



Lois and Lindsay Morey inspect the 100-year-old Botanic Garden gates donated by former mayor Edward Morey which could get a face-lift. — Picture: ALAN MARINI

100-year-old garden gates may regain former glory

By ANDREW McBRIDE

The 100-year-old wrought iron gates at the entrance to the Botanic Gardens may be restored to their original splendor.

The proposed restoration has delighted Lindsay Morey, the great grandson of former Ballarat Mayor Edward Morey, who donated the gates.

Lindsay and his wife Lois inspected the gates yesterday while on holidays from Queensland.

"It (the gates) means quite a lot. The family has a reunion here often," Mr Morey said.

Edward Morey arrived in Australia in 1853 from England and began mining for gold in Ballarat.

He became a Ballarat City councillor in 1888 and a member of the Legislative Council in 1889.

Edward Morey presented the locally made gates to the city in 1894 on the same day Ballarat MLC David Ham donated a pair of marble lions for the Botanic Gardens.

At the time Edward Morey said in a letter: "It gives me great pleasure to give you as representing the citizens of Ballarat, the wrought iron

gates . . . free of cost. As the donor, I feel proud that these gentlemen, natives of our city have produced such a work of art."

City of Ballarat director of gardens and parks Philip Clingin said it was being investigated whether the gates could be restored.

He said a heritage adviser had prepared a report on the original colour scheme of the gates.

The restoration would cost about \$1500, Mr Clingin said.

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MOREY GATES AND PERGOLA.

- Gift of Edward MOREY.
- "Presentation" on August 17th 1894 together with his friend HAM'S Lions.
- Designed by J.C.Snith of the Firm of Molloy and Smith (Architects) ARVI, Lydiard St Ballarat.
- Construction by Mr C. Cairns of Peel St. Ballarat.
- Gates bear the Emblem of Ballarat West. (Amalgamation with Ballarat East 1922)
- Emblem made by Fred Mitchell. ? Whites Eagle Foundry. (*Colin Holmes*)
- South Pedestal badly damaged by pathway work 2010 and replaced.
- PERGOLA designed by GEORGE WILLIAM CLEGG, Architect. Of Clegg and Morrow.1934
- Original plan held by Friends in GLB.(*John Vernon*)
- Damaged by falling branch of Oak Tree (? 1955.) (*Jenny Vernon*)

EDWARD MOREY

- Born 27/3/1832 Frindsbury, Kent England. Parents "Unknown" (*Death Certificate*)
- 1835 - Aged 13 Apprenticed in Merchant Navy.
- 1852 aged 20 signed on for Hobart on "Columbus" then "Sir Walter Scott" to Adelaide
- Supervising stevedore then captained a Brig on the river Yarra .
- 1853 > Ballarat with a party of miners and very successful
- Witnessed Eureka, tended wounded diggers. Traded tools and gear and extensive mining interests.
- 1855 Married Mary Ann Fricket of Manchester.6 daughters and 9 sons !
- 1861 > Otago for gold mining then back to Ballarat.
- 1870s and 80s Extensive property owner, many mining companies, machinery merchant importing engines from England and Germany.
- Director Phoenix foundry, Patron of Ballarat Fine Art gallery, Committeeman of School of Mines and Old Colonists Association.
- 1888 elected to Ballarat City Council, Mayor in 1894.
- 1894 MLC for Wellington, unsuccessful in 1904 and 1907.
- 1894 Presented Morey Gates to the Botanical gardens. (His friend Ham donated the 2 Lions.)
- He was illiterate. (His daughter dealt with all his correspondence.)
- Cricketer and footballer.
- Founding member of Ballarat Yacht Club 1877 and Commodore 1881 – 91.
- Died 4/10/1907. Cause of death – Cerebral Embolus. (7 days previously.) Dr Scott.Aged 75