors and need a break suggest they wander up to the gardens for a nice leisurely stroll around the gardens with one of the guides.They will enjoy it.

Terry O'Brien Convener of the Guides for FBBG



Wetlands on the north side of the Ballarat Gardens



Some of the eye-catching sculptures and amenities captured by Terry O'Brien at Maroochy Sculpture Garden, Buderim



"From the President's Desk" continued from page 1:

Thanks to all those who took the opportunity to nominate trees for the register of exceptional trees in the Ballarat area. David Grant and his 'expert' panel are reviewing the nominations and will publish their selections directly. Further nominations of exceptional trees will be welcomed at a future date.

It was a privilege to have been entertained recently by two fine guest speakers. In August, Carol Hall, local educator, geographer and photographer shared her experience visiting islands in the sub-Antarctic, including Macquarie Island. The evolution and adaptation of plant and animal species in this extraordinarily difficult environment and climate was amazing. More recently, Lyndi Garnett, Coordinator of the Victorian **Salvia Study Group**, entertained us with information on this largest genus of plants within the Mint family (*Lamiaceae*). To say **salvias** come in all sizes, shapes and colours is a gross understatement. Their different forms and structure make them an ideal plant for the landscape designer and gardening enthusiast.

Our **History group's plans** for an exhibition of items showing the contribution of BBG staff to WW1 is progressing. The exhibition will be opened by Senator The Honourable Michael Ronaldson, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC and Special Minister of State, at 2:30pm on Friday 7 November 2014. The exhibition will be displayed in the RCHC Conservatory for two weeks. An invitation will be extended to a number of dignitaries, to staff of the BBG and to all members of the FBBG.

The City of Ballarat commissioned a local heritage architect and consultant to advise and recommend on the early Victorian cottage at 1414 Gregory Street, Ballarat. That report has just been given to CoB. It appears that this cottage was formerly the **North Gardens gate keeper's cottage**, not the South Gardens gate keeper's cottage. The executors of the estate of this property offered the cottage to the CoB and FBBG. The FBBG recognize the significant historic and heritage value of the cottage and will look at the feasibility of obtaining permission to re-instate it in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. It could be renovated to become a useful facility for an education/information officer for the BBG. Timelines and costs will be significant factors for our consideration.

The FBBG were delighted and grateful to have been selected as a recipient of a **SpringFest grant from the Rotary Club of Ballarat**. There is a range of local activities forming part of SpringFest and we encourage all members to participate and enjoy this event.

The **Fernery Redevelopment Project** is progressing, with an all day workshop for various stake holders on Monday 29 September 2014 in the GLB. The major focus will be on Andrew Laidlaw's proposed plans for the form, functions and plantings of the new development. (See report on page 10)

Forthcoming events:

- Gardens in Spring and Open Gardens. 24 – 26 October 2014
- Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens Art Exhibition – 3 November 2014.
- Exhibition: BBG Staff contribution to WW1 and ANZACs – 7 November 2014.

Reading/Viewing:

Check the link below for '*The Power of Plants in Science, Culture and Medicine – Ockham's Razor*'. (ABC National Radio podcast).

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/the-power-of-plants-in-science-culture-and-medicine/5694054>

(Thanks Julie!)

You may also like to look at this new **free** ebook from CSIRO on *Biodiversity in Australia* or pass the link on to any interested people. It's up to date and makes interesting reading. It says important things that should concern us all.

<http://www.csiro.au/biodiversitybook>

Mike Sorrell



Ballarat Friends' President Mike Sorrell conferring with his Geelong Friends' counterpart President Judith Trimble during a recent visit by a Ballarat delegation.

"Weeds are flowers too, once you get to know them. " A. A. Milne (maybe not a gardener? Ed)

Answer to the question: What travels at a 1/3 mph from the south to the north of Great Britain?

Spring!

BOTANIC GARDENS CURATOR'S REPORT:

The Ballarat Begonia festival was recently named the Best Regional Event in Victoria at the Australian Event Awards. This year's festival drew a crowd of 45,000 which was 15,000 up on the previous year. Over 18,000 people viewed the Begonias in the Conservatory this year which was also a large increase on the previous year. The 2015 festival promises to be bigger and better than previous years with staff working on a number of special projects including a giant Lego flower.

