

## Overhanging Vegetation

With the onset of spring, plants can grow quickly and so it is timely to remind residents that they must not allow trees or other plants growing on their property to overhang footpaths or roads.

Overhanging vegetation can cause particular difficulties for people using wheel chairs, prams, walking frames, and for people who are visually impaired.

The clearance space over footpaths and roads is required to maintain safety and not inconvenience the passage of pedestrians and vehicles.

Council's Local Laws state that a clearance of a minimum of 2.8 metres above footpaths should be maintained.

## Loss of a 117 year old Weeping Elm in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens

Age and decay have taken their toll on one of the oldest trees in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens - a large Scotch Weeping Elm, *Ulmus glabra 'horizontalis'*, one of a pair listed on the National Trust (Victoria) Significant Tree Register.

Planted in 1890, the Weeping Elm was one of the most important trees in the Gardens. It appears to have failed due to a combination of decay in the trunk at ground level, an imbalanced canopy and the presence of large gall formations.

Timber from the tree has been salvaged for use by members of the Ballarat Woodworkers Guild.

The Elm fell towards the Prime Ministers Avenue knocking over the bust and pedestal of William Hughes. Fortunately the bust was not damaged.



Council staff clear the fallen Weeping Elm.



Gardens Curator Peter Marquand and Lake Curator Bernard Blood with Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria CEO Wendy Jones

## Tidy Towns

Ballarat is a regional finalist in the annual Tidy Towns Awards, and will now progress to the State finals.

As well as the City Award, there are five category finalists - Council won two awards for its work in ensuring the future of Lake Wendouree and conserving its outdoor statues. The Ballarat Environment Network and two Ballarat schools also won.

The five categories won by Ballarat for the South Region were:

- Community Government Partnership, for the Lake Wendouree Precinct.
- Heritage and Culture, for the work undertaken to care for Ballarat's statues.
- Young Leadership, won by Ballarat Grammar School.
- Proud Schools, won by St Francis Xavier Primary School and
- Biodiversity and Conservation, won by the Ballarat Environment Network.

Mayor David Vendy said the awards recognised the great work being done to support Ballarat's environment and heritage.

"Council takes prides in these projects. Both the Lake and statues are important to Ballarat, and it's vital that they are cared for and looked after.

"We also congratulate the other category winners and commend them on the community support these projects have received."