

Ballarat Botanical Gardens History

Council Record Book No 1

Page 308. Council require land to raise level of Lake.

Page 314. Letter from Mr Joseph Graham refusing to part with 2 acres of land at the Lake for 300 pounds.

Pages 400 to 420 contain references to the formation of a "Commonage" - presumably an area protected by the Council. Water C.... to be kept full to fight fires. Herdsman Stephen Lingham (? father of John)

Page 397 Town Surveyor instructed to survey a plan one mile square west of Yuille Swamp and the Government be requested to grant the same for a Commonage for Ballarat.

? Box 85

9/10/1900 p.554 Letter to John Lingham.

Please give instructions to Mr Smith to erect the necessary House for the reception of the Golden and Silver pheasants'

9/10/1900 Letter to T Rooney

Please see that the three Reserve Poles are placed on the lawn at the Gardens, one at each end and one in the centre, also have the lamp repaired on the lawn.

29/5/1901 Letter from Council to Rooney and Lingham thanking them for their services connected with the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall.

Box 86

1/4/1901 To the Mayor from Medwell and Hill Soldiers' Statue fund.

Gentlemen. At the last meeting of the Soldiers' Statue Committee it was decided to erect the Statue in Sturt St. between the lamp and the 8 hours Monument and we are directed to ask the members of the City council to fix on a suitable place on the site referred to.

4/4/1901 From CC Shoppee Councillor

I hereby protest against the site selected for laying the Foundation Stone of the Soldiers' Statue, the reason being 1st. that it is not in accordance with a resolution passed by the Council on April 1st. 1901 giving the Mayor power to fix a site between 8 hours movement and Sugg lamp. Secondly the site is unsuitable and condemned by a majority of City Ratepayers.

Unrelated Letter :- (Harry Davies and Co General Drapers and Silk Merchants, Sturt and Doveton Streets had their own Football Club !)

13/4/1901 From Charles Summers in Grosvenor Chambers, 9 Coles St Melbourne and 13 a Via Margherita, Rome. To Councillor Shoppee.

Dear Sir. As one of the leading movers in the artistic decoration of the Marble City I am taking the liberty of writing to you to ask if an idea that has been suggested to me would meet with your approval, I have a large cast of a statue of Shakespeare in my studio here and it has been suggested that as HRH the Duke of Cornwall and York is to arrive in your City that I might perhaps obtain from the Mayor and Councillors of Ballarat the permission to place the Statue in Sturt St as it being in a solitary position it would form a contrast to the Statues of Burns and Moore to show HRH that England's greatest poet had not been forgotten. Believe me, dear Sir Yrs faithfully Charles Summers.

*** Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (later King George Vth and Queen Mary) sailed to Australia on H.M.S. "Ophir" leaving Portsmouth on 16th, March 1901. The Duke was to inaugurate the first Australian Commonwealth Parliament in Melbourne at the Exhibition Building on 18th May, It was an extensive tour, the whole trip took 9 months and during their stay in Australia they visited all capital cities. A bizarre alteration in the itinerary occurred when plague broke out in Brisbane so they travelled by train rather than on the "Ophir" as it was feared that the ship and the accompanying flotilla would be quarantined in Sydney on its return.*

*** Unrelated letter from Monash and Anderson re. Monier bridge at Creswick. (At this time Monash, later General, was involved in the business of cement structures, including Bridges. His firm later put in an expression of interest in the Grant St. Bridge which was eventually built by Dorman Long who were responsible later for the Sydney Harbour Bridge.)*

22/4/1901. From Harry Davis, Cheque for 5 guineas towards Soldier's Statue.

___ *** Note on the back states that Mayor Whykes and Cr Pearce together with Councillor Brokenshiere be appointed to select the most suitable site in the Square for the positioning of the Statue.*

21/5/1901 South Section Botanic Gardens From T. Rooney To Duthie Town Clerk

Sir, I wish to get a few new sweet peas etc. 14/- worth from Mr Hughes, same as I did last year. I suppose I can do so, please tell bearer. Also, if you would be kind enough to ask the Mayor if I can send an order for 2 pounds 10 shillings worth of new Chrysanthemums to Cannall (?) England. If you would kindly let me know as must get it away at once,

6/6/1901 and 10/7/1901 Letters to Council from Mr Robertson (Jam and Jelly Factory) recommending Mr Web C. Gilbert, sculptor, for the erection of the Soldiers Memorial Statue.

Letter from Essendon requesting wild fowl (? swan)

12/6/1901 Letter from Essendon saying that they will be pleased to accept the offer of a black swan from Ballarat.

22/6/1901 From Soldiers Statue Fund To Mayor and Councillors

On behalf of and by instruction of the Committee of the above fund we have the honour to make an application as to whether the site now occupied by the Sugg Lamp at the intersection of Sturt and Bridge St. in Grenville St. could be made available for the creation of a statue to honour those Australian soldiers whose lives have been or may be lost during the war in South Africa? Yrs etc. Hill and Medwell.

24/6/1901 Finance Report To the Mayor

(3) Gardens Committee. A small requisition for the Southern Section was allowed. The Committee recommend that Mr Bickle be appointed caretaker of the Statue Pavilion in the place of Mr J, Cave deceased. It was also decided to take no further action in the subject of the purchase of a horse.

? date- probably later – see 6/7/01 Letter from the Town Clerk of Essendon to say that the black swan had arrived safely and thanking the Mayor and Councillors.

24/6 1901 Report from Constable Nicholson re. Theft of hyacinth bulbs and flowers from No 2 section of Gardens by Mrs Howith, Nelly Tandery and Marjorie Howitt – T Rooney estimates damage at 10/-.