On October 9 the Honorable Julia Gillard will visit the gardens to unveil her bronze likeness in the Prime Ministers Avenue. Ms. Gillard will also be discussing her newly released book at the Spiegel Tent in Armstrong Street near the Town Hall.



Some of the massed bedding displays now in bloom

Staff have been working on the cross rose bed near the McDonald Gates over winter, the beds have been extended and replanted. The new planting includes climbing columns made by Tait Engineering in Castlemaine.

As part of increased security on site security cameras have been installed in the Robert Clark Centre passageway, Conservatory and Statue Pavilion. A new security gate into the nursery is also currently being installed from Gillies Street. These new measures will improve security for gardens staff and statues in the Pavilion.

A busy few months coming up with the World Masters Rowing, SpringFest and Ironman event around the Lake.

Spring is also busy for a number of the tenant groups with exhibitions, displays and talks in the Conservatory and Robert Clark Centre.

Peter Marquand, Curator BBG

August Guest Speaker– Carol Hall

During August the Friends were entertained by a stimulating talk and photo display by Carol Hall. Carol, is a local photographer with a keen interest in travel and the natural world. Her talk covered her wet and windy December 2013 voyage south from New Zealand. The voyage included visits to windswept and desolate Auckland, Campbell and Macquarie Islands.

She was impressed with the vast variety of wildlife ranging from penguins of various species, seals, orcas and of course, numerous bird species (including giant petrels, tomtits and albatross).

Carol explained how many plants in these isolated and virtually uninhabited locations suffer from 'gigantism'. Such plants are sometimes referred to as 'megaherbs' and include Macquarie Island cabbage, Campbell Island carrot and the Ross lily.



Beryl Plummer (right) thanks Carol Hall for her presentation

Why are they there? A question of adapt or die! A thought provoking talk. Thanks Carol. MB



FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We will be sending out renewal notices **early in January**, instead of later this year.

This is to avoid the pre-Christmas influx of mail which can sometimes lead to our notices being mislaid or overlooked.

Members may have membership cards expiring at the end of this year. You might wish to use your card in the Conservatory shop in the New Year to take advantage of members' discount. To overcome the possible difficulty associated with expired cards, we will be asking Conservatory staff to honour current membership cards until the end of March. By that time we would hope that all members would have renewed.

Raoul Dixon, Membership Officer

Monocotyledon

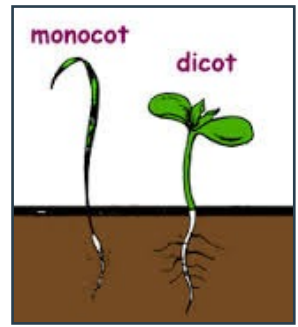
Monocotyledons or “monocots” typically have a single seed leaf (*mono* – one, *cotyledon* – seed leaf) and are one of two major groups of flowering plants (angiosperms). The other group, dicotyledons have two seed leaves. There are over 59,000 species of monocots; 20,000 of these are orchids.

In agriculture the majority of biomass produced comes from monocots. The true grasses, poaceae, are the most economically important group and include rice, wheat, barley and oats. In fact, over 60% of calories consumed by humans come from grasses.

Other economically important species are palms, bananas, ginger, and amaryllis, which includes such species as onions and garlic.

Of course, there are also ornamental plants in this group, including bulbs (narcissus, tulips, bluebells), cannas, irises, disporum, polygonatum, alstroemerias, yuccas, agaves and cordylines. Lilliums, hippeastrums, tricyrtis (toad lilies) and hemerocallis (daylilies) also belong in this group.

Monocots typically have leaves where the veins are parallel and flower parts are usually in multiples of three. Roots are usually fibrous. The photo on the right clearly shows the arrangement of the veins.



Western Bed – Monocots

The Monocot Bed, located at the south western end of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, includes a number of species from this diverse group, including cannas, yuccas, grasses, alstroemerias, bulbs and irises. In the future, other species from this diverse group of plants will be added.

Beryl Plummer, Convener Western Bed Group



Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens

invites you and your friends from out of town to enjoy

Ballarat Open Gardens by Comfortable Coach with an informative guide.

Date: Sunday 26th October 2014

Sponsored by Ballarat Regional Tourism

The Coach trip will begin at Ballarat Railway Station and will visit each of the five Ballarat Open Gardens.

