

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

? date from Bradbury re. St Peter's Sunday School.

3/4/1876 From H (?) O'Loughlin To the Gardens Committee

I beg to ask permission to erect a small marquee for the Sale of tea or Coffee on the excursion next Monday at the Gardens.

10/4/1876 From Bradbury for Timber workers picnic.

14/4/1876 From Geo. Smith 44 Armstrong St. Ballarat.

To ?

My dear Sir

Now the New Bye-Laws is in force steps should certainly be taken to protect our lessees using the Gardens (Mrs O' Loughlin) Could you direct Mr Ford to ask for a policeman or two for Monday and put the law in Force. It really is *to* bad the way O'Loughlin is being treated by the Council after giving us a good for the use of the Gardens.

Yrs faithfully Geo Smith

15/4/1876 From Mrs O'Loughlin, Bridge St. To Mr Ford.

Dear Sir. If I don't get protection on next Monday from the Council in regard to ? fruit pastry etc in the gardens I will make for the Council at present of the remainder of my lease yesterday an police and Mr Longley could do nothing with them Yrs truly Mrs O'Loughlin

(**** Presumably Mrs O'Loughlin had a lease to sell fruit and pastries at the gardens but non-registered individuals were setting up in competition. jg)

24 / 4/ 1876 From J.Stark Licensed Surveyor 27 Talbot St. Ballarat.

To the Mayor and Councillors, City of Ballarat.

Gentlemen. I have the honor herewith (by the advice of His Worship the Mayor) to lay before you a Plan, c/o Lake Wendouree and the Botanical Gardens for sale at the retail price of 15 pounds. A survey of this nature if directly ordered by you, would entail an expenditure of three times the price I have charged as the survey above could not be completed under 3 weeks and the calculations and plans would take three weeks more time besides other contingencies.

The principal points on which I would recommend this plan are 1st the traverse lines which fix accurately the Boundary fence around the lake, *their* being no plan but this one, showing those fences as they now exist. 2nd The areas of the Lake and its margins given separately also the area of the Lake and Gardens Reserve. 3rd As a public record of good taste and energy displayed by the City Council of Ballarat in forming such beautiful gardens and recreation grounds (most of which were formerly a mere waste) for the community at large. I have --etc. John Stark

5/6/1876 To The Mayor

From Ballarat Industrial School

The following extract in the reply of the Inspector of the I and R School to his worship the Mayor re. services of boys to weed in the Botanical Gardens.

" If Mr Mcfarlain can arrange to let boys go he is at liberty to do so. He must send them and bring them back at stated times to and from an appointed place. The employees of the Council must keep the boys under supervision during their employment. They will be charged at the rate of 6d per day per boy. Signed Geo O Duncan Inspector of J V B S"

I have the honor to forward the above extract from the Inspector of Trade Schools for your consideration. I have etc.... P. Macfarlane Supt.

June 1876. Letter from Mark Biddle to the Mayor and Council of the City of Ballarat.

Gentlemen, I have received notice from Mr Longley on Monday last to the effect that my services will not be require in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens after a fortnight from that date. Will you be so kind

enough to take my long service under the council into consideration. I have been employed by that body about four years. Your obedient servant Mark Biddle

26/6/1876 To the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Ballarat.

From M O'Loughlin

Gentlemen, I beg to ask permission to transfer to Mr George Gate of Bridge St. the Right to sell fruit etc in the Botanical Gardens for the remainder of my lease as I am leaving Ballarat, I am gentlemen, Yr obedient servant M O'Loughlin, 11 Dana St. East.

END OF BOX 34

Feb 1877 Requests for pic nics from Ballarat Sunday Schools

Hebrew school

Albion Foundry

Weslyan Sabbath School

St Johns Church of England School

BOX 37

July 1878 Letter from R. Baker offering an 18 month old Wallaby.

5/7/1878 From William Guilfoyle, Melbourne Botanical Gardens

To Geo Perry Town Clerk.

My dear Sir. Extra pressure of work necessitated a delay re. your plants. I will have them selected, packed and transmitted during next week, say not later than Friday next.

August 1878. From Geo Longley to Mr Perry.

Dear Sir. I did state to you that I had given 100 trees and that was to Mr Stephenson, State Forester and I had from him in return over 100 pieces and *abiesses ? jg* without any order from any one. This had been an understanding from the first rules established belonging to this place - to make exchanges with any person. I would have been down had I been able.

