

BOTANICAL GARDENS HISTORY

COUNCIL MINUTE BOOKS - FROM 23/12/1857 TO 15/2/1860

23/12/1857: Letter received from Surveyor-General's Department informing Council that the Police Paddock on the west side of Yuille's Swamp is reserved for Botanical Gardens and Council to send a letter to the Police Superintendent inquiring when possession could be taken.

27/1/1858: Original fence around Police Paddock offer to purchase at cost of $2/6^d$ per rod as with occasional repairs the fence could stand for a year or two to protect the trees - (also refer 14/4/58).

17/2/1858: Notice of Motion - Council to apply to Chief Secretary of Government for a grant of £2000 for purpose of laying out the Botanical Gardens.

24/3/1858: Secretary for Public Works Department informed Council appropriation of £2000 cannot be entertained.

That the road around the swamp be called "Wendouree Parade" and Government to be requested that the whole of the streets ~~roads~~ and roads within the Municipal District be gazetted.

Ratepayers to be informed of Council intention of forming a road around the swamp and the intention of taking such land as necessary.

7/4/1858: Notice of Motion - Town Surveyor to report on cost of a road on north side of the swamp leading from the tanks to the Police Paddock.

14/4/1858: Council received a memo from Superintendent of Police and Public Works Department giving possession of the Police Paddock and accepting $2/6^d$ per rod for the fence. Town Surveyor to measure the fence and report cost to next meeting. *PROD = $5\frac{1}{2}$ YDS*

21/4/1858: Formation of road from tanks on north side to Police Paddock estimated at £1780 - consideration be postponed.

21/4/1858: Cost of fence £60/- be paid to Superintendent of Police for 480 rods @ $2/6^d$ per rod. *$5\frac{1}{2}$ YDS
 $\approx 1\frac{1}{2}$ MILES = 2640 YDS
1760 YDS = 1 MILE*

5/5/1858: Order of Day - To consider the most advisable means of getting the Botanical Gardens under cultivation.

25/8/1858: Notice of Motion (289) Council to apply to Government to have reserved for the purposes of a Public Park the ground on the south of the area originally reserved for Botanical Gardens. Also an order of the day for above on 1/9/58 and also consider application for a Racecourse for part of the Botanical Gardens Reserve.

16/9/1858: Order of Day: Letter from Public Works Department informing Council of £500/-

/- (in reply to application for £2000/-/-) being voted for the improvement of the Botanical Gardens and to consider and order on the propriety of offering a premium to landscape gardeners for laying out the grounds and that a premium of £10/-/- be given for the best design for laying out the Botanical Gardens.

22/9/1858: Resolved to apply to the Government for a Grant of 640 acres of land on the west of the present Botanical Gardens for the purposes of a Public Park.

22/9/1858: A sketch of the ground for Botanical Gardens be lithographed for the information of persons proposing sending in competitive designs. 25 copies to be ordered costing no more than 40/-.

8/10/1858: Council to apply to the Government to place on the estimates for 1859 the sum of £2000/-/- for improvements of the Public Gardens and Parks in this district.

10/11/1858: Vouchers supporting grant of £500 previously notified to be prepared showing how money will be expended and when money will be paid and letter from Public Works Department advising £500 will be paid on receipt of vouchers.

10/11/1858: Botanical Gardens Design Orders of Day. "That the Design with the motto "Delta" be awarded the premium of £10/-/- and persons sending in that plan Town Clerk to pay over to him that sum". "The envelop was opened and the successful competitors were Wright and Armstrong". Refs to Grant of £500/-/- - Orders of the Day. "That tenders be called for grubbing the trees from the road and footpaths in the Botanical Gardens the contractor to have all trees that require to be grubbed and the dead wood lying in the Botanical Reserve". The Town Surveyor be instructed to survey the Botanical Gardens and/or employ labour to help him. Tenders to be called for 50 tons of firewood to be removed.

24/11/1858: Letter from Town Inspector complaining that the survey of Botanical Gardens was being interrupted by the number of cattle that have been driven therein and in two days he had driven out 170 head of cattle but without effect until he left a man in charge at 5/- per day as well as cost for other hired labour which he trusts the Council will sanction. Council refused to pay the above expenses incurred without the authority of the Council which must be at his own cost and that Mr. ^{DIMANT} Dimant be directed to impound all cattle found in the Botanical Reserve.

1/12/1858: Tender to remove 50 tons firewood (Thomas Evans) at 5/9 was accepted. Legislative Committee to prepare By-Laws for the protection of the Botanical Gardens, etc.

1/12/1858: Advertisements to be inserted in papers calling for a Gardener for Botanical Gardens at salary fixed at £3/-/- per week.

8/12/1858: 15 applications received for Gardener. George Longley declared appointed with four votes, Daniel Laidlaw two votes.

32 tenders received for grubbing trees in the walks. Cornell and Cowley awarded contract at ^{5d} 1/- per tree and stump and valuing timber at 1/- per tree or stump, failing them Messrs. Proctor, Heathcote and party to have the tender at 6^d per tree ^{AND} stump.