Cost: The entrance to the Gardens is \$25 (includes all five gardens) with the coach and guide free. After visiting the Open Gardens the coach will make its way back to the Ballarat Railway Station.

Take this fantastic opportunity to visit Ballarat by train and enjoy these amazing gardens open rarely to the public. Coach services available by booking with Wendy Taylor 0407 554 306 or mailto: jwtaylor@netconnect.com.au

- Note there is no toilet on coach.
- Tour to be pre-booked and paid before day.
- Price of \$25 includes entrance to five gardens with no cost for transport – sponsored by Ballarat Regional Tourism.
- Lunch cost at passenger's own expense at MADE café or people can BYO lunch and enjoy it in the MADE café or outside on the lawn.

Spring means good things for kids and getting them outdoors!

We have had a couple of sessions with our under-5s in the Gardens and have explored bugs and spring flowers enjoying some great fun times with the children and the young parents. Many young parents are now learning about the wonderful benefits of our Gardens as a potential quality space for nature play for their families and are loving it all.

We have exciting times ahead!

We are in the throes of creating links educationally with the key stakeholders in the 'lake precinct' to give young families and schools another place to come and learn about the Ballarat story. The idea is to establish a Lake Wendouree Educational Hub.



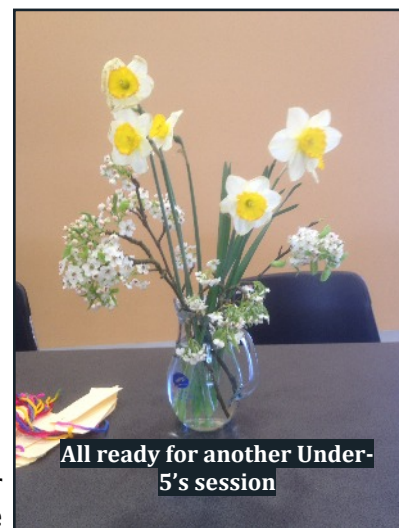
Mothers and children getting ready for story time

There is a wealth of potential opportunities for learning in the Lake Wendouree area as we have the wetlands, the Ferry with a new floating classroom concept, the Tramways, the Hatchery, the ex-POW Memorial and of course the Gardens themselves with their wealth of expertise within the staff and the Friends.

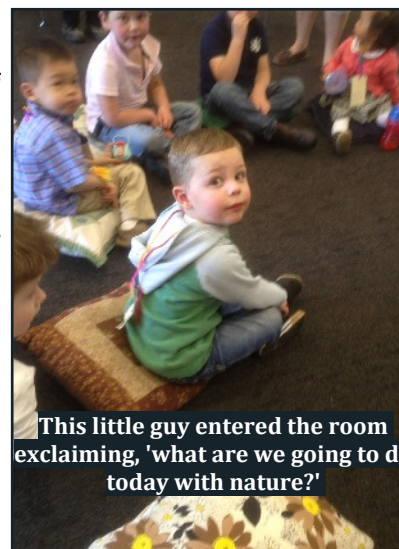
The next step is to begin to establish some outlines for learning, and activities that can be accessed online. Perhaps this might add to our endeavours to secure an educational officer?

If you have any ideas or wish to support us please contact us and add your little bit to the project. We really do need your help.

Julie Bradby
Convener Education Group



All ready for another Under-5's session



This little guy entered the room exclaiming, 'what are we going to do today with nature?'

'He so enjoyed everything he did, from making his name tag , to the chalks and boards, the stories , the flowers and bugs and his daffodil bangle and finally his nature walk collecting cones for Christmas!'

September Speaker – Lyndi Garnett

Our most recent guest speaker was a noted salvia expert. Lyndi Garnett is a landscape designer with an extensive knowledge of salvias. She is the Co-ordinator of the Victorian Salvia Study Group which was established in 1989.

Lyndi presented a huge number of photographs of salvias (*I noted 36, and there were many more. Ed.*), And described the main features of them. She pointed out that there are salvias in flower during every season of the year not just Spring and Summer (e.g. Salvia 'Hot Lips' will flower all year round as will Salvia 'Azure Purple').



