

Wellingtonia



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NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2015

From the
President's Desk...



PRESIDENT'S REPORT – WINTER 2015

There are many things to report since the Autumn issue of *Wellingtonia*; it is a very exciting time for the Friends and for the Gardens.

The big news was our success in having the **Fernery Re-development** recognised by the City of Ballarat (CoB) with \$1.4 million provided in their capital works budget for the 2015/16 financial year. We are of course delighted that things have finally started moving in this important and necessary development in the Gardens.

Full credit is due to Elizabeth Gilfillan, as Convenor of this project, for her tireless work in promoting the project, liaising with the architects, and numerous meetings with CoB staff and councillors.

Building on the groundwork laid down by Joan Garner during her term as President, Elizabeth has been a tower of strength, and we are all delighted to see her efforts rewarded. Of course now the hard work really starts as we have to embark on a **fund raising venture** to secure the additional funds which will be needed to see this project through to fruition.

Another delightful event was the recognition of our **History Group** by the National Trust as a finalist in the **Ballarat Heritage Awards for Heritage Innovation**. This was for their research into, and preparation of exhibits relating to the Botanical Gardens and World War One.

I was privileged to attend the Awards Ceremony with the Convenor of the History Group, Lorraine Powell whose initiative this was, along with other History Friends. This Award is valuable both for the public recognition of the Friends as well as the Gardens. Full credit to the History Group for their achievement.

We were pleased to be able to host the annual meeting of the **Association of Australian Friends of Botanic Gardens** on 5 June. The opportunity presented itself on this occasion for our Patron, Tim Entwisle, to launch the **Lake Wendouree and Gardens Education Hub**.

The Hub is an innovative concept by the BotaniKids and Education Convenor, Julie Bradby, to integrate all the various activities and interests around the Lake in an educational project for Primary schoolchildren, working with Federation University students.

We intend shortly to establish a **permanent presence in the Conservatory** by means of a display area. This will enable sale of our plants under an honesty box system, and provide a site for general displays outlining the Friends' various interests and projects. We will be looking at a professional design to make the most of this opportunity.

As well as these activities, there are several other projects under consideration for the Gardens which, although not directly related to the Friends, are supported by us for the benefit they will bring to the Gardens and, as a consequence, to Ballarat tourism.

One such project is a proposal by the **Trustees of the Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial** for an interpretation centre in the South Gardens, opening out on to the memorial. We attended a meeting with Council at which this proposal was presented. The intention is to provide an architect designed building which will house exhibits as well as meeting rooms and toilets. It will be a valuable addition to the memorial and much appreciated by visitors, especially those with a connection to names on the memorial wall.

Another project now under consideration by Council is an **Indigenous Sculpture Trail in the Wetlands** adjacent to the North Garden. This will recognise all aboriginal groups who formerly used the Ballarat location for periodic meetings, with sculptures specific to each clan. It will be valuable, both for aboriginal recognition as well as providing an additional interest in the Wetlands. The

continued page 4 ...



FBBG Patron:

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

See page 4 for Tim's column...

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Guiding Friends Report:

Sunday morning Autumn tours These finished at the end of May. We were encouraged by the increased take up of the 11am tours which will resume in Spring. They do need publicity and so please remind people about them.

Spring Flyer

The Guides are currently considering content for the Spring Flyer. The aim of the flyer is to encourage more exploration of the gardens and to seek out some of the treasures in the various beds and parts of the gardens.

Spring conjures up images of blossoms and re-growth and seeing more colour as we move to the greys and greens and browns of winter. Is spring is harder to define now as flowering times change? Our erratic and changing weather patterns and cycles, such as the El Nino effect and the Southern Oscillation Index, are changing our three month traditional concept of Spring, and we talk of 'Spring creep' and 'early or late Spring'.

The Gariwerd (Grampians) indigenous seasonal calendar has six seasons including early and late spring. Professor Entwistle in his book has "Sprinter" (Aug – Sept) and "Sprunner" (Oct to Nov). Naturalists developing seasonal calendars for their area show what is happening to nature (birds, plants and animals) in their area.

Wendy Sandiford, a fellow guide, drew my attention to Tanya Loos' *Daylesford Nature Diary*, where she also describes six seasons in the Wombat Forest and use divisions such as Pre-Spring and True-Spring.



2014's flyer

So when the guides have the task of preparing a flyer to highlight some of the favourites of this traditional Spring season it is a challenge. When is Spring in the gardens? What will be flowering at that time? Will it flower early or late this year? Will it flower long enough to justify its inclusion in the flyer?

At the time of writing it is still a work in progress and so watch for the flyer early in Spring. Some have suggested

the way forward may be to focus on a 'plant of the month' similar to 'tree of the month' rather than focus on the season. Whatever approach we use the end result is the same - encouraging more observation within our local patch and gain more understanding of our plant world.

U3A Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens course: This course of ten sessions ended on Wednesday 17 June. All the feedback shows it was an enjoyable and informative time for all the participants and also the presenters.

It has been good on many fronts. It has allowed the Friends participating to get to know more about the gardens and it has allowed guides to develop presentations on their area of interest and share with others.

For U3A members it has provided a chance to be introduced to the gardens and to the Friends' groups. We hope that some will follow up joining one of the Friends groups.

The organization of this course could not have taken place without the good spirit and effort of many contributors and we thank them most sincerely for this. (Cont'd next column)

What did the course cover?

Discovering the Richness of the Lake Precinct: This included the Hatcheries, POW Memorial, Tramway Museum and The Wetlands.

Learning about botany: Plant classifications, nomenclature and labelling, and, How plants are smart!

Learning about Ballarat BG: FBBG groups and activities, History of the gardens, the statues, the Prime Ministers Avenue, Western Bed, Heritage Trees and trees of special interest, Begonias, Conservatories and glass houses, Sequoias, Fernery Re-development and Gardens' Management

Learning about other botanic gardens: Examples across our world and Buninyong Botanic gardens tour.

