

From little things big things grow

Two trees will be planted by the Victorian Governor, Professor David de Kretser AO, in a ceremony celebrating the Ballarat Botanical Gardens' 150th anniversary on Monday 24 September.

Cook Island, or Caledonia Pines, have been chosen.

The trees will be planted in the lawn near the Robert Clark Centre, an area where nearly all the trees are deciduous. They will add to the Gardens' collection of Araucaria species. The Governor, with Mayor David Vendy, Councillors, staff and Friends of the Gardens will be in attendance.

Professor de Kretser, is world-renowned scientist and is the foundation Director of the Monash Institute of Medical Research.

Local Aboriginal elder, Ted Lovett will give a traditional welcome to country. Afternoon tea will follow with the cutting of a special birthday cake. The Little Brass Band will perform throughout the afternoon.

Decorative banners with paintings of platypus will be hung in the Conservatory, recognising that Ballarat lies in the traditional lands of the Wathaurong peoples. Ballarat's Aboriginal community uses the platypus as a symbol of unity.



Sue Beck, Peter Marquand, Paul Mason from Kirrit Bareet and Lorraine Powell in the Conservatory with the Platypus banner.

In 1857 a group of Councillors, nurserymen and citizens joined together to develop a public gardens for the enjoyment, education and recreation of local residents. The site of the Police Horse Paddocks on the western edge of the Yuille Swamp was selected and the Police Horse Paddocks re-located to what is now the Ballarat Golf Course.

Over the years there have been many ceremonial plantings of significant trees by members of the Royal family or their representatives. Around the world, ceremonial tree plantings are commonly conducted to honour a special occasion.

The Friends and Council invite the Ballarat community to celebrate this special and historic event at 2pm on Monday 24 September.

Below: Sue Beck, Convenor 150th Anniversary Committee, Lorraine Powell, Friends History Group Convenor, Raoul Dixon, Friends President, Peter Marquand Acting Curator.