Salvia Limelight
(frost tender)

Salvias which are frost tender were described (e.g. S.corrugata, S.iodantha, S. 'Mexican Limelight'), as were those that are more hardy (S.Discolor, S.Anthony Parker– *but not in the open*; S. 'African Sky'; S.Africana and S. Muirii.)

Friends are encouraged to make a visit to the Salvia Display Garden at Nobelius Heritage Gardens in the Dandenongs.

Lyndi provided some maintenance hints, and one that got my attention concerned striking cuttings. She uses a mix of 60% perlite and 40% potting mix in a tall pot, cramming in a number of hormone-dipped cuttings. Leave in shade for two days, then place in sun. Keep watered.



Lyndi Garnett

MB

ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF PLANTS

This is the first of a series of articles for readers of the *Wellingtonia*, the FBBG quarterly News Letter, on the classification of plants. In this first instalment we will look at some very basic questions: Why do we put things in 'boxes'? What criteria will we use? And if we are going to classify them, we must ask: What are plants?

Well then, why do we group things or put them in 'boxes'? Why do we classify things? We do this almost as a natural way of dealing with our surroundings and trying to make order out of all that we experience through our senses. Our communication through language has a richness and flexibility that encourages us to recognise similarities and differences. There is a whole branch of science, 'Taxonomy', that deals with the study of the classification of living things. The continued development of more-refined methods of analysis ensures that our understanding and theories about the relationships between living things is challenged, reviewed and amended.

Early hominids would have gradually realised the survival value in recognising those plants which were edible, tasty, medicinal, useful for weapons and shelters, and those which were dangerous – even poisonous. The seasonal and geographic distribution of 'useful' plants would certainly have influenced human migration. Early Egyptian records indicate a more systematic approach to the classification of plants, with an understanding of crops and rudimentary forms of horticulture. The Greeks and Romans continued to extend our knowledge of the relationships between living things during the influence of their empires. But it was not until the eighteenth century and the pioneering work of the Swedish naturalist Carl von Linné (Linnaeus, 1707 - 1778) that the classification of living things was put on a scientific basis.

Today Linnaeus is recognised as the 'father' of modern taxonomy through the concepts and ideas developed in his *Systema Naturae*. Linnaeus proposed that all living things could be placed into either a Plant Kingdom or an Animal Kingdom. He divided each Kingdom into a hierarchy of sub-groups containing organisms displaying more and more features in common. We still use these groupings today: Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus and Species. The classification criteria he used were basic morphological characteristics, anatomical features, reproductive organs, habitat and distribution. (Today we would add others: fossil records, biochemical analysis and genetic/DNA sequencing.)

Linnaeus also developed a simplified naming system for identifying, describing and discussing living things. His *binomial system* used Latin, the scientific language of the day, to give each individual organism a Generic name (initial capital letter) and a species name (all lower case). This convention for naming species has been adopted universally. As examples, the Australian red kangaroo is *Macropus rufus* and our forest mountain ash is *Eucalyptus regnans*. The 'king of the jungle' is *Panthera leo* and the silver birch is *Betula alba*.

In the next *Wellingtonia* we will address the question: *What are Plants?*

Mike Sorrell

GROWING FRIENDS REPORT:

We have potted up a lot of unusual and varied tubestock which should sell well at SpringFest. We had record sales during August from the trolley near the Conservatory.

It is good place to buy plants grown by the Friends during the times when we are not on duty at our nursery. We made a record amount from the trolley during August -- \$1205. However our nursery sales were not that great because people do not shop for plants when it is cold and drizzling except gardening nuts like me!

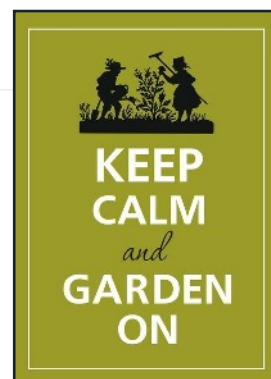
A lot of thanks to a dedicated bunch of potters.

SPRINGFEST: We are in need of volunteers to man our stall near *Pipers on the Lake* on the Sunday, November 2. If you can spare an hour to help us on that day please leave your name with Genevieve at the George Longley Building. Your help would be appreciated.



Also, please keep your plastic bags which will come in handy for the bagging of plants sold. They can be bought to the George Longley Room please.