Who were the presenters? Along with FBBG Garden staff, presenters included:

Ballarat Fish Acclimatisation Society	
Kay Crawford	Sandie de Groot
Beth Dixon	Raoul Dixon
John Garner	Jane Munro
Elizabeth Gilfillan	Terry O'Brien
Michael Bird	Lorraine Powell
Donna Thomas	Peter Marquand
Wendy Sandiford	Peter Carter
Ian Rossiter	Peter Waugh
Rev John Furness	Ian Hiscock

Terry O'Brien



Tramways Museum



Gardens Management



Plant Identification

Seen at U3A Lunch Finale:



Celebrating the end of U3A Course: President Raoul Dixon, Guides Jane Munro, Beth Dixon and Lorraine Powell



Margaret Towers and Terry O'Brien



Tony Dyson, Brian Hay, Tony Enn



Yummy lunch! A fitting end.



Friends Vice President John King and U3A member Virginia Dyson



U3A members Val Newman, Zia Brown



David Radcliffe, U3A



Marie Murray and Lynette McDonald of U3A

John's Jottings...

"A JOB FOR LIFE" --- HARRY COULTER.

Gardener at Ballarat Botanical Gardens for 70 years.

The long years of service of many of the curators and gardeners employed at the Ballarat Botanical Gardens is quite remarkable.

Particularly noteworthy is the career of Harry Coulter who was first employed in 1882 as a casual worker aged 14 to cut the 2 metre hedge of the first maze. Following further training as a gardener at a nursery in Howitt Street he was taken on to the staff of the Gardens and served there until 1952, retiring when over 80.

Physically, the demands on the gardeners then, as now, were considerable. The grass was cut by scythes, planting on hands and knees. Long-handled forks were banned which Harry found made life difficult as his back began to give pain as he grew older.

During his time he was involved in the planting of the Horse Chestnut Avenue, the formation of the "wedding tree" (the joining of two elms,) the planting of the Avenue of Honour of cypress and oak trees along the border of the gardens along Gillies Street. He also assisted Tom Toop in moving a large

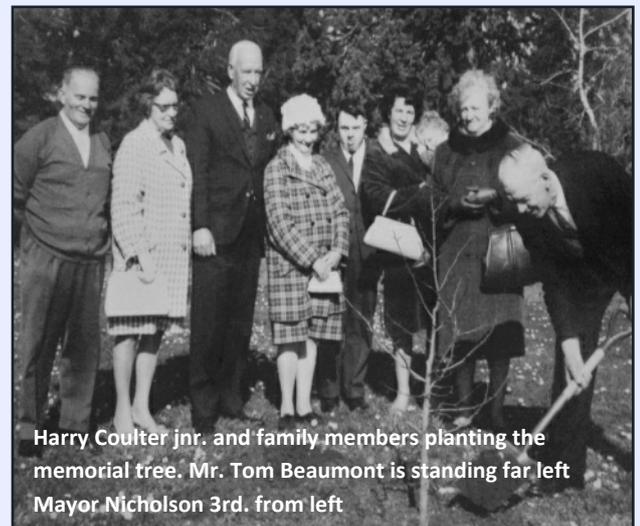
Sequoia from Sturt Street to the south end of the gardens using a horse drawn dray to transport it.

The story goes that after 40 years of service he asked if he could leave half an hour early to go on a trip that he had planned. He was told by his supervisor it was impossible!

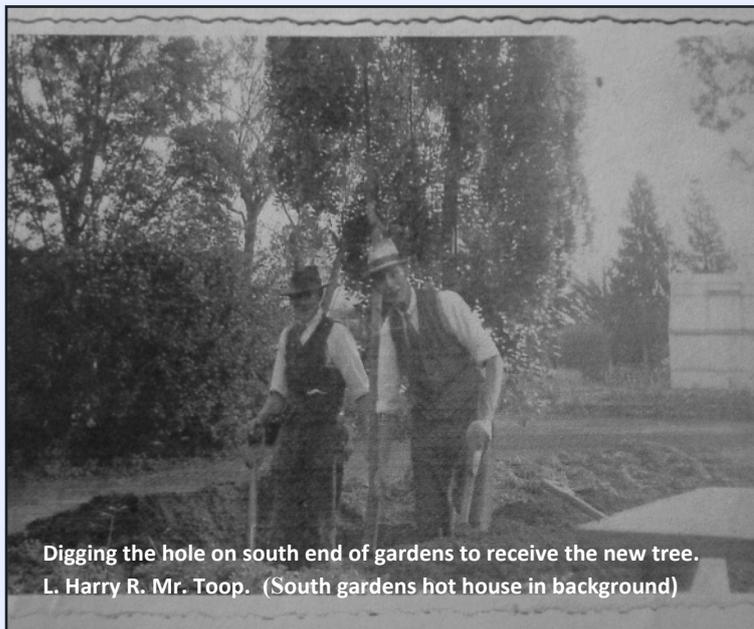
He retired aged 83 and died in 1969 aged 100. A memoria Liquidambar tree was planted at the south end of the Gardens by the Mayor at the time, Cr Nicholson, to commemorate Harry's 70 years of service. As far as longevity of service is concerned - a challenge to other Botanical Gardens – beat that!

I am indebted to Cheryl and Neil Coulter for providing information and photographs of this remarkable gentleman.

John Garner, June 2015



Harry Coulter jr. and family members planting the memorial tree. Mr. Tom Beaumont is standing far left Mayor Nicholson 3rd. from left



Digging the hole on south end of gardens to receive the new tree. L. Harry R. Mr. Toop. (South gardens hot house in background)



The Wedding Tree (Camperdown Elm , Ulmus glabra 'Camperdownii') planted by Harry Coulter

HOSPITALITY REPORT: For the General Meeting held 21 May we catered for 30 members and Friends. The catering was provided by the Yendon Red Cross and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. They have decided to donate the money from the catering to the Nepal Earthquake victims.

At the June Association AGM again we had many members of Friends Associations attend. We catered for early morning tea and then for lunch. Once again the Yendon Red Cross provided us with beautiful food. Very successful day. Our next catering is in August at the General Meeting. We are always grateful for new members to join our small group of workers.

