

Use of North Gardens by Mental hospital for grazing cattle.

*The first reference to the grazing of cattle in the Gardens that I have found is in 1901.*

16/1/1901 from J. Steele, Medical Superintendent, Hospital for the Insane.

To the Mayor. Sir, with reference to the cancellation of permission to graze the Asylum cattle in the Gardens, I have the honor to request that the matter be reconsidered and a favour extended to me by the granting of a personal interview with the financial committee on 24<sup>th</sup> inst. I have.....etc.

5/1/1916 From the Hospital for the insane to the Town clerk.

Sir, Adverting to your letter of 3<sup>rd</sup>. November last giving permission to graze our cattle in the Botanic Gardens – the cows to be removed before the holidays and not replaced until further authority was obtained, I shall now be glad if the arrangement may continue.. Yrs etc.

24/1/1916 Letter accepting the terms under which council will permit grazing the milk cows of the hospital in Northern portion of the gardens.

*With the opening of the Zoo as the result of the Ben Jahn Bequest I presume the practice ceased as I have found no further record of correspondence of this nature.*

Cutting of grass.

4/12/1894. From Thomas Rooney, foreman No 2 Section Ballarat Botanical Gardens: - "On Saturday last Mr Longley spoke to the councillors about cutting the paddock for hay with Mr Adrey's machine and I fancy Mr Retallick said to me to get it cut but I am not sure – they are going to take the machine home this evening if they are not to cut the paddock for hay – they will charge 4/6 per acre for cutting alone and 6/- for cutting and raking. It would be far cheaper than to cut it with the scythe and if done would clean it up before the holidays.

*Apparently the cutting of grass after calling for tenders proceeded from them on with a letter from Tom Rooney to the Town clerk in 1901 for three tenders to be called, one for 4 acre, one for 8 acres and one for the Lake margins which were the responsibility of the gardens at the time. However, he suggested a deposit of at least a third as the previous year as the cutting had been unsatisfactory with Gardens staff cutting it themselves afterwards.*



November 1903 re. Tenders for grass in Botanical gardens. I herewith lodge with you a tender for the value of 1 pound 6/- for the right to cut grass in the northern section of the Botanical gardens, W, Dixon.  
*Reply sent "better offer received and accepted"!*

*Presumably this arrangement continued until the Gardens got its own machine.*