Yvonne Curbach,
Growing Friends Convener



DISCOUNTS FOR FBBG MEMBERS AT LOCAL NURSERIES, 2014

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

You will need to show your FBBG membership card

History Group

As you walk through the Courtyard behind the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre to visit the George Longley Building, you might cast your eyes down to the modest lawn daisy, *Bellis perennis* (right) giving a snowy sparkle to the grass.

A bane and blight to the lawn purist, on its humble shoulders an election campaign foundered!



Wanting to give a more 'English' appearance to the Lawn (near the Jetty), and at considerable trouble and doubtless no small expense to his personal pocket, Ballarat Councillor Charles Collett Shoppee (left) had procured from England a quantity of mixed seed to sprinkle into the grass. The seed was unavailable locally.

Shoppee was standing as a candidate for re-election to the Victorian Parliament. The day before polling day, the *Ballarat Courier* ran an article deeming him unsupportive of the local seed merchants. It seems that was enough to turn the then un-named 'swinging voter'. Shoppee was defeated by five votes and disappeared from public life.

Shoppee Square, just above Armstrong Street in Sturt Street, acknowledges his generosity and service to this city. He served as Mayor four times and a painting of him in his Mayoral finery often hangs in the space near the Committee Rooms upstairs in the Town Hall.

Information for this article: Oral Histories Project Tape No. 11, Miss D.R. Gummow, 3 Feb 1983, held in the Australiana Room Ballarat Library.

(Editor's Note: you might like to 'google' Charles Collett Shoppee a most interesting man. One internet result is from the Victorian Parliament:

<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/re-member/bioregfull.cfm?mid=1436>). Lorraine Powell, Convener

Q. What's always fun and informative? A. George Longley Day!

This year **George Longley Day** is being held on Thursday 16 October starting at 5pm. Committee members are asked to bring a plate of nibbles.

The **History Group** is working away at a small exhibition to be installed in the Conservatory. It is in recognition of the service of the Ballarat Garden Staff during the First World War, as well as their contribution to the historic Ballarat Avenue of Honour. Opens Nov. 7.



Have you ever thought about joining the Friends of the Ballarat Gardens? We are constantly seeking new members to join our Groups, including to stand for the Committee.

PLEASE NOTE: recently a wooden fence was erected between the Friends Nursery (plant sales area) and the driveway leading to the Gardens' workshop area.

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 a major safety issue.

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

Payments to the Friends are available via eft:

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

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

BSB 633 000

Acc. Number: 125334615



**IT'S
CHRISTMAS!**

BBQ Xmas Meeting

**November 27 6pm
Robert Clark Centre**

BYO Food; Drinks provided

**RSVP. to Genevieve on
5342 9354 or
info@fbbg.org.au**



In the Conservatory is a FREE flyer produced by the Guides Group and called "Spring 2014". It provides heaps of information and photos of what is on in and around the Gardens.

PROJECT GROUP: (Visionary Plan and Re-Development of Fernery Project)

The Project Group welcomed new FBBG member Ian Rossiter to the committee.

On Monday 29 September the Redevelopment stakeholders held a full day meeting in the George Longley Building. Present were Andrew Laidlaw RBGM Landscape Architect, Mark Richardson author of the BBG Visionary Plan, Eric Braslis Manager of CoB Infrastructure, Brian Benson CoB Heritage architect, Tim Grace CoB architect, Daryl Wallis, Peter Marquand, Sue Rhook from Federation University, members of gardens staff, Mike Sorrell and Elizabeth Gilfillan.

Presentations were given, ideas and site inspection took place with very positive outcomes for a clear direction ahead.

Andrew Laidlaw has produced concept landscape drawings for the interior, which can now be developed and will be presented to Ballarat City Council on October 15. This is very exciting progress (*some of the concept images are shown at right*).

It is suggested that the new structure should have a new name.

We welcome ideas from members and Gardens staff. The adoption of a name for the re-development needs to consider the themes of the proposal.

The elements of conservation, sustainability, recreation and education about plants need to be taken into account. In addition the part they play in our lives and our country, must be considered too.

Elizabeth Gilfillan



SPACE 1: EPIPHYTES

Planted towers to display epiphytic plants from across Australia



SPACE 3: MOSSES AND FERNS

A large central mound, reminiscent of a vegetation reclaimed mullock heap with rare and endangered mosses, ferns and liverworts from central Victoria.