6/7/1901 Letter to the Town Clerk of Essendon accepting gift of a swan (colour not stated jg)

12/7/1901 Letter from the Australian Automatic Weighing Machine Ltd. The Rialto, Collins St. Melbourne to the Town Clerk, Ballarat.

Dear Sir Enclosed I have the honour to hand you cheque for 4 pounds and 10/- being rent for sites for 3 weighing machines to 31st. December next. Will you be kind enough to have receipts given in duplicate. (I think one of the sites would have been at the Gardens outside the Statuary Pavilion. After decimalisation in 1966 there was correspondence from the Weights and measures people pointing out that the machines did not conform to requirements as they weighed in pounds and ounces. The machines were subsequently removed, to where I know not. I spoke to Ian Smith about them and he did not know what had happened to them .However, I note there are quite a number of similar machines at the Melbourne Zoo. Jg)

20/7/1901 From Soldiers Statue Fund, Ballarat W.D.Hill and J.W.Medwell Hon Secs

To City Clerk, Ballarat. Dear Sir. The site selected at the meeting on Monday night was one in Sturt St. immediately west of Grenville St. crossing, directly in line with the centre of Bridge St Yrs etc.

3/8/1901 Saturday List of trees planted in Victoria Park by Mayor and Councillors (After planting the Avenue was named " York Avenue")

10/8/1901 Saturday List of trees planted in Victoria Park by ex Mayors and Mayoresses of the City

August 1901 City of Ballarat Notice of Motion by Cr J.Brokenshire for meeting of Council on Monday 5th day of August 1901 – That the resolution adopting Clause 1 of the Mayor's Report dated 24/4/01 relating to the site of the Soldier's Memorial Statue be ,, and is hereby revoked. J Brokenshire 27/7/1901

24/8/1901 From T.Rooney to Mr Duthie Reporting success of police re. Stealing of hyacinths and request for more pots.

24/8/1901 City of Ballarat, Town Hall

24/8/1901 City of Ballarat, Town Hall

Trees planted in Botanical Gardens on Saturday 20th August 1901 :-

Groups 1 The Mayor	Oriental Plane
2 Cr Shoppee	Evergreen Oak
3 Cr Heinz	Cedrus Atlantica
4 Cr Brokenshire	English Oak
5 Cr Pearse	Cedrus Deodora
6 Cr Barker	English Elm
7 Cr Middleton	Cedrus Arlantica
8 Cr Manning	English Elm
9Cr Williams	Cedrus Deodora.

29/8/01 Letter from W.Hewitt to the Mayor apologising for the theft of flower bulbs from the Botanical Gardens.

13/9/1901 Memo from *PUNCH* Alfred Place, Collins St. Melbourne

To Mr Duthie Town clerk.

Dear Sir. We are in receipt of yours of 5th inst. with cheque for 10 pounds as per enclosed receipt for which accept our thanks. We have a number of Ballarat photos, a selection of which we can put in an early issue of *PUNCH*. Will you leave this selection to us, or is there anything special; you desire to go in ? We thought of putting 4 or 5 of the following viz. :-

Kirk's Reservoir

Palm Avenue – Botanical Gardens

Entrance to Botanical Gardens

At the Fernery Botanical Gardens

Sturt St.

Morning on Lake Wendouree

As we may put in the views in next week's issue, please advise us if there is any particular view you would like put in. Yrs etc. Alex McInley and Co per ? Entwistle

7/10/1901 To the Mayor and Councillors From James Oddie.

Gentlemen. I beg to advise that a fence be erected around the Lalor Statue in Sturt St. at the earliest opportunity. You have, upon several occasions requested my opinion upon this matter and I now tender it for your appreciation having from observation come to the conclusion that it *(is desirable ?)*

9/10/1901 Letter from Rev. Mother. Loreto Abbey, Mary's Mount, requesting loan of pot plants from Gardens

(12/10/1901 Letter from Percival Hoath re, matter of the picture depicting ceremonial opening of Federal Parliament " I shall esteem it a favour if you will kindly have the matter deferred owing to the unavoidable delay in not recovering the Photos and papers as I expected so that... they were to be laid before Council today)

(31/10/1901 Letter to the mayor from W. Potter { for self and co – executors} re. Unveiling of monument to Baron von Mueller on 26/11/01 in St Kilda Cemetery)

21/10 /1901 To Mr Duthie, Town Clerk From John Lingham

Dear sir. Have you arranged accommodation for lost children in the Gardens for New Years Day? I saw by a paragraph in yesterday's Star that something is being done in the matter. I spoke to Mr McIntyre about his store room but it is so full of material but he offered me the use of amarquee which would answer the purpose well. We would require cards " Refuge for Lost Children" printing. If you are doing nothing in the matter would you please send a message by the bearer I am etc. John Lingham.

21/10/!901 Letter from TomRooney sending 2 cases of plants to Ararat Council –

100 Silver geraniums

75 Named Orchids and other Cannas

30 tubes of Dahlias

24 plants (various)

From South Section 1 pound of All

21/10/1901 Request from Medical Superintendent of Lunatic Asylum for 30 Pine trees from the City Nursery..

? 1901 Letter from Morris Jacobs ("Champion of Cheapness"!) To the Town Clerk

Dears Sir. I should feel greatly obliged if you can supply the writer with the following information

1st The cost of the Queen's Statue, lately erected in the City

2nd The Artist

{ **** in pencil at bottom left of document, presumably the town clerk has written Statue 1200 Pounds, Pedestal 700 Pounds, Total 1900 pounds. jg}

22/10/1901 From H.Harrison,285 Humffray St, for permission to take photographs in the Botanical gardens paying 5 pounds.