22/12/1858: Permission granted to Mr. Martin ~~Hon.~~ secretary of Sunday School Union to occupy the Botanical Gardens on New Years Day for various schools. Report from G. Longley that a plot of ground at 2 or 2 1/2 acres should be enclosed for the purpose of a propagating ground and a suitable glass building for rearing the tenderer tribes of plants and enclosing a list of gardeners tools required. Permission granted to purchase the tools.

29/12/1858: Notice of motion Carried. That a standing committee be appointed to be called the Botanical Garden Committee to consist of Councillors W.C. Smith, R. Lewis, R. Smith, Jas Stewart (Chairman of Council) and James Oddie.

Chairman to communicate with the Government and request in consideration of the importance of this District that ^a fair proportion of the money voted in aid of Botanical Gardens may be awarded for the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

12/1/1859: First account for £2/-/- for removing 40 stumps from Botanical Gardens (Mr. Cowley) ordered for payment.

19/1/1859: Request to Chief Secretary for further grant of funds for improving Ballarat Botanical Gardens refused as there are no funds at Chief Secretary's disposal. Council to again apply to Chief Secretary and requested to inform Council why Ballarat ^{MUNICIPALITY} ~~COUNCIL~~ is to be deprived of its fair share of sum voted for Botanical Gardens.

26/1/1859: Resolved that the following gentlemen be requested to act in conjunction with this Council Messrs. Lang, Binsted, Oddie, Nicholls, Wynne and G. Smith.

2/2/1859: The following expressed their willingness to act on Botanical Gardens Committee.

Mr. Binsted, ~~Mr~~ Nicholls ~~MR~~ Lang.

First meeting to be 7.00 ~~p~~.m. Friday 4/2/59. Mr. Oddie declined but had received a letter from Mr. Bacchus offering a number of trees for planting in the township of Ballarat - referred to Garden Committee.

Mr. Elliott also invited to join the committee. First move to plant trees in Sturt Street with assistance of Town Surveyor, Gardener (Longley) and Botanical Garden Committee.

16/2/59: Letter from Chief Secretary informing Council that as the estimates for 1859 are finally closed it is not in the power of the Government to entertain the application for a grant for establishing a Botanical Garden in Ballarat.

Chief Secretary to be informed that the £500 voted for 1858 is altogether inadequate for the purpose of advancing the requested works and that a sum commensurate with the importance of the District be placed on the estimates for 1859.

9/3/1859: Chief Secretary letter stating that the session being ended cannot be entertained at present. Cowley and Cornell account £10/-/- grubbing 200 stumps at 1/- each ordered

for payment.

4/5/1859: Botanical Gardens Committee submitted first statement of expenditure and requesting authority to spend a further £50 for the ensuing winter months--(granted). Botanical Garden Committee requested to make its report on the planting of Sturt Street with trees.

Resolved "that this Council apply to the Government to have the land set apart for Botanical Gardens gazetted-["]adopted.

25/5/1859: Report of Botanical Gardens Committee re Sturt Street trees appreciated but expense to undertake all the work at present too great and asked probable cost of parts only marked 3 and 4 on the plan.

5/6/1859: Secretary of Public Works Department letter informing Council that the Board of Land and Works have authorised the appropriation of £200 for the formation of Public Gardens throughout the colony 1859 to the Municipality of Ballarat for such purpose. Received.

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22/6/1859: Second report of Botanical Gardens Committee of Management received on probable cost of planting Sturt Street with trees. Decided to plant between Doveton Street and Drummond Streets in town squares and tenders to be submitted to Botanical Garden Committee.

6/7/1859: A By-Law for regulation and Government of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens was submitted by Botanical Gardens Committee.

By-Law received and laid upon the table for a week and notice be given to the local papers.

13/7/1859: By-Law adopted for regulating Ballarat Botanical Gardens. Note: ("Ballarat Star" report of regulations-a copy was obtained and on file).

20/7/1859: Letter from Secretary of Botanical Gardens Committee calling attention of Council to the sum of £74.7.6 expended in 1859 and £428.0.6 in 1859, total £502.8.0 and stating the Committee have authorised the sum of £50/-/- being expended in seeds and plants out of the £200 voted by the Government for the current year. The remainder will be absorbed in salaries and contingencies.

14/9/1859: By-Law for regulating and governing the Ballarat Botanical Gardens has received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-in-Council and will appear in an early issue of Government Gazette.

21/9/1859: Voucher for £200/-/- Grant for 1857 from Commissioner of Public works for Ballarat Botanical Gardens signed and returned for the payment to Council.

Complaint re cuttings being given by Gardener to a member of Botanical Gardens

Committee - report of Gardener requested and notice board to be placed on entrance warning persons from plucking the flowers. A man to be placed in charge of Gardens on Sundays.

28/9/1859: Explanation by G. Longley that a few cuttings exchanged with Mr. Smith was not an infringement of by-laws and being an exchange was authorised by a previous resolution of Botanical Gardens Committee. Council accepted the explanation as satisfactory.

Man appointed to take charge of gardens on Sundays for 5/- each Sunday for his services. Council minutes researched through to 15/2/1860.

R.D. Mosman.