

Draft Commentary re documentary Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

Picture 1 Picture of Ballarat as tent city. *Ballarat in 1855 as viewed from Bath's Hotel*
Ballarat 1853-54 Von Guérard (Max Harris)
1851

Following the discovery of gold in 1853 and the Eureka affair in 1854, Ballarat was declared a Municipal District in 1855.

Picture 2 James Oddie

- elected 14 Jan 1856
In 1856 the first Council meeting was held under the chairmanship of James Oddie who became the first Mayor. ~~Within the first year~~ application was made for an area to be reserved for Botanical Gardens.

The following Sketch of Yuille's Swamp, Eugene Von Guérard 1853
Picture 3 Sketch of area reserved? large map? sketch. *Base map supplied for the competition for the design of the Botanical Gardens (1858)*

In December 1857 an area was reserved on the west side of Yuille's swamp, (previously the Police Paddock) some 102 acres, and in April 1858 Council gained possession of the area.

At the end of the year a design competition for the layout of the gardens was held with a prize of 10 pounds. *guineas*

Picture 4. Designs of Gardens. ~~1858~~ - 1858

The competition was won by Messrs Wright and Armstrong and in December 1858 George Longley was appointed gardener/curator on a salary of 3 pounds per week.

Picture 5 George Longley

George Longley was born in Lowther in Westmoreland in 1822. He trained as a gardener at Lowther Castle and married Helen Tickle in 1852 prior to sailing to Australia arriving in Ballarat in 1853. Mining at Black Hill and living in a tent Helen gave birth to Sarah, the first white baby born there in 1854. Sarah played on a blanket over a hole where her father was hiding when the soldiers came through the camp at the time of the Eureka Rebellion. Following George's appointment the family, still in a tent, moved to the Gardens area and George commenced the huge task of grubbing out trees, carting soil from the Yuille swamp and digging beds

Picture 6 Picture of Von Mueller. *portrait 1876 by J W Lindt La Trobe Picture Collection SLV bust in Melb Bot Gardens*

In the 1860s planting of trees, plants and seeds commenced with the assistance of Baron Ferdinand von Mueller from the Melbourne gardens, the Geelong gardens and private donors.

Pictures 7 Old photos of Gardens. *c1870 lithograph 1878 map (p57) 1861 map? postcard 1910*

Over the next few years in addition to the development of the gardens, a maze was commenced in 1852, a windmill was to be created, a Rotunda and swings were introduced and sowing of lawns in 1870. *1862 and opened in 1869 erected (hence Windmill Drive)*

x5 Picture 8 Old Zoo? Menagerie. *see Growing History panel*
c1920

A collection of animals and birds was commenced in 1872 and Council sought specimens from locals and overseas. A diverse range of fauna was collected but, although a long list of animals and birds offered is to be found in the council correspondence, scant pictorial records of the area at this time have been found.

To house the collection in 1873 five zoo houses were built and a quarter acre area was fenced. In 1917 a grander zoo was officially opened on 4 July. (pic 1920s

Picture 9 Sequoias Avenue

Sequoiadendrons

*43 yrs to 1959 pic 1920s
Henry Ben Sahn d 1912*

In 1874 The Wellingtonia Avenue of Sequoias was completed, the Avenue extending 50 Chains to the North and 30 chains to the south, in total 1 mile given a hiatus in the central area.

Mayor's report
1873?
about 70 trees
1540 yards
longest in Victoria
outdoor cathedral
for weddings

Picture 10 ? Curator's residence 1885

In 1877 a new residence for the Curator was built. pic x 3

Picture 11 Fernery

In 1880 the Fernery and shelter house were erected. pic x 3

Picture 12 Conservatory -

The old Maze was cleared for the building of a conservatory.

Picture 13 ? new painting in gallery. 1873 Lake Wendouree Thomas Thompson

The fernery and the camelia house had become a showpiece and the gardens were very popular for relaxation and picnics with visitors arriving by train, cabs and steamboats. Hot water, refreshments and fruit stalls were available and Marquees would be erected at times, the Council notifying surrounding municipalities of a large marquee available for hire for functions.