5/11/1901Memo to Mr Duthie from Thomas Rooney.

Sir, re. Grass – the sooner tenders are called the better. I wish to have it tendered for in 3 separate lots and a provision made, in tender that whoever secures a block is compelled to cut it all over and clear up neatly. Block 1 is the best about 4 acres.2 is the next about 8 acres, 3 is along the Lake margins and is about 13 acres.

I would accept no tenders for the whole as we will be served like we were last year and have to cut it ourselves afterwards. I would have a deposit at least of a 1/3rd of amount of tenders re. Materials for repairing roof of shed and painting same. Mr Harris told me last Friday to get it as soon as I wished if I had not been blocked last week the roof would have been on now.

36 sheets of Gal. Iron 8 ft. Long

16-18 3x1 hardwood. 2 8x1softwood 2 -18-6 T &G softwood

4 ft of 23 inch springed nails (?)

56 lb of white 3 lb oil of linseed. 3 full size paint brushes and 1 drum of ? boiled oil. 12 lb of 2" wire rails.

7/7/1902 Letter from C.M.Mcintyre, 80 Bridge St. Ballarat East, Lessee of the Pavilion requesting that the Council replace unsatisfactory lino on the cement floor with a Pine Wood floor.

13/7/1902 Letter from the Australian Automatic Weighing Machine Co. Ltd. To Clerk of Council

Dear Sir. I have pleasure in enclosing cheque for \$ pounds and ten shillings rent of site of our machines from June 30th to December 31st 1902. Kindly acknowledge receipt in duplicate and oblige,
Your faithfully J. Lloyd Duthy.

One of these was probably the one stationed at the side of the statuary pavilion for many years before being removed soon after the commencement of decimalisation in 1966 when the Weights and Measures people pointed out the it was still using in the Imperial System of pounds and ounces. It was then removed but where it went I have been unable to find out as subsequently it turned out that the original firm was no longer in existence. In an interview with Ian Smith, ex Town Clerk he said he did not know what had happened to it. When I visited the Melbourne Zoo in 2007 there were several similar weighing machines, presumably regarded as heritage items. Jg 7/07

18/7/1902 from John Williams and John Lingham

To H.W. The mayor and Cr Shoppee.

Sir. We have, at you request, carefully examined the Oak near the Queen's Statue and find it to be in a rather unhealthy condition and on account of the tree being transplanted the root action has not been sufficient to support the whole of the tree and as a means of encouraging the growth of the tree we would recommend the removal of all dead wood and the outer branches to be judiciously pruned and cut back to within 6 feet of the main stem and the top shortened to 5 feet and the old packing around the stem removed and the inside of guards mulched with well decayed stale manure. We have the honor etc. Jw and J Lingham

17/11/1902 From W. Almeida Piano Broker 21 Loch Avenue, Ballarat.

To the Mayor of Ballarat. Dear Sir. Are the City Council inclined to let the Maze for a term and if so can I be informed under which condition and on what terms they would let it. Yrs faithfully W Almeida.

December 1902. From Mrs Harrison, 167 Humffray St., Ballarat East. To the Mayor

Letter re. Renewal of right to take photographs in the Botanical Gardens following the sudden death of Mr Harrison

19/12/1902. Letter from W.Fraser re. increase of salary for John Bilney, gardener at the Gardens (332-47)

Box 90

16/1/1903 From J. Steele, Medical Superintendent ,Hospital for the Insane.

To the Mayor. Sir with reference to the cancellation of the 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 24th Inst. I have..... etc.

2/2/1903 From W.L.Pance, Hon. Sec Ballarat Shakespeare Club.

To His Worship the Mayor.

The members of the Ballarat Shakespeare Club, being anxious that something should be done to revive the matter of the Shakespeare statue in the City, have made arrangements for the production of several of the great author's works in the near future in aid of that fund. I am requested to ask your Worships assistance and cooperation with this matter and could graciously ask that a public meeting of Citizens be called to re- inaugurate the Fund.

6/2/1903 From Albert Le Souef, Zoological and Acclimatisation Society's Office, 69 Temple Court Melbourne

Sir. I have the honor to inform you that it is not in the power of the Society to send you another Doe in place of the one previously sent and which was unfortunately killed. The fawns of the Formosan Deer are most frequently males and consequently we have several spare bucks but at present no females. We have a couple of fawns this year but I do not at present, know their sexes. I will, however, promise you the first one we are able to spare. The swans arrived safely and on behalf of the Council of the Society I beg to thank you for them. I have the honor etc.

10/2/1903 From Edward Henry Adams Strathmore, Corral Road, Elsternwick

To the Town clerk. Dear Sir, I would take it as a favour if you would cause enquiry to be made as to the time I served in charge of prisoners working at "the Swamp", Lake Wendouree as Borough Guard . I am under the impression I was acting at the latter end of 1869 – 70. I was appointed by Sheriff Claude Ferne and was removed to Melbourne Gaol and I find that on retiring from the Service that no record has been kept of such service in the penal department. I remain etc.

16/2/1903 To His Worship the mayor, Councillors of the City of Ballarat.

We, the undersigned, ratepayers of Ballarat, humbly petition the City Council as the custodians of the public recreation reserve, Lake Wendouree, that the Council will refuse to grant permission to, and also take such steps as may be necessary to prevent any person or body of persons from fencing any portion

of the said Reserve and illegally charging the public for admission to such fenced off or enclosed portion of the said Public property

26/2/1903. Letter from James Cooper, 27,28,29,30 31 Eastern Market: - "Importer and dealer in all kinds of Australian, British and Foreign Birds, wild fowl, animals, monkeys etc. Birds forwarded to all parts of the State but only at Buyers Risk, cages, bird seed and eggs ...") To Shoppee

Sir, I am sending (*destroyed by silver fish*)..... of large seagulls to the ... of Council..

