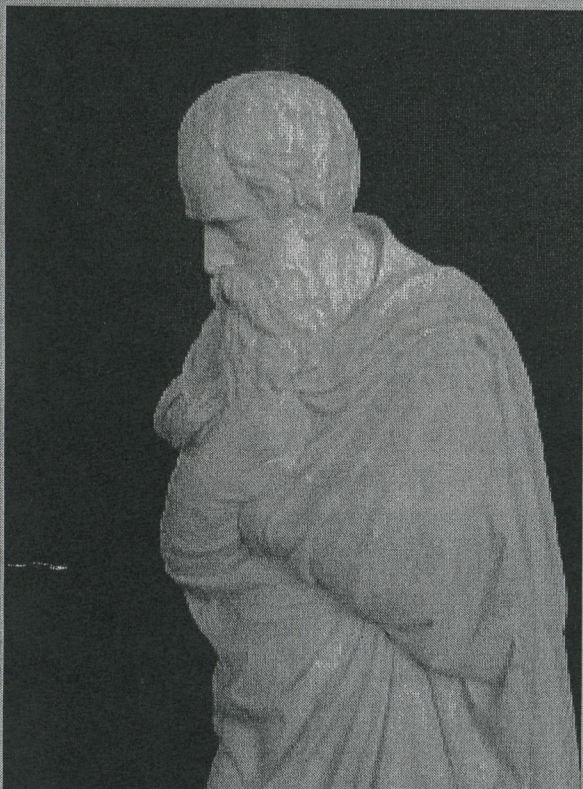


## The future of the collection

The Stoddart Statues are currently displayed in the Conservatory after being removed from their positions in the gardens.



A community fund has been established to help funding of the refurbishment of the fernery which will include a dedicated wing for the housing of the Stoddart Collection.

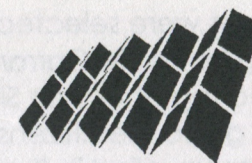
For information on donating to the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Community Fund, ask our Conservatory Staff or contact the



### City of Ballarat

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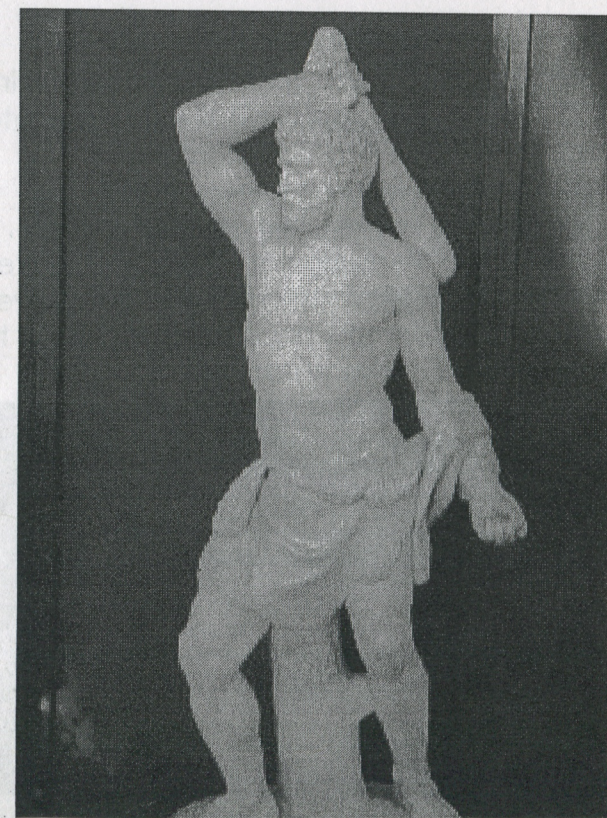
Phone: 0353205135  
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Ballarat Botanical Gardens

BY LAKE WENDOUREE

## The Stoddart Statue



## The Stoddart Statues

12 marble statues were selected by Thomas Stoddart during his visit to Carrara in Italy and were consigned together with Sicilian marble pedestals as a gift to the citizens of Ballarat. The statues were unveiled in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens on Empire Day 1884 by the Governor of Victoria with thousands of spectators travelling from Melbourne..

The Carrara marble statues have suffered many losses through vandalism, biological degradation and weathering.

The classic mythological figures presented were:

Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter, Hercules, Pomona, Bacchante, Hebe, Flora Farnese, Leda, Mercury and Flora.

Spring and Hercules were smashed when vandals pushed them from their pedestals in 1993. Council engaged a Melbourne sculptor to undertake carving copies in Carrara marble, however the artist was unable to complete the project. We have an incomplete copy of Hercules and a block of white marble as a legacy. Hercules and Spring were repaired by stonemasons and displayed in the Robert Clark Centre since 1998.



Flora Farnese, Leda and Hebe were smashed by vandals in 2002. Following this act and the saw cut to the leg of Autumn occurring, Council determined that the collection would be removed from their pedestals in the gardens and they have been stabilised and cleaned and placed on display within The Conservatory. Flora Farnese, Leda and Hebe are currently being restored to their pre-vandalism condition through use of stainless steel reinforcing pins, epoxy adhesive and joins and losses being replaced using silicon microspheres, acrylic resin and marble dust so that repairs will not be obvious.

## The Statues

**Spring** (by Bertozzi) is depicted as a maiden crowned with a wreath of flowers and carrying a basket of blossoms.

**Summer** (by Bertozzi) is depicted as a woman bearing a sheaf of corn with a scythe in her hand depicting it is harvest season.

**Autumn** (by Bertozzi) a manly young fellow holding a bunch of grapes, emblematic of the season. This statue was damaged in transit and repaired on arrival.

**Winter** (by Bertozzi) as the oldest is depicted as an old man drawing in his cloak to keep out the cold.

**Mercury** (by Bertozzi) in mythology was the messenger of the gods, the wings indicating speed. He was the patron of travellers, thieves, pickpockets and dishonest persons.

**Hercules** (by Bertozzi) the acme of personal strength, a heathen deity, his club was presented to him by the mighty Vulcan.

**Bacchante** (by Giovanni Undy) A mythological priestess to Bacchus, usually carried in her hands a dart entwined in ivy leaves.

**Flora Farnese** (by Giovanni Undy) named after a statue of Flora, the Roman Goddess of Spring, belonging to the noble family of Farnese in Italy.

**Flora** (by G Marchetti) as a symbol of beauty in nature, is portrayed as a maiden watering flowers at her feet.

**Leda** (by B Raggi) wife of Tyndarus, King of Sparta

**Hebe** (by B Raggi) was made the Goddess of youth and the cup bearer to all the Gods. She eventually married Hercules.

**Pomona** (by B Raggi) the old Roman Goddess of tree fruits.



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