



Balwyn Historical Society Newsletter

July 2014

Meetings

Thursday 10 July

Speaker: Ken James

Topic: William Swan Urquhart – Surveyor

William Swan Urquhart was a surveyor for the Victorian Government (1843-64). He laid out many settlements on the central goldfields, including Ballarat, Castlemaine, Malmsbury and Sunbury.

Thursday 14 August – 8pm

Speaker: David Jellie

Topic: The History of VicRoads

Venue: Balwyn Library, 336 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn

Thursday 14 September – 8pm

Speaker: Robin Grow

Topic: Dairies of Boroondara

Mr. Robin Grow is the President of the Art Deco and Moderne Society.

Venue: Balwyn Library, 336 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn

Please note our new email address which is below.

Email: balwynhistory@gmail.com website: www.vicnet.net.au/~balwynhs

Recent Speaker – Bernadette Carroll

Bernadette began her most interesting and informative talk by discussing the role of heritage gardens and their importance in reflecting social history through horticultural practice. They also provide the community with a sense of place as well as preserving significant species of plants and trees.

With a wonderful set of photographs, Bernadette showed us the many and varied heritage gardens in Boroondara. Amongst the gardens displayed were the Alexandra Gardens in Kew (1908), the Canterbury Gardens (1896), the Read Gardens (1903) and the Bowen Gardens (1923) of Camberwell, the Central Gardens (1898) of Hawthorn, the Surrey Gardens (early 1900s) and the Maranoa Gardens of Balwyn (c1901). The oldest of Boroondara's heritage gardens is St

James Park, Hawthorn which dates back to 1861. Many of these gardens also have monuments erected after the World War 1.

Bernadette concluded her talk by discussing the risks posed to these gardens by climate change and the changing seasons. The challenges faced include managing with less water, loss of canopy trees, an increase in pests and diseases and reduced bio-diversity.

Despite these risks, Bernadette was optimistic about the long term sustainability of the gardens as modern techniques are already being introduced. Soil structure is being improved and changes are being made by careful replanting and choice of plants.

BHS Membership 2011-2012 - Reminder

Membership fees were due on July 1. The fee will remain the same for the 2011-2012 financial year.

\$25 - single membership

\$35 - joint membership i.e. 2 adults at the same address.

A renewal form accompanies this newsletter.

You may renew your membership at the next meeting. Payment may be made by cash or cheque (payable to *Balwyn Historical Society*). It would be helpful if you could place your payment in an envelope marked with your name(s). Otherwise please send the completed renewal form together with a cheque to **The Treasurer, BHS, 45 Talbot Ave, Balwyn 3103.**

For membership enquires contact Marilyn Poole 9857-7565

Balwyn Historical Society - Contact details

Balwyn Historical Society a program of the Balwyn Evergreen Centre.

Phone – 9836 9681

President	Martin Barrett	
Secretary	Pat O'Dwyer	9817 3758
Treasurer/ Membership	Marilyn Poole	9857 7565
Speakers/ Publicity	Robin Kelly	9836 6589
Archivist	Pam Herrington	

Newsletter	Barbara Russell	
	Pat O'Dwyer	9817 3758
Webmaster	Neil Swansson	

Non-Committee Assistants
Newsletter mailout Lynette Woolley, Deidre Woolley
Resources Heather Alford

Some of Balwyn's Significant Trees

Balwyn has a number of significant trees in its parks and gardens. A full list can be found in “*City of Boroondara – Significant Tree Study*”, John Patrick Pty. Ltd., Richmond, 2003. Among these trees are the following.

Beckett Park. This tree once gave its name to the area “One Tree Hill”.



Courtesy: Barrie Dempster



John August Reserve –River Red Gum
(*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*.) 100+ years old



Beckett Park
The same tree as it is today

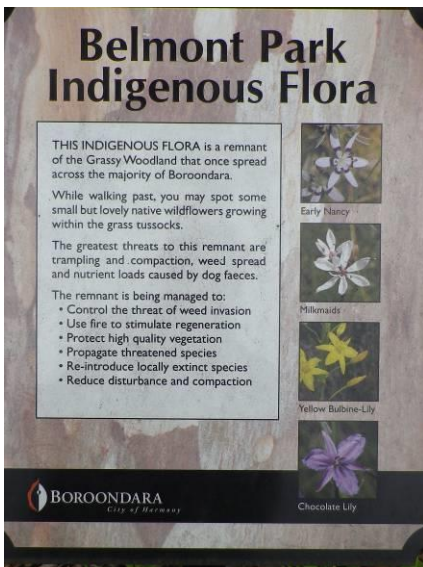


John August Reserve – Yellow Box



Belmont Park

When Mrs. Mary Reid gave this land to the then City of Camberwell she requested that the existing indigenous vegetation remain. Many of the original trees still exist and indigenous flora can still be seen in the park.



Maranoa Gardens

Queensland Kauri (*Agathis robusta*) 100 years+ old-



Deepdene Park

River Red Gum 100+ years ols



Beckett Park



Iramoo Street

One of the avenue of Apple Myrtles (*Angophora costata*) that line this street.