12/4/1903. Letter from A. Sargood to say that the letter from the Mayor has been placed with executors.

20/4/1903. From the trustees Executors and Agency Co. Ltd, 42 Collins St. Melbourne. To Town Clerk.

Re. F.T.Sargood Estate.The Executors have your letter of 15th inst. addressed to Mr A.H. Sargood asking if your Mayor, Cr. Shoppee might purchase 3 or 4 pairs of Korean Ducks from Rippon Lea. In reply I have to state that the Executors will be happy to comply with your request which will be given effect to shortly, of which you will be duly advised. Yrs faithfully.

25/4/1903 Report of Constable Flynn re. man shooting shag on the Lake witnessed by Tom Toop and William Longley

30/4/1903. Letter from J.Rogers of Stowe House complaining of the state of the circular W.C. – one side full of night soil and the other offensive water.

4/5/1903 Request for blooms from Scarsdale Show.

Undated ? May 1903. From J.Lingham. To N.E Williams Esq. Memorandum, City of Ballarat.

Dear Sir. I enclose McGregor's account for the removal of the half of the fish house. If it will help matters in any way I would willingly give him my cheque for the amount and then put through the account in October. Yrs respectfully,

6/5/1903. Letter from F.G.Sargood to say that the Korean Ducks from Rippon Lea had been sent.

Letter from Trustees, Executors and Agency Co, Ltd. Enclosing debit note 1 Guinea, i.e. 7/- per pair.

15/5/1903 Letter from J. Steele, Medical Superintendent of Hospital for the Insane (" Lunatic Asylum" Town Clerk) Requesting flowers, shrubs and seeds.

22/6/1903 Letter from Lydia Tenbow (nee Hickman) to Cr Shoppee requesting plants for her garden in Middle Park. (Apparently her father died in office as the Mayor.)

23/6/1903 Letter from S.C.Callaghan, Head Teacher State School , Illabrook, requesting flowers and plants.

9/7/1903. From G Healy,the Shire of Buninyong,re Arbor day, Mt Warrenheip Reserve.

10/7/1903. Letter from Australasian Weighing machine ltd. The Rialto, Collins St, Melbourne re. 4 Pounds 10 shillings rent for three sites,

(9/6/03 Dorman Long price for Grant St bridge, - Concrete deck 967 pounds, Work 860 pounds.)

(12/6/03 Letter from Monash and Acheson , Consultant Engineers re. 100 pound cheque for Grant St bridge tender and 8 photographic plates of Monier Bridges)

(12/7/03. Letter from Dorman Long re. return of 50 Pounds preliminary deposit charges for Grant St. Bridge tender.. Manager for Australasia T.Timmins. Stockyard and Works, Grant St, Sth Melbourne.This company built the Bridge – name on the ironwork- and subsequently built the Sydney harbour bridge.)

13/7/1903 Letter from H.Vernon, Middle park, thanking Cr Shoppee for sending plants from the Gardens.

1/9/1903 Request from the Scots Friday Cricket Club to use cricket pitch no 1 for the season.

12/9/1903 Letter fro (?) offering Merry go Round for 300 pounds.

14/9/1903. Letter from J. Lingham to RE Webb, Town Clerk

Dear Sir. For some months past, young men and boys have been in the habit of getting into the Maze by breaking the fence and hedges for the purpose of rabbiting. On Friday evening or early Saturday morning last the fence was again broken and a portion of the hedge disgracefully so. I caught two boys on the Saturday afternoon last in the Maze after rabbits with 5 dogs. The gate was locked and they must either have jumped the fence or got through it. I do not say these boys broke the fence and hedge referred to above but they were in the maze without authority and I wish to respectfully say that a prosecution would, I believe, put an end to the troubles and let a number of loafing hoodlums (who are the chief offenders in this matter) know that the council will not hesitate to put the law in motion against them. The boys are Allen Edwards and William Stephens. I am etc.

November 1903. Tender for grass in Botanical gardens. I herewith lodge with you a tender for the value 1 Pound 6 shillings for the right to cut grass in the North Section of the Botanical gardens. W. Dixon, Alfredton

(Reply sent :- better offer received and accepted !)

21/9/03 To R.E.Williams. From John Lingham, North Gardens.

Estimates for the year ending 30/9/04	Pounds
John Lingham Rate per day 10/-	156
T.Toop 7/-	109 – 4 –
W. Longley 7/-	109 – 4 –

R. Lucas	¾	52
W.Lewis (Boy at 7/6/ per week and 6 months at 10/- per week)		22- 15
M.Biddle (Caretaking of Stationery rate per day 3/9)		58 - 10
S.Smith (Carpenter - 2 days per week at 8/4 per day)		32 – 10
(Secondary duty rate per watch 3/-)		15 – 12
Extra labour and pay on holidays		7
Total amount of wages		562 – 15

Stores – Bird feed etc.

Ironmongery	12
Flower pots	7
Coal for heating Glass Houses	8
Firewood for hot water supply picnics	3 – 10
Timber	12
Bird feed	15
Carting sand and soil for filling and potting	6
Plants, seeds	15
Total amount for stores for maintenance	78 - 10
Total amount of probable expenditure	641- 5

9/1903 To Mayor and Councillors from Thomas Rooney (South Section.)