Carole Haines



FBBG General Meeting held Thursday 19 May 2015

President Raoul Dixon welcomed members, new members and guests with a quip about the FBBG's impeccable recycling record – even up to recycling Presidents, then with the last General Meeting Peter Marquand, Curator of BBG, gave an update on the *Araucaris bidwillii* (Bunya Bunya) presently fenced off to the south of the Robert Clark Conservatory. With the discovery of a significant crack just before the Begonia Festival in March, the footprint of the Festival was hastily altered and reports were sought. Following a seismic polygraph test, the assessment is that the tree can be saved. A weight reduction with the removal of five branches

followed by a process of lap-banding will ensure the tree remains with us for years to come.

Other news included the replacement of rubber seals of the windows at the Conservatory, an audit of the species *Begonia* collection and the announcement of Glenn Fisher as Gardens Team Leader (a new post).

The Tenant Group exhibitions in the Winter Display as well as taking part in the coming *Photo Biennale* held at locations around Ballarat were also mentioned.



Men at work. Preparing for resealing of the Conservatory windows

Guest Speaker and Burnley Graduate **Chris Finlay** then gave a lecture on the topic: **Native Grasses**.

His professional seed collection and grassland establishment at Keilor formed the focus of his talk with examples of the landscapes redeveloped and replanted as native grasslands shown.

Chris described the meticulous preparation of hand weeding, over several seasons, required before one can even plant a seed. The sheer volume of seed being harvested at the Keilor base for use in rehabilitation and landscaping is phenomenal; over 3 tonnes this year at \$150k/tonne.

Interestingly, the native grass hay cut from the property is proving a useful feed for horses with the condition known as 'laminitis' as it is a low-carb diet.

FBBG Secretary, Beryl Plummer presented our guest speaker with a small gift and President Raoul, in wrapping up the meeting, invited us to join Chris at morning tea. **Lorraine Powell**

FROM TIM ENTWISLE'S BLOG: TUESDAY, 21 APRIL 2015

..".Norfolk Island has one species of araucaria, *Araucaria heterophylla* (commonly and sensibly called the **Norfolk Island Pine**) native to its 35 square kilometres. This species is found no-where else in nature, but commonly in seaside and other public plantings.

At about the same latitude on the Australian mainland, and then more rarely further north above Cairns, grows the **Bunya Pine**, *Araucaria bidwillii*. Its remaining natural populations in southern Queensland are scattered over an area of about 19,000 square kilometres.

It too is relatively common in cultivation although often having to be fenced off when the dropping of its football-sized cones risk serious injury to those walking underneath. (Want to see a sample?...ask at George Longley Room)

The third Australian species, **Hoop Pine**, *Araucaria cunninghamii*, grows naturally in New South Wales and Queensland, as well as in Papua New Guinea which also has a species of its own, *Araucaria hunsteinii*.

There are another two species in South America. The best known is the **Monkey Puzzle Tree**, *Araucaria araucana*, or more helpfully sometimes Monkey Tail Treefrom Chile and Argentina. (See photo at left)



The other is the **Paraná or Brazilian Pine**, *Araucaria angustifolia*, of southern Brazil and bits of Argentina and Paraguay.

This accounts for six of the 19 species of araucaria on Earth today.

The Monkey Puzzle Tree once formed extensive forests in southern Brazil and Chile, in cooler, high-altitude areas.

Today it is under threat of extinction due to previously widespread timber harvesting.

The common name alludes to the fact that the task of climbing the tree, with its sharp branches tightly clothed with spiny leaves, would puzzle even a monkey."

You can read more of Tim's Blog Talking Plants by logging on to talkingplants.blogspot.com.au

You can find specimens of the **Bunya Pine**, *Araucaria bidwillii* and the **Norfolk Island Pine**, *Araucaria heterophylla*, in the Ballarat Gardens

Next General Meeting: Thursday August 20 at 10:00am. Guest Speaker Janet O'Hehir, urban landscape researcher.

continued from page 1 **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

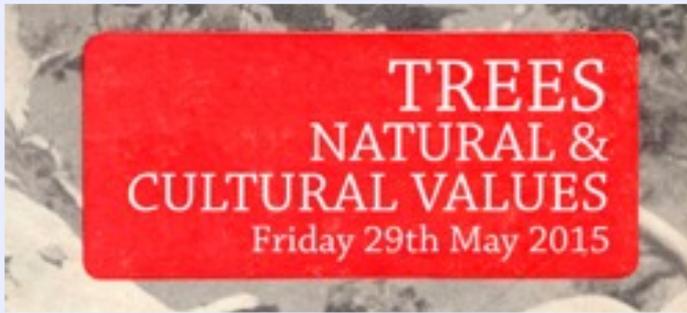
Friends will in due course be looking at ways to better incorporate the Wetlands in the Gardens' visitor experience with better defined access trails to link them with the Gardens. Julie Collins, Public Art Co-ordinator for CoB, briefed the Committee on this proposal recently.

Finally, the **Tramways Museum** is looking at extending their premises with an architect designed addition on the south side of their existing building. This will enable them to better present their tram exhibits with more room to

move around, as well as providing meeting and administrative rooms and possibly setting up a coffee outlet, which could eventually make use of their newly acquired Restaurant Tram.

So – much is happening in the Gardens. If and when all these projects eventuate, they will certainly add to the appeal of our Gardens and cement their place as one of Australia's outstanding Regional Botanical Gardens.

Raoul Dixon – President



Reprinted with permission from an article by Christina Dyson, Australian Garden History Society e newsletter No. 3 June 2015

In late May 2015, the Victorian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society staged a successful tree forum, entitled 'Trees: Natural and Cultural Values'. The forum attracted over 100 people from Melbourne, country Victoria and interstate, a combination of local councillors and council staff, heritage professional and academics, arboriculture and horticultural industries, AGHS members and others.

The ten speakers—Dr Greg Moore, Lyndal Plant, Professor Tony Hall, Stuart Read, Professor Tim Entwistle, David Callow, Professor Roger Jones, Dr Jessica Hood, David Gawley and Lillian Pearce—each told different stories, yet a number of the issues they raised were reinforced over the course of the day from different perspectives, and this gave the forum and panel discussions great cohesiveness.

There two themes that emerged particularly strongly from the forum.

