



Horse and film crew - Perhaps just a blue illusion?

FRONT DESK

Blue Illusion fashion house rang me to ask if they could use Beleura as a location for fashion photography for their website in order to recreate a French Chateau.

“Hmm – well I guess if you avoid the gumtrees in the background, Beleura could be said to have a European classic look.” I say knowing full well that Beleura is nothing at all like a French Chateau.

“Well, what about a horse? Can we bring a horse into the gardens?” asks the producer. I gulp imagining the damage of a stampeding hysterical stallion.

“Look I know Richard our Head Gardener would be very unhappy about a horse in the gardens.” I say confidently. Then I call Richard 5 minutes later. “Absolutely fantastic. I’d love to see that. A horse in the gardens would look so good.” he says.

I call the advertising people back. They arrive with a horse – a very docile horse. The ad people love their day shooting Beleura. They told me how French everything looked and it became a French Chateau. No one was injured – not even the roses.

And our garden apprentices stood closeby carrying buckets hoping for garden contributions from the horse.

Australian Ballet Society and Archives

Jan Dayton, working with volunteers Judy Shearman, Barbara Rollinson and Noelene Spicer, has everything at her fingertips in Archives.

They are all heads down busy on a special exhibition project for the Australian Ballet Society. Jan is putting together folders of original images of the Australian Ballet productions dating from the 1950s to the late 1990s. She is sifting through scans of images we own and working out from very minimal information just which production featured which dancer.

Beleura bought the photos from the Duncan Miller Gallery in California which had rescued an original photographic archive of Australian Ballet from the Sydney Morningherald. The collection faced possible destruction when they were sent by the newspaper to America for digitising.

Some of the original principal Australian Ballet dancers are looking forward to seeing themselves in a rare glimpse of the past. It is wonderful to see how this archive will be appreciated and bring value to another cultural organisation. I hope that we can show some of the collection soon in our display cabinets in the Gatehouse later this year.



Security upgrade - pin pad at front gate.



Ingrid Hoffmann - Curator and Archivist retires

New pin pad at the front gate

Two weeks ago, a late-night unwanted intruder decided to open our gates using the blunt force of their car as a battering ram. Strangely, they did not seem to venture much further onto the property but they did a good deal of damage to our electric gate system.

As a result, we have added a pin pad for extra security at the front gate. To enter Beleura you now must use a code. Speak to your volunteer coordinator about the code and how to gain entry.

Ingrid Hoffmann farewelled

Ingrid Hoffmann, our Curator and Archivist of ten years has retired. Ingrid has tropical blood and could not face the thought of another gruelling winter in Mornington.

She has returned to Cairns where she used to live. Ingrid has been a delightful work companion and thoughtful and energetic imaginative curator. Ingrid has worked on many exhibitions and with different

volunteers over the years at Lemonhill and now our new Research building.

She most recently developed our last exhibition “Just Visiting” and managed all the many tasks associated with managing such a disparate range of collections from cataloguing to collections management.

Ingrid brought her creative flair to many tasks and often did the flowers in the Pavilion and painted backdrop scenes for our Xmas Bon Bons shows.

We look forward to hearing of Ingrid’s northern adventures and welcome her visits to Beleura in the future.

Allan Gray Retires

Allan Gray is walking along a path through Beleura’s gardens and travelling down memory lane. Here is the Summerhouse that he built using original cypress timber milled onsite from fallen trees. He created the decorative cornice profile from a sketch that Anthony drew.



Allan Gray and the Four Seasons Gazebo



Allan Gray's signature behind the Summerhouse



Donated tea cups from volunteers

He left his signature hidden in the embossed band on a copper downpipe that runs into a cistern behind the Summerhouse.

There is the Dovecote he built that hides an electric pump. Nearby are the fairy tale gates at the entrance to the Hansel and Gretel Garden that he put together. The Japanese Temple was a major construction job for Allan and included a splendid solid copper roof that had to be craned atop its sturdy Oregon frame.

Nearby is the Four Seasons gazebo that reflects the gardens and houses four cheeky cherubs. Allan made it from steel creating panels of mirrors and hanging elaborate wrought iron gates. Now Allan has decided to retire.

The many projects he left behind reflect Allan's craftsmanship he built from a lifetime of experience in building and construction. We wish Allan a well deserved happy retirement.

Martin Green - General Manager

Volunteer Coordinator Office

It has been such a long time since I have written for one of our Stay Tuned editions that I don't exactly know what to write!

Of course, you would already know that our dear Ingrid retired just before Easter. I am happy to report that she popped into Beleura just a week or two ago to see us all. Retirement has seen her relocate to Cairns away from the cold (I'm just a little jealous) and she has successfully procured a little bit of

contracting work at the Cairns Art Gallery. As much as we miss her, it's safe to say that she is thriving in her new locale.

The office at Beleura becomes a little quieter at this time of year, which makes sense as there are only half the events left to book for. This allows time for catching up on many other tasks.

At Beleura we undertake "Spring Cleaning" to some extent, in the winter as of course the Spring is too busy with visitors and Winter sees a natural decline in those wanting to tour. We use this time to clean and organise spaces, clean silver, take stock of the shop, and so on.

We also go over our first aid and emergency procedures, restock first aid kits, and in July staff will be undergoing refreshment first aid training. I sincerely hope none of you will ever be in need of our first aid services, but rest assured we will all be fully competent to Level 2 in the Workplace standard!

