



BELEURA
HOUSE & GARDEN
MORNINGTON

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Stay Tuned

FROM ANTHONY

Whilst lockdown has had its difficulties here at Castlemaine I found I have been more aware of the slow progress of the changing seasons and enjoying the long flowering time of special favourites. In particular, the Beleura Winter Iris, Bluebells, many a gift from Colin Clark, I have added hundreds more, and tulips. My Castlemaine neighbour gave me a barrow full some five years ago, planting them was a task and I never wanted to see a tulip bulb again. The result was fantastic as this year we have had huge clumps of them. I was also really amazed at how long Japonica, another favourite, keeps its flowers.

I had been told that there was once a quince tree hedge around two frontages, now alas only one is left. This year, given the great season, it was a total knockout.

The new building at Beleura is all but complete, looking like I hoped, and certainly not beige. Now I am going to look at the far-too-big chandelier purchased years ago, and which I thought to use, but!! Hopefully, you are all well, enjoying tentative freedom.

Anthony Knight OAM | Director & Trustee

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

"I am so looking forward to reopening in a few months when the new building works are complete and welcoming you all back."

I wrote this in May not realising it would be a phrase I repeated over many months. Now finally more than a few months have passed, and we really can welcome you back.

Despite the lockdown creating a forbidding sense that little is happening, in some ways it has been a year when so much has changed.

At Beleura we counted time in the changing wheel tracks of different tradesmen's trucks blocking the driveways. A topsy turvy world beckoned as the new building evolved to become our Archives. The Gatehouse turned into a desolate wasteland with changing piles of building refuse. The Beleura museum room became a temporary office for Monique and Georgina and then every surface was covered in Christmas cards as it became a shop merchandise storeroom. The Pavilion is still brimming with unpacked furniture.

Throughout this long period, it has been wonderful to connect with so many volunteers, our Guides, Hospitality, Archives and Garden groups. I have learnt increasingly just

how important our volunteers are as a community at Beleura.

Each stage of the building process promised a new ending. And now the John Tallis Archive Centre has emerged. It is an engaging labyrinth with lots to discover and uncover. It houses our collection in secure store areas including our extensive image collection. It accommodates our archive volunteers in their research and work on collection objects and cataloguing. It will bring the intellectual assets and knowledge into closer proximity to the guides who tell our stories to our visitors.

The new store and kitchen areas will mean we can continue the quality of service and memorable welcome that visitors have enjoyed.

Now finally we are at the end. I really do look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas function where you can see the new Archives Centre. And maybe I'll see you a bit earlier at our Working Bee – all the details are below.

Martin | General Manager

ADMINISTRATION

So, with a big thank you to Zoom for helping us to keep you abreast of happenings at Beleura until now, we start our first Stay Tuned Newsletter since July.

The last few weeks have seen us move into our new offices and begin the giant task of sorting spaces. How will our new areas work? How will we move within these spaces to carry out tasks? How will our visitors move through these spaces during a visit to Beleura? Where will we store all our hospitality supplies, the overflow of products for the shop? Where will furniture be placed and how will it function?

There are many decisions to make but it is exciting imagining how things will be when Beleura is once again alive with both visitors and volunteers! Before that happens though there is a desperate need to make all things clean! I will be excited to see you all put up your hands to volunteer for our **Working Bee on Thursday November 26th**. A variety of tasks will be offered, on either a morning or afternoon shift. Call me or Georgina in the office to register your interest and to discuss the jobs on offer. Shortly after you will receive your assignment and advice about equipment you may need to bring.

We are also planning to get you all together for both a hello and goodbye before the year is out. There are still logistics to be settled but please mark **Friday November 11th** down in your diaries as we would love to see you here enjoying some wonderful Beleura hospitality at our annual Volunteer Thank You Day!

The prospect of seeing you all again in the flesh and not via a screen is delightful!

Monique | Administration

FROM THE GARDEN

So, our very own George Barron grew a big untamed beard through lockdown that desperately needs a tidy up, which has become a metaphor for the garden. Dugald and I have been chasing our tails weeding with one hand whilst pruning with the other, what with it being a 'La Nina' delivering far more rain than normal, meaning the weeds we pull out on Friday have regrown by Monday. Now, I am not complaining one bit about the extra rain, I would rather a verdant garden with natural rainfall than have to organise irrigation of beds and pots which takes a surprising amount of time.

Martin and I made the analogy that trying to get the garden back in control is like eating a herd of elephants that keep reproducing. Until, that is, we brought back the ravenous garden volunteers which happened last week, albeit with much reduced numbers and without the scones... or cakes... or homemade yo-yos and those little apple pies. Like a friendly army appearing over the hill they descended and saved Dugald and me from drowning in a sea of weeds. I will be forever grateful.

Now that I can see the light at the end of the tunnel, a very long tunnel, I feel less overwhelmed and more motivated in the belief we can tame George's beard...

Richard | Head Gardener

ARCHIVES

Onwards and upwards. Sorting, packing, and moving is underway, transferring our treasures, records, and research materials to the new Archives spaces above the expanded visitor areas of the Gatehouse.

I think of the peaceful regularity of Archives volunteers' past work amid boxes, spider webs and chaos. It is because of your years of cataloguing and keeping order that relocating our systems to purpose-designed rooms is currently flowing so well.

I look forward to welcoming Archives volunteers to our Working Bee on 26th November. Please let me know if you are available for a morning or afternoon shift. And don't forget to wear a mask!

Ingrid | Curator

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 26th November | Volunteer Working Bee
Please ring the office to register your interest.
Positions will be limited. Further information will be imparted when you call.

Friday 11th December | Volunteer Function
Invitation to follow!