The first was the multi-faceted value of trees. One of the speakers, David Gawley, highlighted how the public advantage of trees has long been recognised. Precisely what the nature and breadth of those values are today emerged as a strong and surprising message from the forum.

Trees were discussed in terms of their economic, health, social, cultural, personal and environmental values. As Lyndal Plant

demonstrated however, despite these known values, trees continue to compete for both space and attention. Trees are becoming less and less a feature of private land – a reality alarmingly illustrated by Tony Hall in his paper 'The Death of the Backyard'. In this situation, Plant cautioned, trees in the public realm are becoming increasingly important.

A consequence of climate change and of rapidly changing urban and suburban environments is increasing pressure now placed on trees – sometimes referred to as 'green' infrastructure – to remedy or compensate for the increasing browns and greys and terracottas of buildings, hard landscaping and infrastructure. The challenge presented by Plant was the need to reconsider the street environment and urban open space, and to rethink how these public open spaces can work more effectively to accomplish complex objectives, both social and environmental.

These are challenges the Pearce and Callow were able to demonstrate as being actively pursued by the City of Melbourne with other municipalities following, like the City of Yarra.

The second theme was the power of community mobilising over tree issues, and the sometimes surprising allies advocating for greater provision and more effective management of public green space.



Professor Tim Entwistle presenting. Photograph: Jess Hood

(A number of the Ballarat Friends attended this forum.)

The forum was recorded and will be available soon via YouTube and the AGHS website.



Frost is thought to have caused shattering of a glass panel at the front of the Conservatory



Pictured at the recent **Australian Association Friends AGM hosted by Ballarat Friends Friday 5 June, 2015:**

Top left: The eager audience awaits; **Left:** Guide Terry O'Brien explains the finer details of the Statuary; **Above:** Officiating for the day were Chairman John Bentley and Ro Noone, Secretary.

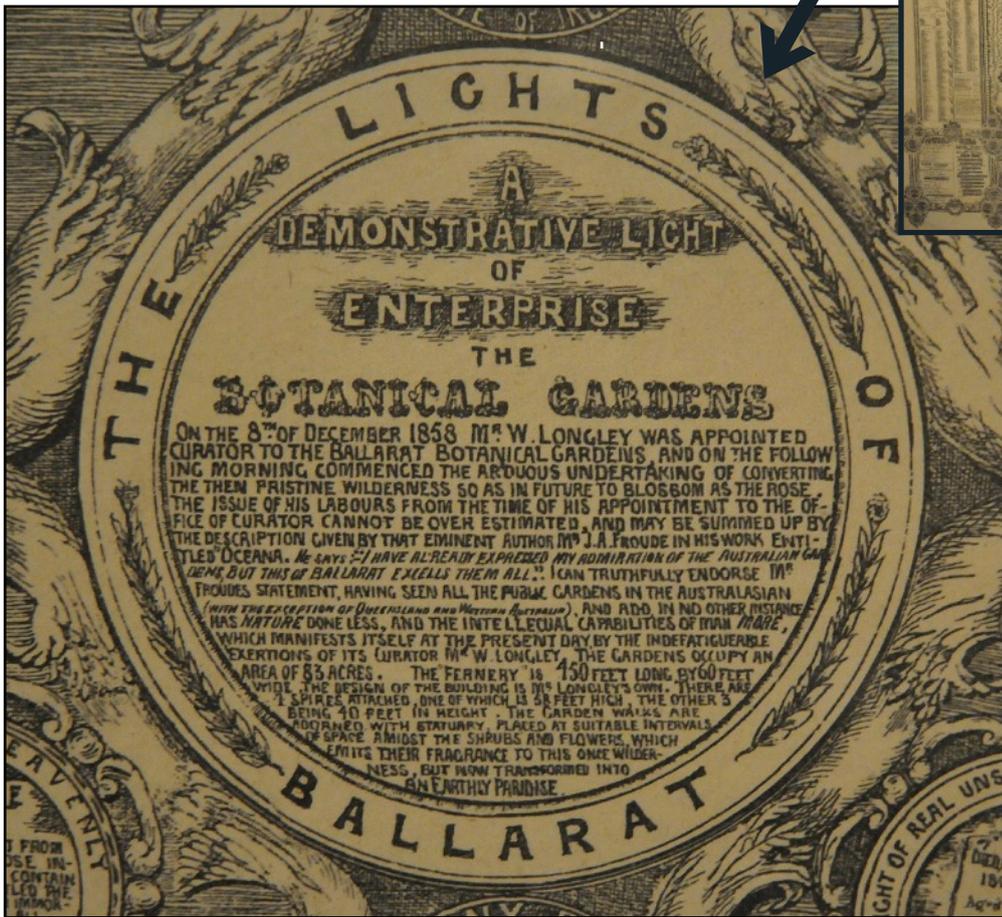
"Gardens and chocolate both have mystical qualities." Edward Flaherty

A MUST SEE IN THE BALLARAT ART GALLERY:

Currently on display at the Ballarat Art Gallery is a fascinating exhibition of the work of James Meek, a 19th century eccentric. He was skilled in miniature penmanship and produced massive commemorative wall hangings celebrating aspects of local or colonial history or the achievements of particular families, which he printed and sold.

The photos (right) are of one particular chart titled "Ballarat Past and Present" and an enlargement of one tiny section of this chart (below) where he describes the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. It is fascinating to read a contemporary description of them. (On display 13 June to 9 August, 10am to 5pm daily; free admission)

Raoul Dixon



Above: The original James Meek wall hanging.

Left: Close-up showing the detail of his description of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens (Note: Meek's description concludes:

"..This once wilderness, but now transformed into an EARTHLY PARADISE")

OBITUARY Reginald Tyrol John JONES

Reg Jones was the great grandson of the first Curator of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, **George Longley**, and the grandson of Sarah Longley who reputedly was the first child born on the Black Hill goldfields.

During his working life in the stationery business he visited Ballarat frequently, keeping up his interest in the Gardens and checking on his family's graves at the Old Ballarat Cemetery. In the 1980s and 90s he kept up a correspondence with Roy Mosman who had been active in collecting information concerning the history of the Gardens following the establishment of the Friends in 1982.