Gentlemen, I beg to submit the following estimate of expenditure for my section of the Gardens

	Pounds.
Wages	772 – 4
Ironmongery,paints, oil etc.	40
Horse and Birdfeed	50
Blacksmith	12

Timber for seats, stakes repairs	45
Seeds, bulbs etc.	20
Painting, manure, gravel etc.	15
16" Lawn Mower (Ransomes)	6 - 1
	980 - 14
2 tons of coal or extra ?	4

We require at the South end of the gardens a green house to enable us to display to the public the many fine flowers we have in our nursery which owing to the danger of the fish ponds it would not be wise to throw open to the public. I have been requested by the mayor Cr Shoppee to bring it before the Council for consideration. About 90 pounds would provide us with a suitable house which could be made larger if found needful. I hope this will receive favourable consideration. Filling for lawn along the Lake margin will require about 110 pounds to be placed on estimates. Soil for top dressing about 20 pounds, Treated gravel for Garden Walks 15 pounds.

I have the etc T. Rooney.

23/9/03 From Cuthbert Morrow and Must. Lydiard St. Ballarat. To R.E. Williams Town Clerk. Re, Botanical Gardens. Dear Sir We have considered the letter of complaint made by Mr Lingham, the Curator, as to the damage to the fences in and around the maze. We do not think a charge would lie against the boys for trespass or for wilful damage to the fences on the facts as laid before us but the Council's object might possibly be obtained by issuing a summons for breach of clause 2 of Bye law no. 71 if Mr Lingham is prepared to prove that the boys whose names are given "climbed upon or got over the fence". If he cannot do so, then no prosecution could be successfully maintained. We return Mr Lingham's letter.

24/9/1903 To Mr Williams from J. Lingham, Curator Botanical Gardens, Dear Sir. I understand that the Hospital for the Insane Authorities have made application to the council for permission to graze cattle on the north portion of the Gardens reserve. If they are willing to pay 10 Pounds a year for the right to graze their cattle on the portion of the Grounds asked for (and I believe they are willing to pay) it would be a means of revenue and keep down all the weeds and prevent them from seeding until we are in the position to improve that part of the gardens and by their paying for the right to graze it would do away all the complaints and claims to the same privilege that previously existed amongst ratepayers who are owners of cow and horses. The cattle of the Asylum will only be on the Gardens in the forenoon, and will be in the charge of a warden and three men which might be a guard against damage to trees, and, as they are the only persons whose cattle are allowed to graze there, what damage that was done we could, in a measure hold them responsible, and, as they would only be on the grounds in the mornings it would not be noticeable to the public or Visitors or to distract from the general appearance of the place. They have 28 - 32 Cattle to graze and I would strongly urge that they should pay for the privilege.

1902 – 1905 PUBLIC PARKS and GARDENS . Document re. Regulations in connection with the vote of 1500 pounds for improving public parks and gardens.

5/10/1903 To R.E.Williams from John Lingham

Memo re. Extra estimates due to pulling down of the high portion of the fernery 10 pounds and asphaltting of new walk through old nursery 6 pounds and estimates of asphalt 12 pounds.

6/10/1903 Letter from W. Baxter, 53 Siemens St. South Yarra. Amusement Proprietor and Novelty Importer. To the Town Clerk, Mr Williams

Dear Sir. As your advert in Sat Argus inviting tenders for right to run Merry go Round in Botanical gardens. Can you tell me the position of the site and if there are conditions attached to tenancy. I must mention that i think 6 months too long and I doubt a payable business would last longer than 3 months – say Dec, Jan and Feb. I have a good American Model, 40 feet diameter, tent 50 feet and distance between tent props 70 feet. Motive power Steam 4 ½ hp standing outside machine and connected with same by endless steel wire cable. Will seat about 56 people. I am sending photos with this to give you a better idea of what it is like. If position and conditions are suitable I would offer 5 pounds per month for 3 months with the option of continuing on or, as an alternative proposal, 10% of gross receipt.

19/10/1903 Letter from W. Baxter to R.E.Williams

Hearing that the Council of Ballarat were looking for a Merry go Round and offering an American machine for 400 (? 4,000)pounds with waggon(also two organs for 2,000 and 4,000 pounds.

(Southern Section)

6/11/1903 To the Town Clerk. From W.D.Thompson. Lloyd Manager Exchange.

Dear Sir. Enclosed please find cheque for 3 Pounds in payment of grass at the Botanical Gardens and acknowledgement will oblige. Yrs Truly

VPRS 8118 Unit 11 Vol 2

29/7/1909 To Messrs McDonald and Son, Creswick road. From Town clerk Mr Williams. re. Russell Thomson Deceased. Please have the memorial and kerbing cleared, iron rail iron rail painted following rebuilt. Marble vase refixed and marble flag cleared as set out in your letter.

16/1/1915 MAYORAL REPORT . Refers to Zoological Collection. See Ben Jahn document.

25/5/1915 List of trees grown in Victoria Park:-

Elms, 3 varieties	150
Oaks	100
Planes	50
Maples	40
Sycamores	50
Linden Tree	40
English oak	30
Sophora Japonica	30
Robinias	20
Mountain ash	26
Ornamental shrubs	200
Hornbeam	40
Willow (4 varieties)	100
Poplars	54
White cedars	8
Cedars	60
Abies	30
Gums (5 varieties)	150
Wattles	300
Cypresses	450
Palms	<u>40</u>
	1775

BOX 109

5/1/1916 From Hospital for the Insane To The Town Clerk.

Sir, Adverting to your letter of 3rd. November last giving permission to graze our cows 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 from the hospital for the Insane accepting the terms under which the council will permit grazing of the milk cows of the Hospital in Northern portion of the gardens.

1/2/1916 To the City treasurer City of Ballarat From Manager, English, Scottish and Australian Bank.

