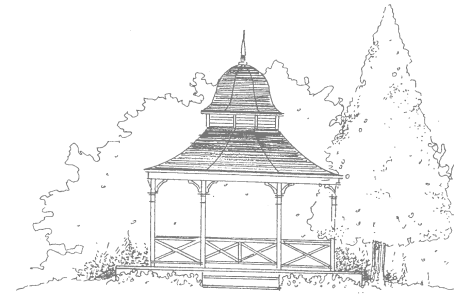


# Garden Club

NEWS



I recently visited Wollongong Botanic Garden with a group from the National Trust. A guided tour of the garden was led by a member of the Friends of Wollongong Botanic Garden who explained the history of the site, its formation into the Garden, and took the group on a walk to see the collection, the glass houses, propagation houses and holding area.

The gardens incorporate the site of the home and property of the Hoskins family. Mr Sidney Hoskins was a founding director of Australian Iron & Steel Pty. Ltd., and his home 'Gleniffer Brae' is now part of the Garden. The gardens of 'Gleniffer Brae' were designed by well-known Landscape Designer Paul Sorensen. Some Cupressus macrocarpa 'Aurea' and a Hoop Pine Araucaria Cunninghamiana remain as a reminder of the Sorensen planting. A seed of the Lone Pine of Gallipoli fame was planted on 30th August 1966 as a memorial to Australian forces.

The formation of the Botanic Garden led to a request from Wollongong City Council to Wollongong Technical College to commence horticultural courses at the College. The Garden was opened on 26th September 1970.

An interesting collection of dry and desert area plants included some specimens of Beaucarnia recurvata (syn. Nolina recurvata) from Mexico. This is the

Pony Tail plant. The trunk can grow to 10m high with pendulous leaves to 2m long arising from the centre of the trunk. Hence its common name. The base of the trunk is swollen and this organ can store a year's supply of water. Many books and magazines add Palm to the common name, however this plant is not a palm but a member of the Liliaceae Family. Many members of this family are drought tolerant and have been in the 'limelight' recently due to this feature; plants such as Yucca, Aloe, Dracaena and some Cordylines. The Liliaceae family also includes well known bulbs, Hyacinths, Lilium and Tulip. The Beaucarnia was in flower, the first time I have seen this, an upright spike of pink flowers arising from the centre of the stem. This plant is also popular as a potted plant and can be kept in a container for many years. If the swollen base is damaged new shoots arise, however one then loses the 'pony tail' look.

A visit to Wollongong Botanic Garden is a very pleasant experience. Apart from the dry area plants mentioned above there is a Woodland Garden, a walled Rose Garden, Sir Joseph Banks Plant Houses and many other areas of interest. The Berry Camellia & Spring Flower Show will be held on Saturday 7th August in the School of Arts and two local camellia gardens will be opened on Saturday 7th

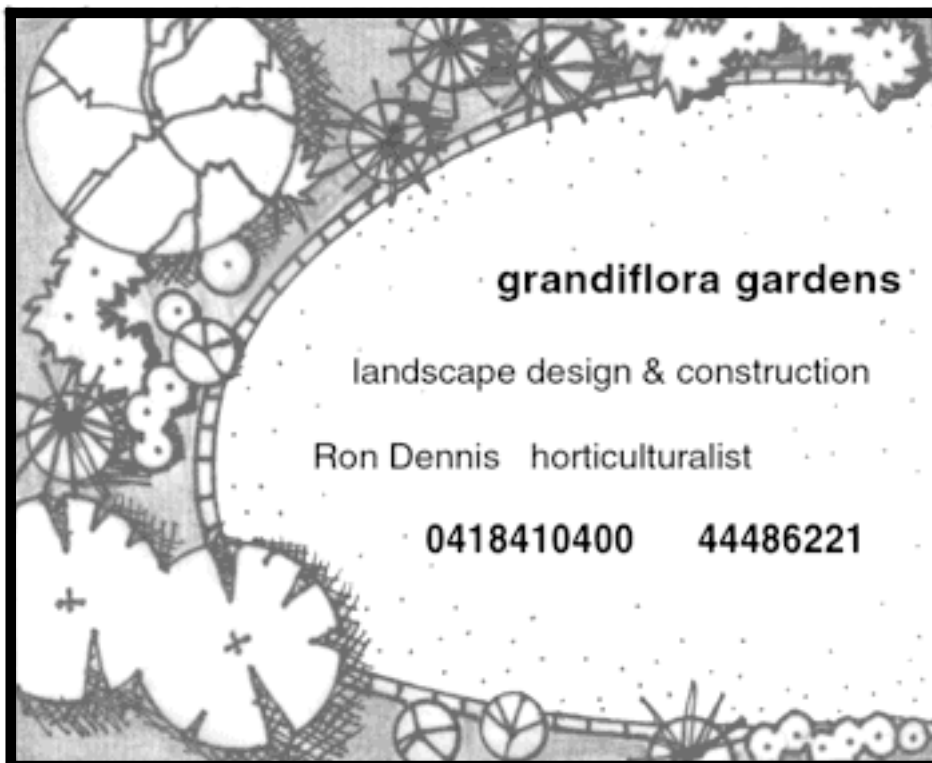
and Sunday 8th August. Those wishing to enter in the Show competition can obtain information from Barbara Bloom 44643803 or visit the Garden Club's web site [www.berrygardens.org.au](http://www.berrygardens.org.au).

Hazel King

## David Berry Hospital Auxiliary

A Christmas in July Luncheon - the auxiliary's big fund raiser of the year - will be held at **Berry Bowling Club** at **10.30am on Thursday 15th July**. There will be a trading table, a raffle and best of all, an exclusive Fashion Parade with stunning models and eye catching styles. Its all too good to miss, so come along with a friend and dispel those mid-winter blues.

Cost is \$18 per person and booking is essential so contact **Marilyn** on **44 485 703** and join in the fun. Major refurbishments are planned for the hospital in the near future and help from the auxiliary is a vital part of this community asset.



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