In 2013 he donated the Longley family bible to the Friends and during his last visit to Ballarat he visited the Ballarat Gold Museum where the bible has been placed for safe keeping. He was an intelligent and energetic man who had a great interest in the Longley family and the Botanic Gardens heritage.

His passing at the age of 98 represents the loss for the Friends of an important link with the past and, for me, a good friend.

John Garner



Left: Reg Jones in 2013 at the handover of the Longley Bible.

Below: Reg's death notice as reported in the Herald-Sun recently.

JONES. — Reginald Tyrol. Passed away peacefully at Epworth Eastern Hospital Box Hill on June 7, 2015 Aged 98 Years

Fernery Re-development Project

BALLARAT FRIENDS CELEBRATE CITY GRANT

The Ballarat Courier reported on May 13 that after 15 years of lobbying the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens have finally secured funding of \$1.4million for the Ballarat Botanical Gardens fernery redevelopment project.

The funding will allow complete remodelling of the current ailing structure. The Friends of the Botanical Gardens Fernery Project convener, Elizabeth Gilfillan, said the group was thrilled with the grant. She said, "It will give us an opportunity to expand the current garden for the wider community and to revitalise it into an educational and environmental resource." The project will be a bonus for tourism as well.

Melbourne-based landscape architect and designer Andrew Laidlaw has prepared preliminary drawings and these display a complete revamp of the existing site.

The Fernery Project Group met with Heritage Victoria's Landscape Architect, John Hawker, earlier this year, and he approved in principle the draft plans. On 4 March the final proposal was presented by Andrew Laidlaw to Ballarat City Council.

The landscape concept for the new Fernery is based around developing a series of beautiful spaces each with a different plant collection focus.

The main entrance will be to the east with a large central forecourt with water-spurting standing stones surrounded by a forest of Cyathea tree ferns. The use of water in this area



Pictured at left: Ballarat Friends Elizabeth Gilfillan, Beryl Plummer, Raoul Dixon (President Ballarat Friends), Rae Shearer, Bruce Holland, Kathleen Hobson and Lorraine Powell – celebrating the news of the City of Ballarat funding.

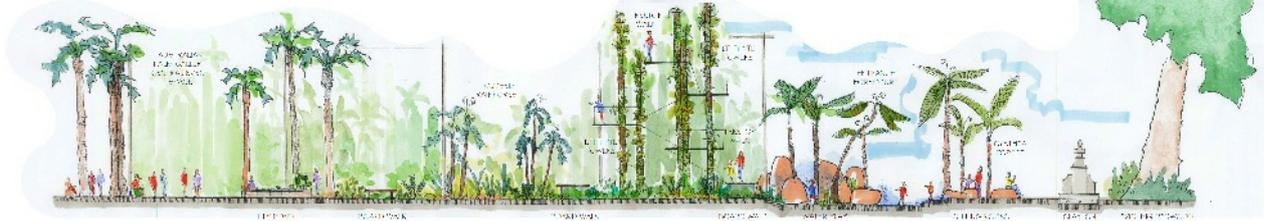
(Photo credit: Lachlan Bence, *Ballarat Courier*, 13 May, 2015.)

has a dual role, providing a continuous link with the internal Fernery and acting as a water play area for children.

On entering the Fernery visitors will be greeted by large epiphyte towers and a tree-top walk. These towers will display a collection of epiphytic (air-dwelling) plants such as mosses, ferns, orchids and bromeliads. An elevated series of steps and platforms will take visitors up into the canopy of these towers, giving 360 degree views of the fernery and forming an iconic and decorative structure.

The second space or collection in the Fernery will be a closed canopy, southern Australian rainforest including plants such as tree ferns, acacias, mint bush and low growing ferns and orchids.

The final space in the Fernery will be a mounded area with a collection of local rare and unusual plants including mosses, carnivorous plants and orchids.



(Above) Sketch provided by Laidlaw and Laidlaw showing a profile of the proposed

The Ballarat Botanical Gardens Fernery is being restored. The new fernery will be a modern architectural representation of the original neo-gothic fernery building.

The Friends of the Botanical Gardens in partnership with the City of Ballarat, are seeking your support to help restore this iconic feature of the gardens.

If you would like to give funds to the fernery redevelopment project, please fill out the form below – no amount is too small.

Your financial contribution will benefit the Ballarat community both now and into the future.

Contact & Payment

Use block letters ONLY

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Donation

\$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

Payment

Cheque or money orders

Make Payable to: Ballarat Botanical Gardens Trust

Send to: The Fernery Redevelopment Project
c/ City of Ballarat Finance department
PO Box 655
Ballarat Vic 3353

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive further information from the City of Ballarat and Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens

Ballarat Gardens in Spring, 13-15 November 2015

The 8th Annual Ballarat Gardens in Spring kicks off with the popular **Speakers Luncheon** on **Friday 13 November**. This will again be held in the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre and Conservatory with lunch provided by Ballarat's food hero, **Peter Ford**. As you are aware tickets are limited for our informative and fun event, so be sure to diarise this event **now**. Registrations forms will be in our program brochure which will be posted to you in August.

This year we are loosely focusing our theme on contrasts: – large and small gardens, pared back and abundance and in the past we have appreciated the link between art and gardening and have enjoyed several artists' presentations. Ballarat is proud to be also hosting the **2015 Archibald Prize** – which will be in the same time frame – a fabulous promotion for Victoria.

Three clusters of gardens will be opened in and around Ballarat, some for the first time and a couple returning by popular demand! Locations and details will be announced soon.

Detailed brochures with the speakers luncheon registration and open garden information will be posted out soon.

In the mean time rug up and enjoy our winter gardens!

We are very excited to announce our Guest Speakers for the 2015 Speakers Luncheon:-

Robert Boyle completed a diploma of Horticultural Science at Burnley Horticultural College over 40 years ago and began to design and build gardens.

The range and style of his work has been as diverse and as varied as the places and the people; from broad scale landscape planning, restoration and conservation for governments and industry, gardens for schools and institutions, memorial gardens in cemeteries, magnificent country landscapes, suburban gardens and walled city gardens – every site and person presenting new and exciting challenges.