Dear sir. I beg to remind you that the fixed deposit of 3,000 pounds at 4% in the name of the Mayor, Councillors and Citizens of Ballarat re, the Ben Jahn's Bequest matures on 10th. Inst. And shall be glad if you will arrange for its renewal. I am authorised to increase the rate of interest to 4 ½ % per annum for 24 months deposit. Interest may be drawn for each 6 months.

28/2/1916 Request from Lismore and District Schools Excursion for visit to gardens and water and milk for the day.

10/3/1916 Request re. combined State Schools holiday for their annual excursion to the gardens and for milk for 800

20/3/1916 Request from W.J.Stout of Baltara, Plant St. Malvern to the Town Clerk for permission to take photographs in Public parks.

23/3/1916 From City mission Sunday School re. permission for picnic.

March 1916 From H.Rooney (Widow of Tom) To the Mayor

Dear Sir. As our time is up on 1st, May I was wondering if we could have a day or so longer as the Church Anniversary is on 30th April the Sunday before of the meeting on Tuesday night. Hazel is playing the organ, it would make it a bit awkward to shift it to Monday, could you let me know as soon as possible you will greatly advise.

(Tom Rooney died in 1914, her son was killed on the Western front on 11/4/1907. Presumably she has been asked to vacate the cottage.)

25th April 1916 From F.W.Langenbacheer, Secretary, Hospital for the Insane. To the Acting Cuty Clerk, Ballarat. Re. Grazing of milk cows on the North eastern portion of the Botanical Gardens. *(Pencilled note – 2 pounds 10/-.) (Pencilled note re form for 3 months)*

2/5/1916. Request from Shire of Donald for shrubs, trees and flowers for distribution following a dry season.

Undated, To G.Morton from T.Toop re "Dunstan" concerning his overpayment and considered to be far from intelligent.

Undated from T.Toop to G.Morton re, Louis Lloyd and his rheumatism and relationship to his job.

Undated. From T.Toop to G, Morton re. Leaf Leuch (?) of the plane trees.

Undated. Letter from David Clarke, 52 Lydiard St Sth. – List of birds ? offered to Council for Zoo

22/9/1916 From J. DUnstan Sec. Scots Cricket Club ,12 loch Avenue- request for cricket pitch at North End of gardens.

5/12/1916 Visit of foreign Consuls to Ballarat – Itinerary includes inspection of botanical gardens.

30/5/1916. From Tom Toop to G.F.Morton re. Planting of Acacias

For the planting of Acacias, I beg to report that spaces can be found for quite a number in the Botanical gardens Reserve. I am quite in accord with the Ballarat Progress Association in their desire to encourage the planting of our own "National flower." As what planting was done in the Reserve last winter comprised almost wholly wattles to the number of about 50. Varieties were chosen that are not only conspicuous when in flower but sufficiently vigorous as to become umbrageous. The greatest drawback in the planting of Wattles is the liability to be "blown out"-uprooted when the ground becomes water logged.

13/6/1916. Botanic Gardens, Joint report by Tom Toop and John Williams re. Wattle planting. To G. Morton, Acting City Clerk

Dear Sir. We, the undersigned, as instructed beg to report as follows on the planting of Wattles on lands under the control of your Council. Dealing first with the Botanical gardens Reserve at the site of the Zoo enclosure, starting at the NE corner of the iron fence and extending to the NW corner at Gillies St provision can be made for the planting of at least 100 with a permanent every 25 feet, other than wattle, planted 6 feet from the fence line and following broken lines extending out from fence 31 feet more or less. This site at present is almost quite bare of trees and certainly requires beautifying being well sheltered from prevailing high winds by the iron fence should suit Wattle lessening to a great extent the tendency for wattle to blow over in this unsuitable country more especially when the ground becomes water logged. Protection from cattle to the planting for a few years will be necessary, this can be done at little expense by fencing in the whole with posts and 2 or not more than 3 wires.

At Victoria Park it is recommended that 12clumps of 3 to 5 trees , each group to consist of one variety be planted on the east and West side of the Plane Drive, this would be in keeping with clumps planted 10 years ago in Elm Drive and which have done well, also provision can be made for planting about for planting about 18through the Pine plantation off the West side of St Patrick's School boat house comprising in all 64 trees. Protection again is necessary in the Park by wire, netted guards would be necessary on the lake margin, material for which is on hand with some conditions.

(Report continues re. Yarrowee Creek, Sturt St, Nolan St/ Lydiard St Reserve, Creswick Road near Webster St.)

Arbor Day 30/6/1916

Botanic Gardens Macarthur St School -100 boys. Supervisor - Mr Toop. No of trees -50 10 a.m.

(Also arrangements for Victoria Park, Lake margin nr. Alfred St, Creswick rd. and Nolan St.)

Sat 1st July 1916 Botanical gardens near Zoo site City ANA ,Ballarat Progress Association, Ballarat North Progress Association, Supervisor Mr Toop – 50 trees time 2 p.m.

13/7/1916 Letter of thanks from Ballarat Progress Association re. Arbor Day.

28/11/1916 re. cutting back of plane trees

18/12/1916 - re theft of 2 boxes of phlox and delphiniums 800 in all, Value 7 pounds 10 shillings.

22/9/1017. Mr Champion offering a pair of Wombats for 10 guineas.

18/12 1917 From Mr Champion.? Mt Gambier P.O. offering a pair of Wombats an a pair of brush kangaroos. Note 10/- each.

From Mrs C...10 Grey St. Ballarat. offering a silver tailed male fox.

From J.Williams, Springvale. Offering a Jack Donkey.

From A. Charles, Wyuna, Buckley. Sending a porcupine.