5/8/1878 From Mcdonald and Hughes, Marble and Monumental Works, Creswick Road, Ballarat.(opposite the Cemetery)Cnr Bourke and Queen St, Melbourne

To Mr Perry City Clerk

Dear Sir Will you be kind enough to send my inscription for the Marble Tablet to be fixed in the Explorers Monument, Sturt St. as we have been asked how it is not done. Cr Morrison was asking me on Saturday about it. I remain etc McDonald and Hughes.

22/8/1878 To George Perry Town Clerk City of Ballarat

From Zoological Gardens, Calcutta.

I have the honour to inform you that your letter No 379 dated 8th ultimo addressed to the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality has been forwarded by him to me.

I submitted your letter to the Committee of Management of the Calcutta Zoological Gardens and I am to say that the Committee will be very glad to assist the proposed Zoological Gardens of Ballarat by forwarding Indian mammals in exchange for Australian species of mammals and birds.

The Committee also decided to send at once 2 Camels, 2 Sambin Deer, 2 spotted deer and two hag (?) deer and I was instructed to write to the Calcutta agent of the Peninsular and Orient Steam Company to inform him that we wished to forward these animals to your gardens at the earliest opportunity. I have done this but have not yet received a reply.

I am, Sir etc. John Audefin

(Letters from Zoological Society of Madras 18/9/1878 re. exchanging animals - P & O refused to transport them !!! PHOTOGRAPHED by Lorraine)

18/9/1878 Letter from John Hickman re. entry in Courier 13/9/78 re. man approaching two little girls to decoy them into the Maze.

27/9/1878 Letter from Secretary of Lands.

In acknowledgement of your letter of 2nd instant I beg to state that the Board of Land and Works has placed the Public Gardens at Yuilles Swamp near Ballarat (known as the Botanical Gardens) under the control of your Council as a Committee of Management thereof (vide Government Gazette of the 13th idem)

I return herewith the draft Regulations for management of the Gardens attended to above, to which, as amended, there appears to be no objection and have to request that two (2) fair copies thereof may be forwarded for submission to the Board of Land and Works

24/10/1878 To Lake Gardens Committee, Ballarat.

With a view to ensure success in breeding blackbirds and thrushes at Botanical Gardens I would suggest that one half of those in confinement should be immediately liberated. Yrs faithfully, H.D.Cane

28/10/78 To the Mayor and Councillors

Gentlemen . I take the liberty of forwarding an Iguana for the Mayor and Councillors acceptance for the Gardens. I remain etc. Robert Clarke

13/11/1878 From Fred Guyatt, Berringa, offering a large Eagle Hawk with 7 ft wingspan and asking what price the City will pay (some hope ! jg)

To The Mayor and Councillors from John Johnston requesting permission for a Merry Go Round on Christmas Day.

1/11/1878 Letter from Office of Lands and Survey re. regulations framed by Council re Management of Ballarat Botanical Gardens saying that it proposed to insert " all dogs will be liable to be destroyed."

26/11/78

from Office of Lands and Survey.

Sir. Referring to your letter of the 8th instant I beg to intimate that the regulation formed by your Council for the care, protection and management of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens have been made by the Board of Lands and Works in pursuance of Section 108 of the Land Act 1869.

The regulations (duplicate of which is enclosed) have been published in the Government Gazette of the 22nd instant(22/11/1878) should now be posted in some prominent place in the Reserve (vide Section 108)

I ametc. Secretary for Lands.

28/11/1878 From Hon. Sec Zoological and Acclimatization Society's Office. 69 Temple Court, Melbourne
To George Perry

Dear Sir We do not require the fox you are good enough to offer in exchange having one already in the Garden. We have only one female swan which cannot possibly be spared - had the Society a spare one you should have had it with pleasure. I think Sir Samuel Wilson has some cygnets this year at Ercildoune - perhaps he may be able to help you in the matter. Yrs etc. Albert Le Soef.

30/11/1878 From Von Mueller re. John King's death.

In reply to your letter, I beg to inform you that Mr John King, the companion of Burke and Wills in their expedition, died 15th January 1872 at Ottavia St, St Kilda. Excuse the delay of several days in my reply, but I was only recovering from a severe illness when your letter arrived, and did myself not recalling the precise day of the death of the faithful and brave man. I obtained, however, the exact date and place of his death from the records of the Magistrate General's Department through Mr R. Hayter. Yrs etc Von Muller.

19/12/1878 Presbyterian Sabbath school re picnic in Gardens.