Carolyn Blackman is much sought after for her charismatic and knowledgeable public speaking and for over 15 years, has presented Landscape Design and Gardening talkback on Melbourne ABC 774 .

Gardens and Exhibits created by Carolyn's business *Vivid Design* have been seen in major publications in Australia including *The Australian*, *Your Garden*, *House and Garden*, *Home Beautiful*, the *Australian Gardener*, to name just a few.

Vivid Design's work has been featured widely on gardening television programs and has been awarded multiple medals for design both in Australia and Internationally.

Working with her partner Jobe, *Vivid Design* was formed in 1996. The combined influence ensures gardens have equal emphasis on hard landscape design and planting design.



Criss Canning was born in Melbourne and has become Australia's foremost still-life painter exploring a wide variety of approaches while depicting common everyday objects.

Criss lives with her husband David Glenn in an 1860's farmhouse called 'Burnside', in Ascot, north of Ballarat.

Their working nursery, Lambley, is internationally renowned, and specialises in drought tolerant perennials. Flowers from the garden provide inspiration for her still-life paintings.

Working in her studio with natural light, Canning's adventurous and luscious brush strokes are deliberate and painted with confidence. Criss Canning has held numerous solo exhibitions and is represented in many galleries including the National Gallery of Australia, the Art Gallery of New South Wales, and the Art Gallery of Ballarat and in many private collections.



Helen Todd
Committee, Ballarat Gardens in Spring 2015

GROWING FRIENDS: "The Friends have been busy! This Spring they will have many bulbs for sale in the nursery. We were given lots of bulbs (tulips, daffodils, dutch iris, etc.) by the Garden staff. So if you want a colourful display at home we will have plenty of potted colour for sale soon. Also at this time we hope to have plants and bulbs for sale from our 'new space' in the Conservatory. " **Yvonne Curbach**



Pictured at the Ballarat Heritage Awards Ceremony where the **Friends' History Group World War I exhibition** was a finalist.

Left to right: Susan Patterson, Lorraine Powell and Kathleen Hobson, members of the FBBG History Group

Australian Association Friends AGM hosted by Ballarat Friends Friday 5 June, 2015

This was a busy meeting which commenced with Ballarat Friends President, Raoul Dixon, welcoming visitors from Melbourne, Bendigo, Geelong, Malmsbury, St. Kilda and Melton.

Prof. Tim Entwisle:

"Life is sustained and enriched by plants". In his welcome to delegates Tim gave a short introduction emphasising the role played by Friends Groups and the need for Botanic Gardens.



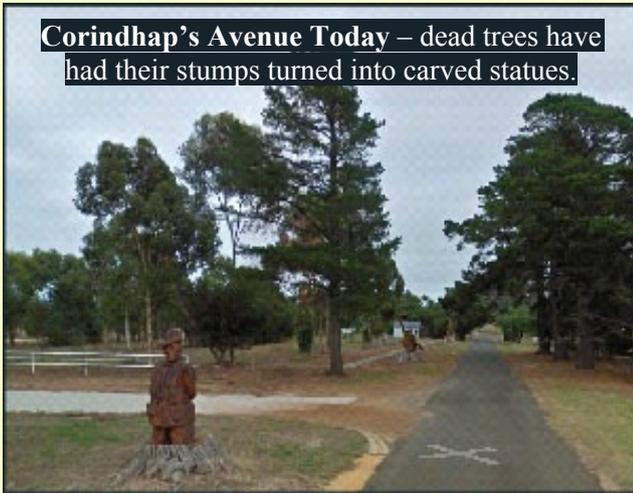
Above: Paul Jenkins provides an explanation to Tim Entwisle after the Avenues of Honour talk

He mentioned his recent trip to South America where he visited three Botanical Gardens (Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires and Chile).

He commented upon how Melbourne has been able to provide new plant material to replace indigenous plants which had basically died out in their local environment. In essence he emphasised how important botanical gardens are for tourism, education and the future of plant species.

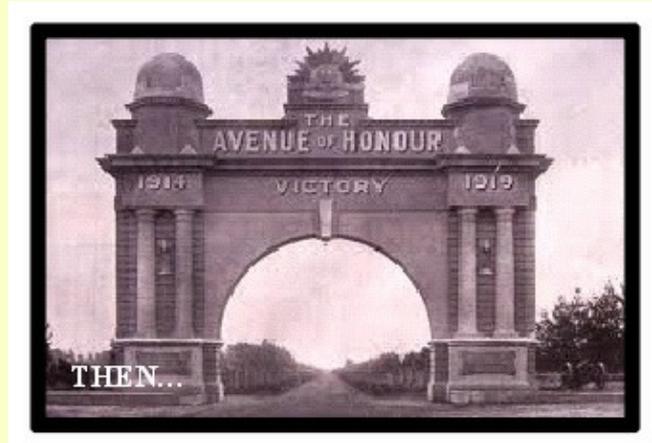
Guest Speaker was Ballarat local, **Paul Jenkins**. Paul gave a detailed illustrated presentation entitled "*The Avenues of Honour*" (in Ballarat and District). He mentioned many existing, partially remaining or vanished avenues in places like Scarsdale, Smythesdale, Skipton, Sebastopol, Bacchus Marsh and especially Corindhap and Mortchup (west of Snake Valley).

Corindhap's Avenue Today – dead trees have had their stumps turned into carved statues.



Avenues of Honour first appeared after the Boer War from about 1902 onwards and can be considered an Australian phenomenon.

Ballarat's iconic Avenue of Honour at 22km is the world's longest. When it was originally planted 23 different species were used. It was started in 1917 and 'finished' in 1919.



The Arch of Victory at the start of the Avenue was built in about three and a half months.



Over the years there have been problems with the plaques used to identify each tree – they have been stolen, buried, mangled, smashed and borrowed. All up nearly 3200 plaques were used.

In the 1990's a program to replant and restore the Avenue was started by Rotary and the City of Ballarat.

Recently a new overpass was opened to restore the cut-off five km that had been isolated by the freeway skirting to the north of Ballarat some years ago.

