

STAY TUNED

Newsletter for Beleura Volunteers – *Edition 57*

MAY – AUGUST 2019

From Anthony

I suspect some of you are aware that we helped establish the Kristian Frederickson Scholarship Fund. Frederickson was an Australian Stage and Theatre designer of very considerable talent. We had a talk from Anna French and Hugh Colman who spoke about stage, costume design and Frederickson last year. Anna has been behind the publication of a book about him and asked if we could fund digital photography. We did, and Anna arranged for Hugh Colman to give us a superb Frederickson Design for a production of *The Hunchback*. By lucky chance we have an original program.

I was contacted by Roz Mackay, Patsy Kirks daughter, and Patsy is the last surviving of the third generation. She was the eldest daughter of Sir George's eldest son, George Cassius, and thus inherited. She has arranged to give Beleura many pieces of Beleura furniture and will enable us to acquire many of the pictures which Sir George collected. The collection grows.

When next you visit you will be aware that the new building has finally started and we expect completion in about a year.

And you should walk about the garden. You will be aware that the inner cypress hedge has gone and the low wall behind has been rebuilt by a very talented stone mason, Timothy Bos who has also created a plinth for the Gatehouse lion. Does this part of the garden need a new name?

The garden book is in its last edit stage and photographs are being selected.

Anthony Knight OAM

Director and Trustee

From Administration

Well I'll be honest after all the interesting things my colleagues have reported on there is not a lot left for me to say. Of course we are keeping busy as the coming of Spring is generating much interest in tours as people long to see the garden alive with colour. The Aloes along the

drive have given a beautiful display of orange and soon we will see the Wisteria and the Rugosa and Melba roses follow. Hurrah!

With the building works now in full swing we will put our focus on tours and on our Bon bons production which will premiere on November 29th followed by extra performances on the 30th, December 6th and a matinee on the 7th. We are not quite ready to take bookings yet but feel free to reserve tickets with the office. Programming will be tricky over the coming months with the build but we hope to have the next programme ready for you all well before the end of October.

Look forward to seeing more faces as the weather warms up and you all return from the North!

Monique Bladen

Administration

From Archives

provenance

/ˈprɒv(ə)nəns/ noun: the place of origin or earliest known history of something. A record of ownership of a work of art or an antique, used as a guide to authenticity or quality.

Basic to our work in Archives is recording the provenance of multifarious things in the Beleura collection. There are now close to 20,000 actual things.

In any public art gallery or museum a small team of employees would be tasked with the care of such a collection and its records. But I am privileged to work with a team of 16 volunteers, several of whom have been here for as many years. I rely on their experience and skills to keep our records up-to-date in paper form, and of course digitally.

A current Archives project has involved closing the Small Flat to visitors, which continues to impact upon house tours. The reason for this is provenance: existing items of furniture and home wares are earmarked for replacement by others of authentic Tallis family ownership.

But prior to the refurbishment of the Small Flat, space is needed to gather and clean a considerable stock of things relocated from Beleura's own Storeroom. Think old fax machines, carpet samples, hand-made toys, multiple china sets and so on. Not open for public viewing in the past, the Storeroom (off the Courtyard) soon will be. Its freshly-painted shelves will showcase bric-a-brac and miscellaneous things that became 'surplus to requirement' over the Tallis years, offering an added visitor treat, and a sticky-beak's delight! Thus the cleaning and recording of hundreds of smaller and larger things is in progress. My gratitude goes to Archives

volunteers Bronwyn and Warren Mills and Barbara Rollinson for their willingness to tackle the hard yakka involved.

Thanks also to House Guides for their patience while we continue this work.

Ingrid Hoffmann

Curator

From Hospitality

A chilly but warm greeting to you all.

After a slow July, it has been good to get busy again with guests during August.

Finally I am catching up with my Hospitality volunteers after a dry spell of familiar faces.

Here at Beleura we are endeavouring to be ECO friendly with our rubbish.

As well as our normal rubbish separation into two large bins (recyclable paper, plastic, metal and general rubbish)

We also have volunteers and staff spearheading their own recycling collections.

For instance, we have a collection of corks for elephant enclosures, plastic bottle tops for prosthetics, coffee grounds for the garden, used mascara brushes for cleaning off oil spills from animals, jars for hospice preserves, stamps for Legacy, scrunchable plastics (cling film etc...) for furniture making...

I am sure many of you know of other worthwhile recycling causes and we are happy to assist if we can.

Meanwhile, may we all do our little bit to preserve this wonderful planet we have been given.

Stay warm dear friends!

Nikki Ellis

Hospitality Manager

From the Wardrobe

Well! Temporarily from the warmth of archives as our workshop is out of bounds.

Thank you to everyone who has offered us treasures, we ask you at this time that you hold on to them until we have a proper home again. We are repairing and restoring some wonderful and very old JC Williamson costumes from Opera or Pantomime, we think grand and avant

guard, possibly 1920's and influenced by Diaghilev's Ballet Russe. We will change a new display soon in our Pavilion window.

HELP NEEDED – from volunteers for our end of year Bonbons production, now being prepared for Christmas. Yes, it's nearly that time again! Do you have: a small rowboat? (Doesn't have to be seaworthy!)

A bicycle (Full size)

Plastic Crabs - lobsters – life belts and or fishnets (not the leggy variety!) to contribute to stage décor? Perhaps you could have a rummage around!

Heather Peake & Di Taylor

Wardrobe Mistresses

From the Garden

It was decided a long time ago that the hedge between the three ponds and Rose garden needed to go. The garden with that hedge looked to me like a beautiful face with massive untamed eyebrows. The time for removal though, never seemed to be right. It is after all a huge change that would also raise some fury eyebrows!

It came about one Wednesday when I walked around the house and noticed a hole in the hedge, courtesy of some kids making a den, with a glimpse through to the rose garden which I thought looked really good and I thought I'd elaborate on this. Two weeks later, an inability to stop trying to make 'the hole' look good resulted in the decision to remove the hedge being made for me.

Et voila, a new beech hedge, new wall and a new step (named the Barron step after George Barron, caretaker who suggested it). It is one of the most exciting projects since I've been here. The landscaper building the wall is actually the grandson of one of our garden volunteers and is doing a fine job.

Now, I don't want to name names but Gwen Williamson and Jan Cleveland suggested the yews near the summer house looked too big made me cut them back and if I didn't they were going to hit me. There, I'm glad I got that off my chest!

Highlights in the garden include the fernery with some of the Orchids flowering and the veg garden, Dugald's expertise is starting to shine.

Richard Smith

Head Gardener