12/12/1878 From Percy Morehouse, Sec. Ballarat City Fire Brigade.
To Gearge Perry

Sir I am instructed to notify you that the application of the City Council for "Old Hose" has been complied with and the hose forwarded to Botanical Gardens

1879 distribution of parks and land votes.

List of "Pro Rata Distribution Parks and Gardens Vote 1878 - 1879

Lists amount of claim of Municipalities including Ballarat, Creswick Buninyong, Daylesford etc. (All reduced by 15% !! jg)

25/2/1879

Letter from Police Inspector re. hawking of fruit and other wares in the Reserve advising that this will be stopped.

30/6/1879

Letter from Police Inspector James Babington acknowledging reward of 2 pounds to Constable Hickey for obtaining conviction of a lad for throwing stones at a native bear in the Botanic Gardens.

21/3/1883 From James Orr The union Bank of Australia Ltd.

Dear Sir. I am getting an alligator from Port Darwin which I intend as an addition to your zoological collection. It should reach here in a few days and I shall be glad to know whether you will accept the contribution.

See Monograph "Mr Orr's Alligator" jg

23/3/1883 To A Le Soef 69 Temple .. Melbourne

Dear Sir, By the O.S. "Bowen" is now near arrived this a.m. an alligator from Port Darwin intended for our Gardens. But as we have no fit ... of providing for such an arrival I am directed to offer it to your Society in the hope that, if ... kindly have some exchange ... in your time Yrs etc. *probably to arrive in a container*

27/3/1883 From Albert Le Souef. Director. 69 Temple Court, Melbourne

Dera Sir. I went to visit the Bowen directly I got your letter but found that the crocodile had already been taken ashore. I then went to the Railway Station to ascertain if it had left for Ballarat but could find nothing about it. I went again to the afternoon train with like results. I think it therefore better to let you know.

Notation... Mr Orr would suggest a short advertisement in the "missing" column of the Argus - returned name of some Melbourne gentleman to be inserted - if the Captain, stewards or agents give no information.

28/3/1883 To Mr Le Soef. Director Royal Park

From Geo Perry Dear Sir I have advised (*advertised*) in Argus and Age for the passenger who had charge of the alligator to inform you where it is placed.

29/3/1883 From James Orr. Union Bank of Australia To Town Clerk

Dear Sir Mr Alfred Wooley of Melbourne will inform your correspondent where the alligator may be found.

30/3/1883 from A. Le Soef, Royal Park Director

To Mr Perry Dear Sir . I have applied to the office of A Morley and Co and heard that the crocodile is somewhere in Landridge.. I am however, too busy to go hunting about for it. I have written to a bird dealer in Landridge with whom I sometimes deal and asked him to try and find out where it is, if he cannot, I must give it up.

birds at Dunedin but three died on the voyage. Broadbent Bros.

13/1/1887 Docket. 1 Case Singing Birds ex Waihora

18/1/1887 To George Longley Curator Botanic Gardens Ballarat.

From Gibbs, Bright and Co.

Dear Sir. Enclosed herewith we beg to have your note of charges on 3 pcks plants to arrive on " Duke of Argyll" Shipped by Messrs Watson and Scull, London. Kindly remit us amount of charges and entrust one of the carriers to call on us B/L for delivery Yrs faithfully, Gibbs Bright and Co. 36 Flinders Lane West, Melbourne.

9/2/1887 To Curator of Botanical Gardens, Ballarat

From Gibbs, Bright and Co.

Dear Sir. We beg to remind you that you have not replied to our letter of 18th ult. with reference to 3 cases of plants from Messrs Watson and Seull and " Duke of Argyll " the charge on which comes to 11 pounds six shillings and eightpence. The goods are lying on the shelf and may be moved to Queen's Warehouse where heavy expenses will occur unless the goods are removed at once Yrs faithfully ...

11/2 1887 To Mr Thompson, Mayor Ballarat

From V. Richards, General Merchant, Hall of Commerce, Clunes.

Requesting use of Rotunda and Botanical Gardens for pic-nic 24/2/87

12/2/1887 To Town Clerk From Gibbs Bright and Co.

