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## HISTORY

In the year 1858 a decision was made to convert the Ballarat Police Horse Paddock into a Botanical Garden, and at the same time construct a road on the west side of Yuilles Swamp (Lake Wendouree) to be known as Wendouree Parade.

A competition for a design for the garden was won by a Mr. Wright who received a prize of 10 guineas (\$12.50) <sup>£10-1- 820</sup>

George Longley, trained in horticulture at Lowther Castle England, was appointed to convert Wright's design into a reality at a salary of three pounds (\$6.00) per week.

Contractors were employed to clean trees from the site at 1/- (10 cents) per tree, and soil was carted in from Yuilles swamp at 9 pence (9 cents) per dray load. Longley's first abode was a tent pitched approximately on the site of the present residence.

Thomas Rooney succeeded George Longley in 1898 and in turn was succeeded by Thomas Toop, an English trained gardener who controlled the gardens for over thirty years. X  
JOHN LINGHAM

The area in front of the residence is known as the T. B. Toop corner

( ) and it is here that his ashes were cast.

The Thomas Beaumont Lawn ( ) is so named in recognition of the fifty four years of service given by Tom Beaumont who, having worked from boyhood in the gardens became Curator in 1947 until his retirement in 1978, and who won world fame for his ability to grow Tuberous Begonias.

Recent additions to the gardens are, the Azalea Garden ( ) and Laburnum Arbor (PAILED) gifts from the Ballarat Rotary Club, and the Rock and Alpine garden ( ) funded by the State Government as part of the 150th Celebrations of Victoria and the Cuthbert Bequest.

The Floral Clock ( ) was presented to the citizens of Ballarat in 1954 by the Ballarat Begonia Festival Committee and moved to its present site from Sturt Street gardens in 1980.

Time has seen many changes in the gardens such as the removal of large cypress trees to allow light to benefit other plants, various deletions, additions and alterations but these have only added to the beauty of the gardens.



## THE STATUARY.

Thomas Stoddart Statues ( ) On 24th May 1884 Queen Victoria's birthday the 12 statues donated by Mr. Stoddart to the City, were unveiled in the Botanic Gardens.

The statues were executed from Carrara Marble by four Italians - Bertozzi, Giovanni Udny, G. Marchetti and B. Raggi, and known as Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter, Hercules, Mercury, Bacchante, Flora Farnese, Flora, Leda, Hebe, Pomona were "scattered" strategically around the gardens forming the basis of the City's notable collection of sculpture.

## THE STATUARY PAVILION ( )

The sculptures housed in the pavilion were the gift of James Russell Thomson - a former miner. They were unveiled on 3rd August 1888. There are five statues. The central piece is the impressive "Flight from Pompeii" designed by Benzoni and sculptured by Charles Francis Summers a Victorian who also executed the four marble relief panels at the base.

The other four statues, Sussanah, Ruth, Rebecca and Modesty are gentle works meticulously executed, also by Francis Summers.

## SIR WILLIAM WALLACE. ( )

This statue was also acquired through the bequest of James Russell Thomson. It was chosen as a tribute to Mr. Thomson's Scottish nationality. The statue was executed by Percival Ball.

THE GATES ( ) AND MARBLE LIONS ( ) WERE PRESENTED to the City on 17th August 1894 by the Honorable David Ham M.L.C who was prominent in affairs of the City.

The emblem on the gates is a copy of the former seal of the City of Ballarat.

## PRIME MINISTERS AVENUE ( ).

Colonel R. A. Crouch provided the funds for the first 12 busts and some of these were unveiled by the Governor Sir Winston Duggan on March 2nd 1940. Colonel Crouch hoped that the Commonwealth Government would provide for future busts as each Prime Minister completed his term of office.

However it has been the City Council which has commissioned successive busts from various Australian sculptures.

The avenue features all the Prime Ministers from Edward Barton 1901.



## REFLECTION BOWL (        ).

This bowl on a granite base in a reflecting pool was presented to the City on 22nd October 1938 to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the founding in Ballarat of the Protestant Alliance Friendly Society of Australasia.

## NOTABLE AREAS

The fernery (        ) at the north end of the gardens is the third such structure, the original being much higher, ornate and extending to the rear of the gardens.

Adam Lindsay Gordons cottage (        ) was transferred to the gardens in <sup>1934</sup>~~1940~~ having served as a harness room at Craigs Hotel after Gordons occupancy.

The Betty Johnson Rose Garden (        ) was created in memory of Sister Betty Johnson who spent many years working for the children of Ballarat.

Mrs. Tilly Thompson (        ) along with fellow workers from the Lucas Hosiery and Lingerie factory raised funds to provide trees for the Avenue of Honour which covers a distance of some 22km from the Arch of Victoria along the Western Highway. <sup>+ ARCH OF VICTORY</sup>

A small rose garden (        ) is in honour of Lady Baden Powell a tireless worker for the Girl Guides movement. The Weeping Birch in this garden is in honour of Mr. T. B. Toop a former gardens Curator.

The Wishing Well (        ) was provided by the Ballarat Rotary Club and all money collected is distributed to charity.



## TREES

The gardens are noted for the many specimens of mature trees ranging in age to over 120 years, some forty six of which have been recorded on the National Trust Register of significant trees.

Of those so listed, a specimen of "Californian Redwood" (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and the avenue of 28 "Big Trees" *Sequoiadendron giganteum* ( ) have been classified, this avenue was planted from 1863-1874.

On either side of the Statue Pavilion is a pair of fine Swamp Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) ( ) native to Mexico, these produce a beautiful Autumn display.

Along the southside of the Fernery ( ) are three (3) Maidenhair Trees (*Ginkgo biloba*) ( ) known only in Fossil form until discovered growing in Chinese Temple Gardens and reaching the west in the 18th century.

The "Druids Oak" *Quercus robur* ( ) to the rear of Gordon Cottage ( ) was planted in 1870.

The "Dawn Redwood" (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) ( ) is another tree known only in fossil form until found in Central China in 1941.

The Bunya Bunya Pines (*Araucaria bidwillii*) ( ) from Queensland produce large cones containing eadible nuts.

The avenue of flowering chestnuts (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) ( ) present as beautiful display in Spring but the fruit is not eadible.

Wredts Elm (*Ulmus carpinifolia* 'Wredei') ( ) is somewhat rare, its unusual leaf form along with a golden colour makes a very attractive tree.

The "Golden Honey Locust" ( ) (*Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Sunburst') is a most attractive small tree suitable for home gardens.

Churchill Oak ( ) (*Quercus robur*) has its origin from a tree growing at Chartwell, Sir Winston Churchill's country residence.

The 'Tupelo' ( ) or *Nyssa Sylvatica* is not a common tree but one which likes moisture and produces a brilliant display in Autumn.

Jerusalem Pine ( ) (*Pinus halepensis*) is from the Mediterranean region and this specimen was raised from seed brought back from the Lone Pine at Gallipoli in 1965.