

## TREES, FLOWERS AND GARDENS

J. A. Chisholm - 1977

In Ballarat we have indeed been fortunate in that the City has from time to time received gifts of statuary, trees or gardens to enhance its natural beauty. Whilst the statues are more noticeable and are therefore better known, there are many very fine trees that are also worthy of attention.

### BOTANICAL GARDENS

It is in this area that gifts or plantings are the most numerous.

- \* Starting from the north and with the giant gum tree by the edge of the Parade, "Planted by the City A.N.A. No. 4 Branch in honour of Members who enlisted for Active Service, 25/8/1917."
- \* By the side of the Adam Lindsay Cottage is a quiet corner to the Memory of William E. Roff, C.B.E., J.P., who died 22/9/1970, President for many years and in many ways gave service to his city.
- \* Another corner nearby is a "Rhododendron and Azalea Garden planted by the Ballarat Horticultural Society to mark its Centenary, 18th October, 1859 - 1959."
- \* Directly behind the cottage is a giant English Oak, the "Druids Oak, planted by the Druids of Ballarat, December 27, 1870."
- \* In the gardens proper, just to the south of the house is a delightful corner, "The Thomas B Toop Corner, Curator of the Gardens, 1914 - 1943" provided by the Council and planted by the present Curator, Mr. Tom Beaumont, with two trees, a Dove Tree and a fine Nyssa.
- \* To the east across the path, a Pin Oak, "Planted by the Country Women's Association, Ballarat Branch, to commemorate the 21st Birthday of H.R.H. Elizabeth, April 21st, 1947."
- \* Slightly to the south another Pin Oak, the "King George VI Coronation Oak, planted by Cr. J. Pryor, Mayor, 12/5/1937."
- \* Slightly further south is an Indian Cedar, "The Tree of World Understanding. This tree was planted during the Conference of District 250 at Ballarat 14 - 18 March 1959 to mark the Inauguration by Rotary International of World Understanding Week."
- \* Also in this area is a West Australian Gum Myrtle, "Agonus Flexuosa, planted by H.R.H. Duke of Gloucester, 1/11/1934."
- \* Over by the Parade is a smaller upright Pin Oak, "In Memory of Company Sergeant Major Charles R. Rooney, 46th Battalion A.I.F., killed in Action in France 11th April 1917, the first Council Employee to fall in battle in the Great War. Planted by Mayor Alex Bell 28/8/1918."
- \* Near by is a Weeping Birch, "A tribute from the Tree Planters of Victoria commemorating Thomas B. Toop, 1891 - 1945."
- \* North Gardens Area. "The Native Trees in this area were presented to the City of Ballarat by the family of Dr. and Mrs. Chisholm"

BOTANICAL GARDENS (continued)

- \* The Churchill Oak is slightly further south and was planted in 1965 by the Mayor, Cr. J. A. Chisholm, and grown by the Curator, Mr. Beaumont, from an acorn which came from Chartwell, the country home of Sir Winston Churchill.
- \* A short walk away, "To Mrs W. D. Thompson M.B.E. this pleasant garden setting is dedicated to the respected memory of a life devoted to deep Christian, patriotic and public service so freely given by a citizen now affectionately remembered, our well beloved Matilda L. Thompson Obit 7 April 1959". Planted around the statue of FLORA, this garden includes memorial seats from the Association wishing to honour "Tilly", as well as a Beech Tree planted by the Rats of Tobruk.
- \* "A tree that looks at God all day, and lifts her leafy arms to pray." A Nyssa Tree planted to Commemorate the friendship established between the United States Marines and the Citizens of Ballarat, during their sojourn here in early 1943. Planted by representatives of the 1st Marine Division, United States Marine Corps, during 1972.
- \* This tree, an Oak, "Is dedicted to the memory of Donald V. Black late of the staff of the gardens, Private 2/43 Battalion, A.I.F. returned Middle East and New Guinea,, 1941 - 44. (Killed in accident in Australia)."
- \* Nearby is a rose garden, "Children's Protection Society, Sister Betty Johnson Memorial Rose Garden 1976."
- \* Another large English Oak, "Druids Tree, from Victorian Druids, planted by Grant President Br. L. R. Croft, 29th November 1970 to Commemorate Planting of Oringinal Tree on 27th December 1870". The other tree is still growing at the north end of the gardens.
- \* At the south end of the gardens, a Tulip Tree, planted to mark "Red Cross Centenary 1859 - 1959."
- \* A lone Pine Tree, grown by seed from another tree which originally came from Gallipoli and planted by Ballarat Legacy Club.
- \* Harry Coulter, a long time employee of the gardens staff, had his 100th birthday acknowledged by the planting of a tree in this area, by the Mayor, Cr. Sir Arthur Nicholson.
- \* In 1917, in memory of members of their respective organizations, trees were planted in conspicuous places, by the I.O.O.F., the Carters' and Drivers' Union, and the Plumbers' Union.
- \* South Gardens Area, a pleasant place. "The Ada John Memorial Grove of Flowering Cherry Trees, planted 1966."
- \* In June 1897, following the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Queen Victoria Statue to mark the Diamond Jubilee of her Reign, the Mayor, Councillors and other dignitaries went to the gardens "where in the vicinity of the South Lodge, were planted about 121 trees; oaks, elms, cedars, maples and pines. An English Maple was planted by Dean Parkin, a Golden Oak by Rev. H. Howard, a similar tree by J. Noble Wilson and other trees by various Councillors.