

10:30AM 15/8/97 - Joan Garner - President  
attended by 50 Friends & Garden  
Staff.

THE COURIER, Ballarat, Saturday, August 16, 1997 Page 5

# Claxton Monument is back to its best

By IAN HABERFIELD

Ballarat Mayor James Coghlan yesterday activated the Claxton Monument Fountain and launched a computerised labelling system of trees and plants at Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

An important part of Ballarat's historic statuary, the Claxton Monument was built in 1890 to honour the work of former City of Ballarat Mayor, Frederick Moses Claxton.

Cr Coghlan said the fountain had undergone extensive and painstaking restoration by a specialised team of sculptors and stone carvers.

He said the original fountain was fed by a reticulated mains which drained to Lake Wendouree.

A pump and float valve and a time switch have now been installed as part of the restoration program to ensure the fountain runs during daylight hours without the need for manual filling or switching.

Cr Coghlan also presided over the engraving of the first tree label under a new and efficient plant labelling system introduced in the Gardens.

He said the task of engraving new labels and replacing degraded or vandalised labels had grown beyond council staff resources which prompted the Friends of the Botanical Gardens to contribute \$10,000 towards the purchase of a computerised engraving system.

The system allows labels to be designed on a notepad computer and engraved by a desktop engraver in just a few minutes.

Cr Coghlan said both projects would further enhance Ballarat Botanical Gardens and help preserve part of the city's history for future generations to enjoy.

Trees will be progressively labelled throughout the gardens with plaques displaying details of Botanical names, family names, common names, country of origin, accession numbers and ultimate size.

Volunteers of the Friends of Students of SMB Horticulture will have the task of making, installing and monitoring condition of plant labels.

The new labelling system will be used on trees in the Ballarat and Buninyong Botanical Gardens, for shrub collections, the sensory garden and rocky plants.



Runner Garry Burke passes the Claxton Monument and Fountain which was recommissioned yesterday at Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

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