SPACE 4: AUSTRALIAN PALM GALLERY

Central event space showcasing Australian Native Palms in a stylised natural setting

"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." Marcus Tullius Cicero

Botanical Illustration:

What a great thing to do on a cold Winter's day! Meet with friends to enjoy painting and learning about fascinating subjects, plants, fruits and other gifts of Nature.

The highlight of the last term was a three-day workshop with instructor Margaret Castle, Marg's stimulating and friendly classes have inspired us all. You can visit her website to see her latest amazing work (www.margcastle.com.au). The Group will welcome you to view a display of works from the group at the Friends' Christmas Event in November.

Meet artist Charlotte Thodey from Royal Sydney Botanical Gardens at the FBBG Spring Luncheon.

We will be hosting a painting workshop with Charlotte next May 2015, please register your interest. Don't forget to visit the Botanical Illustration Exhibition, 25 October until 9 November, Royal Melbourne Botanical Gardens, Domain House Gallery.

The FBBG invite you to take the train journey down on Monday 3 November.

Botanical Illustration members meet on Mondays 10-4pm during school terms.

Elizabeth Gilfillan



Around the Gardens in late Winter, early Spring



(Top) The majestic spread of the Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*); (top right) Gardens beginning to move, early Spring; (above) The North Gardens Wetlands; (above right) Shady Lady Waratah (*Telopea speciosissima x oreades*); (right) Bunya bunya pine (*Araucaria bidwilli*); (below) the Druid's Oak (*Quercus robur*); (below centre) Marriage Tree; (below right) The golden spires of *Banksia sceptrum*.

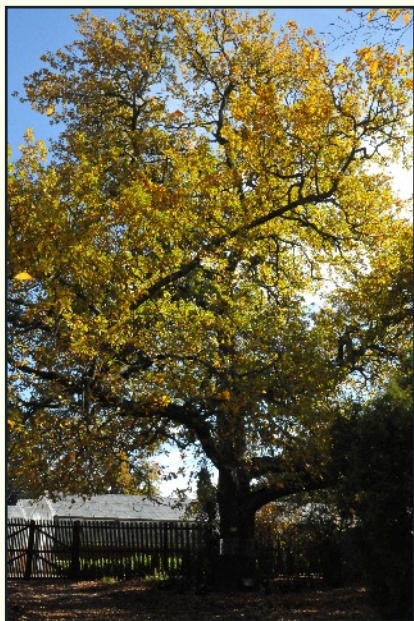


Photo credits: Thanks to Raoul Dixon, Terry O'Brien, Mike Sorrell and Peter Marquand for providing photographs used in this edition. Ed.

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Information 2014

Email: info@fbbg.org.au
 Website: www.fbbg.org.au

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

Tel. George Longley Building 03 5342 9354

Meetings and Events:

October 6	8.30am	Friends Bus Trip to Geelong Bot Gardens
October 16	5pm *	'George Longley Day'
October 24	10am -4pm	Spring Luncheon SOLD OUT
October 25 - 26		Ballarat Open Gardens
November 3	**	RMBG Art Exhibition (via V-line train)
November 27	6pm	BBQ Xmas Meeting , Robert Clark

* please note change of time;

** contact 5342 9354 or info@fbbg.org.au



MEETING TIMES 2014

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 each month, 1 pm-4 pm.

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

Guiding Friends - 4th Tuesday each month 10 am.

History Group - 1st Tuesday each month 4 pm.

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

Plant Labelling as required.

BotaniKIDS 2014

October 22	Big Garden Day- 1pm-3pm; October 21 booked for preparation 10am-3pm.
November 11	Coffee and Cake; 10am to 12. "Red Poppy"
December 3	Coffee and Cake; 10am to 12. "Christmas"

Early Notices:

October 25 and 26. Gardens in Spring Open
 Gardens: (see special bus tour page 6)

November 3: *Botanical Illustration Exhibition*
 by Friends of Royal Melbourne Botanical
 Gardens at 11am. Travel by V-line and tram.

November 7, Exhibition displaying BBG staff
 contribution to WWI and ANZAC tradition opens
 in the afternoon.

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



2014 FBBG Committee Appointments

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

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 Summer Wellingtonia are due by December 18.**

Michael Bird, Editor.