From J. Williams, Springvale.To G. Morton. Dear Sir. Mr C.H. Harris informs me by wire thatyou have accepted Price and Conditions of purchase of donkeys, mare and foal, for 25 pounds and when the mare foals again you agree to pay me another 5 pounds.On receipt of cheque etc.

Letter from G. Morton to Terang Zoo re Ibis.

From Erward davey, Charlton, Offer or a fox (3/12 months old.)

From Terang Zoo. A pair of Rhesus monkeys 6 pounds. 2 males of large Entellus monkeys 8 pounds.

27/1/1918. From Williamson's Circus. Tigers 75 pounds – 100 pounds. Black Panther 75 pounds, Cloudy Leopard (small but it will grow) 25 pounds. Two Orang outangs – 250 pounds with cages. Tan leopard 75 pounds. Black Burma Bear 30 pounds. 2 Canary crested pigeons 20 pounds a pair.

31/1/1918. Query re. kinds of threes , tree guards used for street trees.

Telegram from Wonthaggi. – “ Echidnas on train. 2 Bears next week.”

5/2/1918. From Arthur beckwith. – offering pure bred dog dingo for 1 pound ten shillings.

5/2/1918 From Williamson's Circus. Small monkeys 2 pounds 10 shillings to 10 pounds. Several elephants at Singapore, 3 – 4 feet high. ** G.M. notes - ? Type of monkey, not in a hurry for an elephant!

6/2/1918 Telegram from Wonthaggi. From Haines. "Bears left morning train. Please release promptly."

21/2/1918. From Commonwealth of Australia Quarantine service, Spring St. To Acting town clerk, Ballarat.,

Dear Sir. In answer to your letter of 15th inst. Asking if it is necessary to register the Menagerie at the Botanical Gardens, Ballarat, I should be glad if you would inform me of the kind and numbers of animals kept in the menagerie, whether they were obtained from overseas or from travelling menageries or from Zoological Gardens within the Commonwealth.

It may be pointed out that the keeping of wild or undomesticated animals derived from overseas where such animals are kept under perpetual quarantine or the progeny of animals subject to perpetual quarantine is contrary to the Commonwealth Act and Regulation.

**** Note by George Morton. We have the monkeys that have been given to us by the people of the District. We hope to keep an elephant in our botanic gardens if it is necessary to register the area as a quarantine area and could you kindly give me the necessary procedure. I understand that the Zoois registered as a quarantine station and it is desired to obtain a similar registration to the Ballarat Zoo.*

14/3/1918. From C.H.Harris. Pleased to know Bears are in good shape. Donkeys to be trucked on Monday – they work better in breast plates. I have ... a pair of wombats, pair of climbing kangaroos and several small marsupials. I have a trapper in Tasmania and think I could get Devils and hyena plus big red deer which is a rutter and will need to be castrated. Donkey can pull 4.

6/5/1918 From Quarantine service, Commonwealth of Australia to Town Clerk.

Dear Sir. Adverting to your letters of 15th and 16th February relative to the question of appointing the Botanical Gardens, Ballarat, as a Quarantine Station for animals, I desire to inform you that after careful consideration of the matter it is regretted thereto of animals permitted to be introduced to Zoological Gardens in perpetual quarantine cannot be allowed.

From R.A.Leach, Ballan. Offering 3 tame wild rabbits, white, black and yellow.

From W.E. Chapman.Mt Gambier. I have received your offer for a pair of female Brush Kangaroos, your offer far too low – nothing less than 5 guineas landed at Ballarat. *Note Mr Farrer – for your information.*

From Mrs Franklin, Hopetoun. Offering a pet fox 10 months old (wants to get rid of it)

From Colin Arblaster,(Constable) Edenhope, offering a female native companion (!) a Brolga.

From E.J.Bayley P.O.Murtoa Offering a white rabbit.

25/6/1918 Request from the Stawell and Grampians Tourist Association for Silver Willow(Salix Alba) and Golden Willow (Salix Aulum ? Vitellina) 12 of each, 3-4" diameter trunk for flood damaged land – the banks of Fyans Creek.

14/2/1918 From Henry Sewell' Paynetown Nursery, South Australia To Mr Morgan, City hall, Ballarat.

Dear Sir. The voucher for which you request was signed and posted back to Mr Toop (who had ordered the pelargoniums) on January 31st 1918. Regret your trouble and will post account directly to you in future.

BOX 116 Zoological Gardens 1918. Correspondence. 18/2/1918.From E. Rider, Baggage agent. To Town clerk

Re. attached account to Mr Toop of City Park, Ballarat who was passenger on SS Loongara from Launceston instructed us re. despatch of animals to Ballarat.

19/2/1918. Request from J. Waight, Curator Zoological gardens for 2 weeks holiday. *G.M.notes – Mr Farrer to arrange takeover.*

19/2/1918. Launceston Corporation, re. forwarding of Tasmanian Devil

22/2/1918. Applications are invited for the position of temporary Caretaker of the Statuary pavilion, Botanical Gardens.

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26/2/1918 From Railways workshops, Ballarat North. To G.Morton. Permission to use a blank cartridge in a pistol to start races in the gardens at their picnic.

11/4/1918.From Watson and Skull, Shipping Agents. 90 Lower Thames St. London EC. To the Curator, Victoria Park, J Williams. Dear Sir. We have pleasure to advise shipment via SS Marathon of T1688/9 2 cases of plants from Messrs Barber and Co of Orleans which we trust will reach you safely. The cases are consigned to Messrs Broadhead Bros. And Co of 42 king St. Melbourne to whom please pay our freight and charges 23 pounds, 11/6 as per enclosed account. "Always at your service". ** Pencilled addendum 26/6/18 – see BB and co voucher for this account.

