



*Friends of
Buninyong
Botanic Gardens
News*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 10th Aug** 12.30 – 2.30 Soup & Saunter in Buninyong B.G.
1st Sept Committee Meeting 3pm Courthouse. All welcome.
October Planning for activity with Kindergarten in progress.
26th October 9am-4pm Buninyong Good Life Festival Friends plant sale and children's activities.
3rd Nov Committee Meeting 3pm Courthouse. All welcome.
6th Nov Bus trip to Beaufort Gardens "Euranbeen"& "Belmont".
8th Dec 6pm BBQ in Gardens. BYO picnic.
2nd Feb Committee Meeting 3pm Courthouse. All welcome
2nd Mar Committee Meeting 3pm Courthouse. All welcome
4-5th Apr King Open Garden 10am-4pm.

10th August SOUP & SAUNTER

You are invited to rug-up for a warming cup of broth with bread and some neighbourly conversation followed by a guided tour of the Gardens and expert commentary.

Date Sunday 10 August Meet At the QV Rotunda
Time 12.30pm – 2.30pm Cost Gold coin donation

To help enable our catering Please RSVP no later than 5 August to help enable our catering arrangements . . . and also notify us if you are bringing a guest to.

RSVP Anne McLeod 5341 2144 anne.r.mcleod@gmail.com

26th October 9am-4pm Buninyong Good Life Festival Friends plant sale and children's activities. If you would like to help in any way, or have some plants that can be potted up, contact Judith on 0419 103 213.

6th November Bus trip to Beaufort Gardens "Euranbeen" & "Belmont".

Early notice – more details later.

Members \$50 Non-Members \$55 (includes lunch and entry to both gardens). Transport by car pooling. \$10 pp payable to car driver for those wanting a lift.

Trip to **Narrapumelap** on 2nd April.

A group of over 60 garden enthusiasts went on a conducted tour of the historic Narrapumelap Mansion and Gardens with owner Kevin McIntyre in a tour organised by the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens. Narrapumelap, near Wickliffe, was built in 1873 by first owner John Dixon Wyselaskie and is of French Gothic style. **Fig. 1. Kevin just inside front gate. Credit R. Lucock.**



Kevin McIntyre has been steadily renovating the house from its general state of disrepair. He explained that

since the property was in such bad condition that he had had to develop inventive restoration techniques for the buildings, furnishings and ornaments. During the tour he explained his methods, for example, in repainting the intricacies of the ceilings, repairing large concrete garden pots and where a large mirror and its carved frame were replaced with new glass and associated intricate patterning but not in a new frame which would have been extremely difficult to source.



Fig 2. View from front door. Credit R. Lucock

Kevin also provided a delightful gourmet chicken sandwich lunch for the group that showed his culinary skills which are a feature of Narrapumelap's day visits and accommodation.

For those interested in the mansion in its un-renovated state there is a short 1974 movie clip on the Australian Centre for the Moving Image website at http://www.acmi.net.au/vid_narrapumelap.htm



Fig 3. Beautifully restored area next to kitchen leading to back of house Fig 4. Article & Credit and Russell Lucock.



Fig 5. Wes Fleming & Anne King. Credit R. Lucock

Chelsea Win and a Kindergarden Project in Buninyong

The Annual Luncheon organised by the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens recently filled the Town Hall to capacity. Guest Speaker, Wes Fleming of Fleming Family Nurseries, was part of a team that won the top award at the 2013 Chelsea Flower Show

Flemings were a driving force and worked closely with designer Phillip Johnson and a team of 18 volunteers when they, and Australia, won the Best in Show at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show with a garden that mimicked a lush gorge and billabong with small waterfalls and complementary foliage. There was great acclaim for the garden and the Queen commented favourably on the entry when talking to Wes. Local family Ricky and Eric McLeod

were there at the announcement and said it was a great thrill to be on the spot especially as this was the 100th year of the event. Wes said that whilst the win was a tremendous achievement for all concerned, it would be their last attempt there as they now had other projects to foster.

Fig 6. Wes with ultimate reward for all the hard work. Credit R. Mcleod.



One of these other projects is the 'Kindergarten' series of designs that they had pioneered with Ballarat City Council and which were aimed at being an 'imaginational' space for young children. For example, Wes said a large log placed by the back fence will be a train for one child; a horse for another and a table full of goodies for a third. The log becomes whatever a child wants it to be. Mt Clear was the first kindergarten to be completed, then Wendouree and, more recently, Buninyong Kindergarten's (see Fig.7) new play area and garden was opened and included a vegetable garden and chook run. He was hopeful that the 'Kindergarten' scheme would spread to other kindergartens in many areas.

Wes Fleming gave an impassioned plea for more thought and ideas to be put into public open space areas to encourage all socio-economic and demographic groups to use for their recreational time. He said it takes two trees to provide the oxygen for each person on

the planet but trees also provided benefits under Health, Economic, Environmental and Social headings which he detailed. For example, trees and parks enabled children to get outside for active play rather than be house-bound and sedentary, while tree-lined streets had benefits in property values, reduced heat and cold extremes as well as lower crime rates in aesthetically-pleasing streets. Article Russell Lucock

Fig.7 Buninyong Garden Project.

Editor Note: In 2014, the Victorian Schools Garden Awards introduced a new Grants Program. This program is designed to provide seed funding to schools to establish new gardens. This funding program will be held in tandem with the Awards program, which recognises existing and new school gardens and the achievements of students and the school community in school gardening. For more information go to: <http://schoolsgardenawards.org.au/new-vgsa-grants-program/>





**Fig 8. Work in progress at Mt Innes.
A. King.
Mt Innes**

Several members of The Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Garden have been working with the City of Ballarat and a group of nearby residents to undertake work at Mt Innes. This has included maintenance work on trees and formulating a plan of works that may be undertaken in the future.

Mt Innes has always been of significance to Buninyong. This was reinforced after the Great War when it became a memorial and the Monterrey Pines were planted. These significant pines, and the associated memorial plaques, were the focus of a recent funding application.

The City, nearby residents and the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Garden are keen to continue working on Mt Innes to ensure that the area is kept at a standard that makes it an attractive park at the entrance of the township. A memorial is proposed to Derek Leather.
Article by Richard Patterson

In the Gardens

The new Power box irrigation controller is now able to be used from the office.

Peter Marquand had a meeting with Peter Lambert regarding the sign, which is being worked on and should be completed soon. A quote from a manufacturer is not far away.

New trees have been planted and more planting is needed to fill in empty spaces.

The Council now requires all volunteers to have one session with Council representatives before working in the Gardens due to occupational health and safety issues. A Volunteer Induction Program could be discussed with Jodie King who may attend one of our meetings in the future.

Committee

President Anne King 03 5341 8002
Vice –President.... Roger Permezel 0419 007 773
SecretaryAnne McLeod 5341 2144
Treasurer.....Russell Lucock 03 5341 8448
Merle Hathaway, Peter Hiscock, Lorraine Powell, Ian Salathiel,
Judith Bailey.

Correspondence: PO Box 28 Buninyong 3357

Email:

President Anne King jbandamking@bigpond.com
Secretary:- Anne McLeod anne.r.mcleod@gmail.com
Editor: Judith Bailey jbailey@skymesh.com.au

Website:

<http://users.vic.chariot.net.au/~clrdnobs/buninyong/index.html>

Facebook :

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Buninyong-Botanic-Gardens/678196552198331>

Committee Meetings are held at Buninyong Court House.

Members welcome.