Michael Bird

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

Marcus Tullius Cicero

BALLARAT DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

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

You will need to show your FBBG membership card

The photo (**right**) is of a carrier bag left on the bus after the Friends' tour to Wombat Hill Botanical Gardens and Blackwood Ridge Nursery on 23rd April. It contained two small potted seedlings. The owner to contact Raoul or Beth on 5335 9052 to reclaim their goods.

LOST AND FOUND



Botanical Gardens Education and Collections

It's been a busy time in Education and Plant Collections! I've been fortunate to visit the Bendigo and Geelong Botanic Gardens. As well I have had several positive discussions with managers and teachers regarding education programs and collections.

In coming months we will see: –

- The launch of the Ballarat Botanical Garden's own Facebook page
- Renewing of the CoB website ' Botanical Gardens pages' to reflect a more 'gardens' feel.
- Educational resources will be placed online and, thanks to Terry O'Brien, Guides Convener, we will include the FBBG brochures in creating a more informative site for visitors and students.
- An online schools' newsletter is about to be launched - updating schools on current educational material and opportunities in the Gardens and Lake precinct – this will complement the fantastic **Lake Wendouree and Gardens Education Hub** brochure that the 'Educating Friends' have created.
- The North Gardens Wetlands have been our current educational focus with the creation of the 'Water Warriors' educational resource by the fabulous 'Fed Uni Team Enterprise' student teachers. We've used the native Rakali (Australian Water Rat) as the mascot who tells a wonderful story of protecting his home (the Lake), his food sources (life cycles) and the importance of water quality (reducing pollution).

On-going we are involved with: –

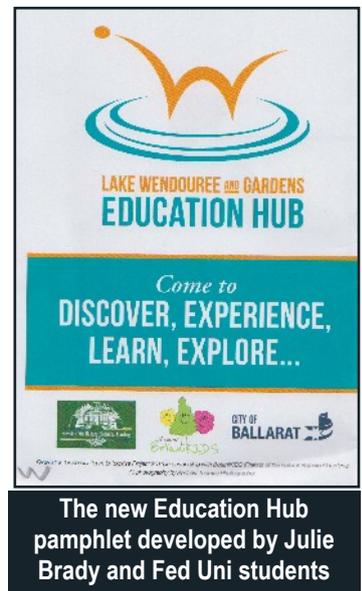
- A partnership between the CoB and Corrangamite Water Watch which will create a Lake Wendouree Water Watch program free to schools and includes all teacher training,

teaching plans, monthly newsletters and water testing kits.

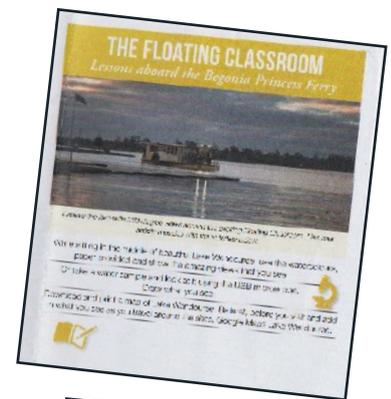
- Other Lake Wendouree resources soon available are Lake Wendouree Birds, Macro-invertebrates and Flora which will form part of a series of simple resources, which again will be available online for students and the public.
- The '**Educational Trail**' is about to be updated - Thanks to Jenny Burrell for her assistance in this – shortly we will see this rejuvenated, updated and available again for self-guided school tours (as well as a resource for all those 'trivia' and 'treasure hunt' requests that we receive!).
- The **Tree Collection database** is now current after condensing four databases into one – an on-going process with a number yet to be identified. Next will be the mapping, creation of uniform accession numbers and re-labelling.
- Our registered collection of '**species begonias**' in the nursery is in the spotlight as we develop a formalised plant collection and management policy in line with BGANZ recommendations.
- The quality **education of our apprentices** is also a priority. The City of Ballarat employs and trains eight horticultural apprentices (including two school-based). We work to support them in their studies, with on-site teaching and tutorials, and also to enrich their apprenticeships further through team projects.
- Working to strengthening ties with Fed Uni, we represented the Parks and Gardens industry in their recent industry engagement forum.

On a personal note, I've really enjoyed being a part of the BotaniKids Begonia Festival activity, U3A talk, Floating Classroom launch, AGM forum with Mark Richardson, and ACU student teacher activity days.

Donna Thomas Gardens Education and Collections Officer



The new Education Hub pamphlet developed by Julie Brady and Fed Uni students



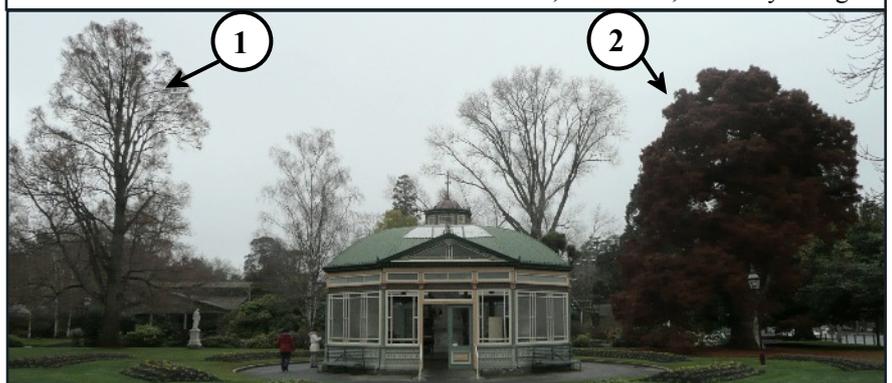
Above : two of the activity pages from the Ed Hub publication

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is today. Chinese proverb



U3A course -- the Buninyong Friends hosted the group for a visit to the Buninyong Botanic Gardens

SAME SAME BUT DIFFERENT! Have you ever noticed? In the photo below are two Swamp Cypress trees (*Taxodium distichum*). Although many conifers are evergreen, these cypress trees are deciduous conifers that shed their needle-like leaves in autumn. Their autumn colors can be tan, cinnamon, and fiery orange.