**** What and incredible thing, Whilst the war was still happening and intense John Williams orders boxes of plants from Orleans via a London firm and transport by sea is still available. Headlines – Anzacs engaged in fierce fighting at Villers – Bretonneux. Monash takes control of AIF. Haigh makes "back to the Wall" call.!! J.g.*

Ballarat Botanical Gardens History 3

Box 116

3/1918 From J. Williams, Springvale To town clerk.

Dear Sir. Mr CH Harris informs me that you have accepted price and conditions of purchase of donkeys, mare and foal, for 25 pounds and when the mare foals again you will pay me another 5 pounds. On receipt of cheque... CH Harris..

14/3/18 From C.H.Harris Pleased to know that the bears are in good shape. Donkeys to be traded on Monday – they work better in breast plates. I have a pair of wombats, pair of climbing kangaroos and several small marsupials. I have a trapper in Tasmania and think I could get devils and Hyena plus big red deer which is a rutter and will need to be castrated. Donkey can pull 4.

City of Ballarat statement for year ending 30/9/1919

Stansfield and Smithe – painting of Curators House and Entrance gates to Gardens.

Details of Ben Jahn account amounting to 10,293 pounds with deposits in various banks on fixed interest.

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Menagerie	16-2-0
Interest and Bank Charges	28-1-3
Insurance	6-10-1
Maintenance	579-3-9
Construction	218-7-0
Service War Loan	1200
	3735-10-6

Receipts

Botanic	Refreshment pavilion	103-15-0
	Slot machine	15-0-0
	Merry go Round	12-0-0
	Sundries	116-0-0
	Hot Water	21-5-8

...Boots 51-2-3

319-4-11

Weighing Machines 9-0-0

Expenditure Botanical gardens

Wages 1647-8-10

Maintenance 380-16-10

2028-5-8

- 18/6/1918 Request for a dozen acacia plants from Mr Williams for the Central State School, Dana St, to be planted on Arbor Day.
- 28/6/1918 Request for 100 Pinus Insignas(?) for the Moonambel Reservoir
- 3/7/1918. From Le Soeuf, Zoological gardens, Melbourne. Advice re. caring of ostriches and care of eggs.
- 10/8/1918 Request for 50 Cypress trees and a large tree from Rev. E Smith, Pleasant St. Methodist Church.
- 17/8/1918 Letter of thanks from Pleasant St Methodist Church for trees and shrubs. Rev. Ernest Smith.
- 6/9/1918. From Vacuum Oil Co. to Mr Allen, Curator Public Gardens, Ballarat, to attend a spraying demonstration with Gargoyus Red Spraying oil and fungicidal paste to be held at Melbourne Botanic Gardens. Planes and palms to be sprayed.
- 28/9/1918. From Maurice Officer, Keramnfg hotel. Your letter of 26th September to hand re. ostriches. I am prepared to place a pair of ostriches on rails at lake Cham at 10 guineas a pair.
- 7/10/1918 Request for the City band on Sunday afternoons at the gardens from state Committee of Victoria Recruiting Officer to make appeals to the "eligible men" with the use of a prominent speaker.
- 19/9/1918. From English, Scottish and Australia Bank to the City Clerk regarding Investment of 2,100 pounds in Seventh War Loan by Ben Jahn Trust.
- 8/10/1918 To G. Morton from Royal Bank of Australasia, Ballarat. Re. Ben Jahn Trust. Particulars of investment strategy for the Trust.
- 23/11/1918. To George Morton. From ? Rosmead. Requesting payment from Game and fisheries for supply of 2 pairs white and straw necked varieties.
- 11/12/1918. Permit for Ibis from Chief inspector game and fisheries.

30/9/1919 CITY OF BALLARAT STATEMENT FOR YEAR

Includes: - Contract for Stanfield and Smith Painting Curator's house and entrance gates to the Gardens.

Henry Ben Jahn Bequest - in total 10,293 pounds in fixed deposits in local banks.

Zoological Account - Assets to menagerie sales 6/-,

Interest on fixed deposits 310 pounds,

Admission charges 240 pounds, 15/6,

Deposits 2393,

Bank balance 290 pounds.

Cheques outstanding 10/7.

Liabilities include:-

Menagerie 16 pounds 2/-,

Maintenance 579 pounds,

Construction 218 pounds.

Receipts include:-

Refreshment parlor 103 pounds,

Slot machines 15 pounds.

Merry go round 12 pounds,

Sundries 116 pounds,

Hot water 21 pounds,

Weighing machines 9 pounds.

Botanical Gardens expenditure 1647 pounds and maintenance 380 pounds. and swing boats 51 pounds.

In 1920 the Mayor invited pioneers of the early days to provide "Reminiscences". John Ross arrived in 1863, landing at Sandridge on 8th. June. He was born 28/1/1840 at Golspie, County Sutherland. Unsuccessful in the goldfields, in 1866 in Ballarat he became a gardener (? previous experience). He had worked for Craig as a gardener when he moved to his farm and garden which was on land between Creswick Road and the New Cemetery. He then became the gardener at the Ballarat Hospital and was a member of the Horticultural Society with Longley. He was aged 81 when he recorded this item:-

"Going to the Botanic Gardens I took a track along the north side of the swamp. What a dismal sight it was to look across this prairie of rushes – no water to be seen among the closeness of the growth, the only indication of water about was the awful sound of croaking of frogs and the sight of some Californian pumps where water carters got water to sell at so much a load to the residents on Soldiers hill and the other suburbs round about. Before entering the Gardens Reserve by the North Gate, where Bishop's Court now is, the place was then occupied by a man who raised pigs and grew cabbages. Very few houses were then on the North side of the Lake and very humble. When going along the