



Garden Volunteers Get Together Event at Devilbend Reservoir



BELEURA
HOUSE & GARDEN
MORNINGTON

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Stay Tuned

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Well, we are so glad to be inching back towards a new normal. Our Archives groups are settling in the new building and humming away as they organise unexpected things such as our records of Operas including some extraordinary titles such as *Dialogue des Carmelites*. Jan in the Archives group is giving me tips on the best things to watch on Netflix (that is very normal). The Garden volunteers are gathered around the gardener's stoop and Cheryl is handing out enormous quantities of her apple pie. Richard Smith is a particular beneficiary of the undercurrent cake competition.

And it is a sunny day. The clocks are chiming in the House once again and on some tours you can hear the tinkle of Bach drifting through the rooms. Margaret can be discovered in the Music room playing on the Steinway if you are lucky. Our guests have just left Beleura complimenting everyone on their great tour with Judy and Juliet whilst wearing masks that make them look like stand-ins in a strange Western film shoot.

Last week we had our first concert - Jazz Pianist Paul Grabowsky - in the Pavilion. I think everyone found it a little magical because it was like an evening from a memory of times past. He did not play to a full house but the widely spaced rows made the Pavilion feel grand. Afterwards I spoke to him about the concert. He said, with great gravity and conviction, "You have no idea how important it was to me to play here tonight.". He had not played to an audience for twelve months and that day had just rescheduled two performances.

I think this period has really made all of us aware how valuable are the very small opportunities we have to engage with one another.

Lizzie bumped into me in the driveway and she was just so brimming with joy to be back. And what was Lizzie doing? She was doing the weeding with her cherished friends in the Garden group. It is what I love about Beleura.

Martin | General Manager

ADMINISTRATION

It has taken some time but finally a new and improved but still familiar Beleura is emerging from the dusty building site that was. Furniture which has been carefully placed is now being filled with beautiful objects in crystal and silver with thanks to Jan Cleveland. The shop space has been defined and some displays are appearing and will be furthered with the help from Francis Haberle. The practical items needed for day-to-day operations for tours and musical events are finding homes and can be easily employed and not a moment too soon as despite our recent short sharp lockdown bookings are steadily growing.

Martin has already mentioned our first very successful concert for the year which took place on 12 February. It was an evening reminiscent of pre COVID times. One could almost forget it is a thing, except for the facemasks!

Morning Tea tours ran in January, February saw us introducing House and Garden, Afternoon Tea tours and Twilight tours also so now with March upon us the final puzzle pieces shall fall into place with the return of Hospitality and Bus Driving Volunteers. Things will be a little different from what you remember so in order to make you all feel confident and comfortable we will invite you to Beleura on some soon to be nominated days to run through new routines and other necessary requirements.

Thank you to all for your swift and enthusiastic response to my March call out. I shall send up a big cheer when one by one you all appear!

Monique | Administration

FROM THE GARDEN

Who would have thought summer is about to finish? Did it ever really start? I'm not complaining, this has been almost a perfect summer if you ask me. Not many hot weeks, enough rain too keep things from going too crispy and not many days where the heat has been overwhelming.

The works around the new building are nearly finished. The new perimeter fence/wall and filling the beds with soil and plants are the remaining jobs. Many thanks to Tim Bos and Ash Griffin for their help doing this great work. It was also nice to use some of the bluestone we have stacked in the paddocks.

The garden volunteers have been back in force for weeks (apart from our snap lockdown) and my word

have they shown their worth. Even the old tractor and its surrounds got a makeover, thanks Sue!

We still have a long way to go before we get the garden up to a standard I would be happy with but as long as we keep chipping away (pardon the pun, chipping is the job I'm doing immediately after writing this) and my volunteers keep doing their amazing work, we'll get there!

By the way, the clematis flowering on the side of the fernery is the same one that was in the hanging baskets a couple of years ago, named Daniel Deronda.

Richard | Head Gardener

IN THE KITCHEN

The kitchen has finally started to transform into a working kitchen. After speaking with Dugald about planting certain things to use in cooking we can now start making some beautiful home-made things. Food produced in the Kitchen Garden can be consumed not only by guests but by volunteers, guides and all the people that need to be fed.

I finally learnt how to make scones and found out the other day they were pretty good...

And we finally, finally got our dishwasher going, fantastic stuff! It is a two-minute cycle so by the time I've put the dishes through it's ready and turned around it's ready for the next load. Can't wait to have you all here.

Nicole Milsom | Cook

ARCHIVES

Change seems a constant in contemporary life. Particularly in the past 12 months, adapting to Covid-19 during the major relocation of our Archives and Research Centre meant rostering, cataloguing, storage and conservation all had to adapt rapidly.

Someone who steered vast changes in Archives is the founding coordinator, Barbara Crombie – remember Barb, those on board fifteen years ago? Cataloguing many thousands of domestic objects, Barb's efforts, along with her tireless team, saw Beleura transition from an historic site into an accredited house museum. No small change!

I had the pleasure of getting to know Barb recently and while I am not technically recruiting more Archives volunteers simply due to numbers and differing needs,

Barb's special status means she is ideal to tackle the enormous task of instating the things gifted by Patsy Kirk (again, many thousands of objects) in the Small Flat and the Annex.

For art connoisseurs, if you are heading to Canberra, make sure you see the major exhibition at the National Gallery, *Know my Name: Australian Women Artists 1900 to Now*. It was thrilling to see a large, lustrous Klytie Pate vase included. Speaking of whom, Anthony and I are joining fellow judges of the Klytie Pate Award for Ceramics in Mansfield on March 6. Beleura supports the award, a gratifying alignment. Pate's recognition should only grow.

Thank you, Archives volunteers, for adapting to the huge changes we undergo as our collections and records are moved to the new space. There is still a lot of moving to do and Lemon Hill is in quite a state, but carriers are booked to move a mountain soon.

Ingrid | Curator



Barbara Crombie visiting Archives, late February 2021



Klytie Pate
High Diving c 1950
glazed earthenware
National Gallery of Australia Collection

ANAM Piano Masterclasses in the Pavilion.

Over March there will some days when ANAM students will be in the Pavilion taking Masterclasses. Tours will be welcome to enter and have a brief peek but not a normal tour of the Pavilion.

Guides Training Day – Beleura's ART IN THE HOUSE Workshop

Tuesday 23 March 1.30pm – 4.00pm

Parking onsite at Beleura

“Here at last - what we have been waiting for over the last 17 years!! “

An information session presented by Iain Buckland and offered to all interested House & Garden guides. This is particularly relevant to House Guides and Archives volunteers.

Iain Buckland will present his **Guide to the Beleura Art Collection** which will be an invaluable resource for guides to have when discussing the works of art inside the House. This will be followed by an afternoon tea and some practical activities.

RSVP is essential - admin@beleura.org.au