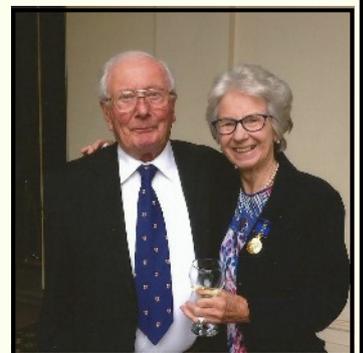
Joan Garner, OA

It has been said that few know more about Ballarat's Botanical Gardens than Joan Garner. Joan has been a member of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens since 1989, seeing more changes to the gardens over the years.

Earlier this year Joan was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia – the OAM – for her “*service to the community through conservation and preservation of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens*”.

Over her 25 years as a member of the Ballarat Friends, Joan was president in 1992-2002 and again in 2008-10. Joan was also the Ballarat representative on the Association of Friends of Botanical Gardens Victoria and their president 2001-03 during the transition to the national body, the Association of Friends of Botanical Gardens Australia.

Since joining the Friends she has been involved in the development of both the Conservatory and the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre.



Above: Joan (OAM) and her husband John, a Friends Guide.

Michael Bird, with help from Friends



'Garden Cuttings' by Green-Thumb

- Do you remember the **Zoo at the Gardens**? While some structures remain in the North Gardens, the Friends' History Group is looking for any facts, memories and photos about “*..the who, what, when and why of the Zoo*”. Contact Lorraine or Kathleen at George Longley if you can help.
- **Did you know?** The 'bird count' at Lake Wendouree identified a total of 47 species in 2015...the same as for 2014! The largest group was '**coots**' (1190 this year, compared to 3055 in 2014!) (Another reason to slow down on Wendouree Parade?). Second largest was **black swans** (137 this year; 198 last). *Ballarat Field Naturalists* and *Bird Observers Clubs* did the count.
- The **Friends membership** stands at 339 including 37 currently unfinancial. It would be fantastic to reduce the latter figure and also to increase our supporters through new memberships. “*Rope in a Member*” should be something we all can assist in doing. **Why don't you introduce a friend to the Friends? Membership Forms are available from George Longley Room and the pamphlet racks in the Conservatory.**
- Have you caught up with the new name for the Botanic Gardens in Melbourne? Since it now incorporates Cranbourne Botanic Gardens as well as the original South Yarra location, it is now called the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.
- New signage for the Ballarat Gardens is on the way. Stay tuned!
- Julie Bradby (Educating Kids/BotaniKids) recently announced her programs have had the participation of 422 children under 12 years of age so far this year and that's not to mention the 4000-plus who involved during the three days of the Begonia Festival long weekend. Wow that's a lot of kids!
- Speaking of kids, the new *Lake Wendouree and Gardens Education Hub* publication has exceeded expectations. Well done Julie and team!
- Are you in a position to make a financial contribution towards the re-development of the old fernery? All contributions go into a trust. Donations are tax deductible because of this arrangement. A form has been included in this newsletter, or you can collect one from the Gardens.
- Have you read about the proposed Lake precinct developments? Make sure you read Raoul's Report on page 1. Big news really if it all happens.



.....the wooden fence erected between the Friends Nursery (plant sales area) and the driveway leading to the Gardens' Workshop area is there for a reason!

Members and visitors MUST NOT access the Friends' area via the driveway!

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

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

Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens

2016 Conference: GEELONG

“Botanic Environments and their Survival in a Time of Global Warming”



Friday 29 April – Sunday 1 May 2016

Tours of the area Friday, Monday and Tuesday

Conference details available from October 2015

Expressions of interest to: gardensconference@gmail.com



Photo credits: Thanks to Raoul and Beth Dixon, Terry O'Brien, and Helen Todd for providing photographs used in this edition. Ed.



“Many thanks to the guides at the Ballarat Gardens for an interesting and informative tour. Definitely worth a look.” Margaret. (*The Miner*, 7 May, 2015)

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Information 2015

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:

- August 20 (Thurs) 10am General Meeting; **Speaker** Janet O'Hehir, urban landscape researcher. (RCHC)
- October 15 (Thurs) **George Longley Day**; George Longley Building
- October 19 (Mon) Friends **Rail Trip** to Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria to visit Botanical Art Exhibition and RBGV
- October 26 (Mon) Bus Trip: 'Mawallok' and 'Eurambeen'. Details later.
- November 13 (Fri) **Spring Lunch** (RCHC)
- November 14 and 15 (Sat and Sun) **Gardens in Spring** (Ballarat area)
- November 26 (Thurs) Friends **Christmas Breakup BBQ**. (RCHC)

MEETING TIMES 2015

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
- Growing Friends** - Tuesday each week 1 pm-4 pm, and the 2nd Sunday every month, 1 pm-4 pm. (During summer also open on 4th Sunday as well.)
- Plant Sales** at the above times.
- Guiding Friends** - 4th Tuesday each month 10 am.
- History Group** - 1st Tuesday each month 4 pm.
- Educating Friends** - 2nd Tuesday each month 10am
- Plant Labelling** as required.



BotaniKIDS 2015

"Coffee and Cake" @ 10.00 a.m. on Tuesdays:

July 14
September 8
December 8

Children's Craft Day Thursday, October 22

Members are invited to:

Botanical Art Exhibition

Sat 10 Oct - Sun 25 Oct, 2015

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
 Birdwood Avenue
 South Yarra VIC

**FBBG Botanical Art Group Exhibition held in the Conservatory
 in conjunction with Ballarat Gardens in Spring and the Archibald Prize
 Saturday, 7th November - Sunday, 15th November**

2015-16 FBBG Committee Appointments

POSITION	NAME	POSITION	NAME
President	Raoul Dixon	History Convener	Lorraine Powell
Vice president	John King	Hospitality	Carole Haines
Secretary	Beryl Plummer	Membership	Raoul Dixon
Treasurer	Bruce Holland	Merchandise	Helen Vincent
Convener Fernery Proj.	Elizabeth Gilfillan	Western Bed Convener	Beryl Plummer
Education Convener	Julie Bradby	General member	Kathleen Hobson
Grants/Proposals	Glen Lake	Newsletter Editor	Michael Bird
Growers Convener	Yvonne Curbach		
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 Spring Wellingtonia 2015 are due by early-September please.** Michael Bird, Editor.
Editorial Committee Raoul Dixon, Elizabeth Gilfillan, Helen Vincent and Michael Bird.