Dear Sir. We are much surprised to receive your letter yesterday evidently blaming us for neglect in not forwarding plants ex " Duke of Argyll " In our letter from Messrs Watson Sewell we are instructed to forward the goods to Mr Geo Longley, Curator of the Botanic Gardens, Ballarat, your name not being mentioned. We wrote to Mr Longley a day before the arrival of the plants and did not receive any reply whatsoever but thinking that the letter had miscarried, wrote again. Will you kindly ask Mr Longley whether he received our letter of 18th Jan and advise us, as if he did not we shall have to trace it with the P.O. offices. On receipt of your first letter we thought you would arrange with one of the carriers to take delivery of the goods here and deliver them at the Gardens which would have saved expense and time. If we had been instructed to write to you instead of Mr. Longley we should have done so. We have acted on your telegram of yesterday, the goods were sent tot the Railway this morning for delivery at the Ballarat Station. We enclose amended charges amount 12 pounds nineteen shillings and eightpence, cheque for which please remit by return. Yrs faithfully

(*Goods were sent from London. What a balls up, George! jg*)

18/2/1887 Lord and Lady Huntley visited the Gardens.

(*Rider and Mercer, Commercial Club, Lydiard St Nth Lithographers and General Printers.*)

25/2 1887 Letter from the Bishop of Ballarat for use of City hall for Diocesan Assembly 19/20/21 and 22nd April 1888 (*which Claxton attended. See Claxton Document. jg*)

7/3/87 From William Cates (?) Raglan St. Alfredton

To Council - His Worship the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Ballarat.

Gentlemen. Having been as I consider, unfairly suspended by Mr Longley on Saturday last by the instigation of Mr Williams, and as the matter will, I presume, be referred to the Lake and Gardens Committee, as an old employee of the Council for 16 years I trust that I may be heard before the Committee that I may give my explanation as to the cause of the matter. I remain etc..

10/3/1887 *The above was followed by a long letter of explanation from William Cates presumably as he had been asked to put his case in writing. Essentially it appears that there was an altercation between Williams*

and Cates during the digging of trenches in the rain during which Cates had been swearing and stirring up trouble with the other men. Longley then intervened and suspended Cates for 2 weeks.

21/3/87 Ballarat

Dear Mr Perry. Please to arrange with the Mayor to receive a deputation of three this afternoon. We want to announce to the Council our intention with respect to the bequest of J Russell Thompson for Statuary at the Gardens. Yrs. Truly, J Noble Wilson

1/4/1887 From Charles Bills. Dunedin
To Town Clerk Ballarat

Dear Sir. Mr Oddie wished me to write to you and enclose account of birds which i hope will reach you all right. Mr Bills guarantees the no. paid for so you will please let me know how many you receive and i will get the no., if any, sent to you afterwards, I will be pleased to render you any assistance in this direction I am yours truly F.L Clinton, Coal Merchant, Dunedin. (*Addendum*) in haste, the Birds were forwarded yesterday.

Order from James Oddie March 27 1887

2 dozen STARLINGS)
2 dozen SKYLARKS) 5 Pounds complete.
2 Cages complete)

Delivered to Ballarat City Corporation, Melbourne.
(see "Ballard Birds" separate item. jg)

Undated ? May 1887 From R. Beeson
To Mayor and Councillors.

Gentlemen. I beg to bring to your attention to what appears to me the unseemly discharge of George Gray from his employment at the Botanical Gardens. He, having been employed by Mr Longley as a man who quite understood the Department to which he was assigned. He was dismissed during Mr. Longley's absence and feels very much aggrieved at this sudden action especially as he had left a situation for this engagement. May this please find a consideration at the hands of your honourable body. I remain etc, R. Beeson Market Square.

17/5/1887 *Request to the Mayor from Archdeacon Allanby for English and other trees from the Botanical Gardens for planting in Church grounds in Musk (20) and Warenheip (60)*

20/5/1887 *Letter of thanks from Archdeacon Allenby for trees send to the Clergy Rest in Portland.*

23/5/1887/ May 23rd 5647 *Letter from T.H. Thompson, Hebrew Congregation, Synagogue Chambers - requesting flowers and green stuff from the Gardens..*

26/5/1887 From William Little (Councillor)

To the Council :- That the Council authorise a moderate expenditure to renovate the Burke and Wills Monument, also to protect it by palisade of barbs or otherwise make it more presentable before Jubilee Day

10/6/1887 *Letter from Archdeacon Aleenby who has not yet received the trees he asked for for Warrenheip and Musk.. (He'd been kept waiting 3 weeks- all he asked for was 80 in all !! jg)*

June 1887. From Samuel E. Moore

To H. Thompson Esq. Mayor

Dear Sir. Will you be so kind as to allow me to go to the Gardens today with my Galvanic Machine - you did promise me to extend the times. There is a large picnic there today from Geelong and Clunes.

*** (*Galvani - Italian Physiologist 1737 - 1798. In 1766 he initiated the study of electro physiology*)