

12-9-97
COURIER



Ballarat Botanical Gardens' monument to Sir William "Braveheart" Wallace, around which a number of cultural activities will revolve this weekend.

Celebration of battle's anniversary

By NICK HARRIS

The Ballarat Botanical Gardens will commemorate the passion and love of liberty by Sir William "Braveheart" Wallace with a cultural weekend, starting tomorrow. (11.9.1297)

Yesterday marked the 700th anniversary of Sir William's Battle of Stirling Bridge. As the botanical gardens have Australia's only monument to the Scottish hero, two days of celebrations have been organised revolving around his statue.

Sculpted by Melbourne's Percival Ball, the statue was donated to the gardens by James Russell Thompson on May 24, 1889 - the 70th birthday of Queen Victoria.

City of Ballarat horticultural officer Ian Rossiter said a Spring Display at the Robert Clark Conservatory would be open tomorrow and Sunday from 9am to 5pm.

An exhibition, "Cultural Heritage of Lake Wendouree and Gardens", will be housed in the centre's meeting room. Mr Rossiter said a



feature tomorrow would be musical performances at the Statue Pavilion and the Robert Clark Conservatory from 10.30am.

On Sunday, a lecture "Ballarat Garden's Scottish Legacy" will be delivered in the Robert Clark Centre meeting room at 11am and 3pm. Mr Rossiter said haggis would be on the menu of the Lake Pavilion Restaurant.

Town crier Brian Whykes will announce the anniversary of the Battle of Stirling Bridge at Sir William's statue at 1.30pm.

Highland dancing, accompanied by Troy Kerr, can be seen at the statue at 1pm and the conservatory forecourt at 1.45pm.