Picture 13 Picture of Stoddart Statues ? from Calendar

In 1884, on the Queen's birthday, 12 statues, the gift to the City of Mr Thomas Stoddart, were unveiled. (name statues)

Picture 14 Thomas Stoddart.

Thomas Stoddart became a wealthy man after arriving in Ballarat in 1852 having trained as a joiner in Scotland. He was successful as a miner, then as a speculator and share broker. Despite variability in his fortunes, on a trip to Europe he visited Carrara and secured the statues for presentation to the City. He died, a bachelor, in 1905.

Picture 15 ? birds.

To attempt to recreate a landscape reminiscent of the home country, European birds were liberated in the gardens from time to time, James Oddie arranging for the transport of blackbirds, goldfinches and skylarks from New Zealand.

Tony Wilson

Couldian finches.

Picture 16. The Statuary Pavilion.

In 1888 the Statuary Pavilion was opened to house the statues of the Thomson bequest.

Picture 17 James Thomson.

Born in 1818, James Thomson served for 8 yrs in the Gordon Highlanders, then, having purchased his discharge he became a clerk in the Post Office in 1852, traveled to Australia and came to Ballarat in 1853 where he worked as a miner, made and lost money and remained a bachelor, dying in 1886. His bequest to the City, handled by, amongst others, his friend Thomas Stoddart, enabled the purchase of the "Flight from Pompeii", "Susannah", "Ruth", "Rebecca" and "Modesty". The balance of the bequest was used to purchase "Wallace".

Picture 18 "Wallace" (city)

article

1906

Wallace was chosen recognizing the country of origin of the benefactor, James Thomson. The statue was unveiled on 24th May 1889, the Queen's birthday

Picture 19 Refreshment Pavilion Pipers. *Pavilion and cannons have one c/1900*

In 1890 The refreshment pavilion designed by Piper and Tweedie was constructed. Plans presented included a double story building but not proceeded with.

Picture 20 Claxton monument.

city collection

In the same year the Fountain and bust of the late F. M. Claxton was erected in recognition of his great work for the Lake and the Gardens.

Picture 21 Morey Gates and Lions.

In 1893 the ornamental Entrance Gates were installed, the gift of councilor Morey, also two ornamental lions, the gift of the Honorable D. Ham, M L C

Picture 22 Picture of tuberous begonia

The first report of tuberous begonias being cultivated was on 29/9/1898 but it has been suggested that in fact the first cultivation here was in 1885.

Picture 23. Thomas Rooney

Thomas Rooney was appointed as curator of the South Gardens in 1894, presumably advancing years had affected George Longley who remained in charge of the North Gardens.

Picture 24 ^{*John*} George Lingham

George Longley died on 14th October 1899 after a long illness. On his demise ^{*John*} George Lingham became the curator of the North gardens.

Ballarat - 1855 - Ballarat

pic 1 Ballarat in 1855 as viewed from Bath's Hotel
1868 x 1050 px 7.783 x 4.375 in.

pic 3 1858 - Gardens - Map
684 x 490 px

Geo
✓ Longley (1857-1900) bur 17 Oct 1899 77y15

Frederick Moses 55y bur 15 Mar 1888
Claxton

Thomas after 84 bur 21 Feb 1905 H 11 7
✓ Stoddart

Jas Russell
✓ Thompson d 1886 GN 5 12

John Graham
x Lingham aft 1912 - 1914 d 19 Mar 1935 EN 5.1.6

Thomas
? Beaumont New 1947 ret 1978 d aft 1985

David Ham MLC d 3 Jan 1908 F2 28 2

✓ Moberg Edwd 1832-1907

x Toop scattered. - 1945

Edmond 1914-1947
Thomas Rooney aft 1914 d 1914

x Crouch Richard Armstrong

b 19 June 1868 d 1949 7 Apr Pt Lonsdale never m, sister Gertrude
not online bur Pt Lonsdale