By next month we will begin with planning next year's program in the hope of having things all settled by November for upload and print.

Just as an afterthought, we are still collecting vintage cups, saucers and side plates to be put to use at our afternoon tea services. If you or anybody you know would like to make a donation, please speak to myself or Nicole. We are particular looking for English brands dating pre-1940's.

Thank you!
That's all from upstairs!



Bodi Lower - Garden Apprentice



Pool Courtyard minus pool and water!

Monique Bladen - Assistant Manager

The Gardens

Greetings from one of the colder mornings in a while. I'm not complaining though.

My drive to work along the esplanade from Dromana is as spectacular as it gets. Absolutely breathless, and crystal-clear visibility with a vivid sunrise to boot. I'm sure I've said this before, but I have the best drive to work in the world.

It only seems like a few months ago, but in October we took on another apprentice He is called Bodi and has been a fantastic addition to our team showing enthusiasm, a great work ethic and is developing the all important passion for Beleura.

We have the new courtyard between the Pavilion and Melba room which not only looks 100 times better but functions really nicely connecting one building to another.

Richard Smith - Head Gardener

Garden Guides

Recently I headed off to the Yarra Ranges to enjoy 'Kabloom', an amazing floral display by Tesselars in Silvan. Acres of glorious colours and a variety of blooms wound their way through the hills, like a snake.

Stunning! There were also thousands of sunflowers there- I think about 10 000!!!!

These displays are definitely good for the soul. Just stop and breathe in the magic. This should be a mandatory event on your Autumn calendar for next year. Absolutely worth the trip!!!

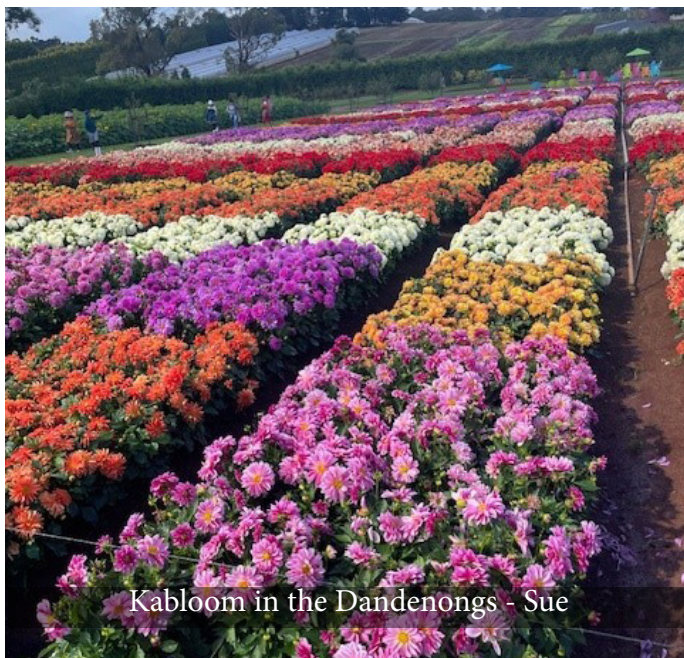
Closer to home our glorious Beleura gardens have been displaying their autumnal colours. The blossom trees, the ivy that threads its way through the pencil pine near the ponds and the smoke bushes are a few in the amazing display in the last few weeks. Beleura's garden provides such diverse offerings with every season change- trees, flowers, hedges, bushes, vines and more.

With the superb autumn weather and minimal wind, pear trees everywhere have provided a spectacular display of colour for weeks! The best I've seen for years!

Next week we are having another morning tea for our garden guides. It is an informative session for all of us as well as a time to socialise with our peers. It has been most helpful to have Richard and the other gardeners involved in this group.

The significant plants are discussed as well as a few relevant tales. Seasonal changes within the garden and updating the latest infrastructure is also brought to our attention. This time Richard is taking us to the Hidden Secrets in the Beleura gardens. It should be very interesting!

Sue Shergold - Garden Guide Coordinator



House Guides

I know Sue Shergold, Volunteer Garden Guide Coordinator has just mentioned her trip to Kabloom – the Tesselaar gardens in the Dandenongs but I also visited a tulip garden recently.

And I do not want to sound like I am competing with Sue but I have just come back after spending a month overseas with friends in the Netherlands and Sweden.

In the Netherlands, I visited the Keukenhof gardens known as the Garden of Europe. It is enormous - spread over 79 acres and displays 7 million flowering tulips that come from more than 100 growers. Entry cost \$32 - but does not include morning tea or a cuppa (go Beleura!).

I also had an opportunity to spend time at an extraordinary museum in The Hague. Mauritshuis has the famous painting by Vermeer - Girl with a Pearl Earring - and surprisingly similar to Beleura, you can stand and view within touching distance. During my time away, Carol Hunt stepped in to manage the guide rosters and other matters which I really appreciated.

After seeing all the European artworks, I have been telling friends and visitors to look at the Behind-the-Scenes video on the Beleura website. Beleura's collection of Hogarth prints is quite a prize.

Wendy Brack - House Guide Coordinator



Coming up at Beleura

Concerts

Kathleen Halloran (solo flat picking guitar)

Friday 12 July

Melba Opera Trust Thurs 25 July

Ikeabana Flower Workshop 26 June

Ikeabana Workshop with Dr Shoso Shimbo - Learn Ikeabana styles using Beleura's gardens. includes Afternoon Tea. Great fun!