



FRONT DESK

"Hello. Am I speaking to Beleura House?"

"Yes, you are." I said, answering a young American male voice on the phone.

"I work for Google, and we just want to check your operating times so we can list them correctly."

"Well, that's good because the open times on Google are incorrect."

So began my ten-minute discussion with a young American man from Google. It was good to finally speak to someone to fix the problem. Just this week we had five people enter the back door of the House by themselves and accidentally join a tour most likely misdirected there by Google.

"And what about Google Maps? Now that's a problem for us too!" I said.

But he said he could not fix that problem. In fact, the young man did not seem very enthusiastic about giving much assistance and repeated a question. The penny dropped. I realised. "Are you a robot?" I asked. Then the phone hung up.

Is this the future? You have a chat with someone for ten minutes without realising they are a computer. Or were they? At least the times are up to date now.

We have had a quiet Winter. Tour numbers have been very quiet. But our concert program has been very popular and most of our shows this year have

been sold out. A Winter Friday evening with a glass of bubbles listening to wonderful performers like Slava and Sharon Grigoryan or trumpeter Gianni Marinucci or Cat Empire founder Felix Riebl have been real highlights.

In this issue of Stay Tuned you will hear from Sue Shergold and Carol Hunt about Guides activities as well as from Ingrid about our forthcoming exhibition.

You will also learn from Jan Dayton about some of the work volunteers do in our Archives on an intriguing photograph collection of Australian Ballet performances that were taken for Fairfax newspapers in the 1960s through to the 1990s.

The photograph collection itself has a curious provenance. In 2013 US businessman, John Rogers negotiated with Fairfax newspapers who own *The Age* and SMH mastheads to take much of their entire collection of images from 1900 to the 1990s and digitise them.

The collection included millions of images taken in Australia by 1000s of Fairfax of news, sports and performance photographers over nearly 100 years. Fairfax kept the negatives but gave him the right to sell the original hard copies of the photographs in

return for digitising and cataloguing them.

Well things did not go to plan.

The business venture went bankrupt. There was a police raid and it turned out the US businessman was a fraud all along and the whole collection's future was at stake...

In the end the Bank of Arkansas became owners of a warehouse of historic Australian images. Eventually different museums and collectors were able to purchase sections of the collection from a Receiver and repatriate much of the collection. And Beleura was one of those collectors who purchased a section of performing arts and Australian Ballet images.

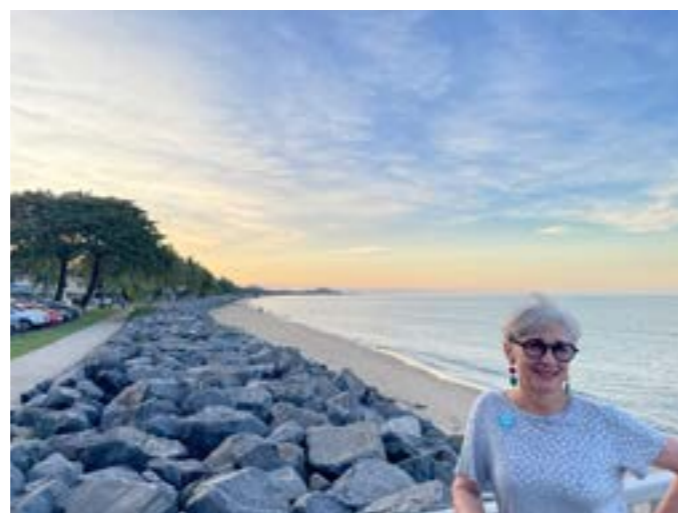
And now our volunteers are busy trying to put the collection together and work out what and who the images show.

Now the season is turning. The blossom is just appearing. I look forward to seeing you back at Beleura.

Martin Green



Judy Barret and Jan Dayton archiving Australian Ballet images



ARCHIVES (from the Cairns Desk)

Heading towards the last month of my break, I send a relaxed greeting from tropical north Queensland to all.

September in southern Italy approaches to complete this happy sabbatical. But with the Archives volunteer team, I look forward to launching a lively exhibition on return.

From late October the main rooms of the House will display vintage wardrobes of a recreated 'Beleura set'. The *Just Visiting* exhibition imagines guests attending cocktail parties, at-homes, afternoon teas and soirées over eight decades, from the late Edwardian era through to the 1980s.

Attire on mannequins will be linked to the refreshments and menus served at home by two generations of the Tallis family.

Beleura will also unveil a soundscape in the John Tallis Pavilion. With collection items on display to extend *Just Visiting*, this soundtrack evokes Beleura's social whirl via popular music, jazz, JC Williamson show tunes and the exotica of consecutive eras.

Be enveloped by the dances, parties and high spirits of societies past.

You are invited!

Ingrid Hoffmann



THE KITCHEN

Good afternoon, everyone.

We had another beautiful workshop on the 18th August this time with *Coco's Lunch*. They got the guests along with Martin up singing, working up an appetite for the big ribbon sandwiches that I make for these events along with cheesecakes topped with fresh fruit and mint and the richest chocolate brownies. It was a lovely event to end the week on.

Quick side note. There was a bit of talk around the Gardens about our apprentice gardener Nathan. I was greeted several times with *have you seen Nathan?* What did he do you might be asking yourself.

He went and cut his lush long Mullet off much to the shock to most around him. Unrecognizable.

Hope you are all well.

Nicole Milsom

HOUSE GUIDES

Wow! How this year has flown! After a few quiet Winter months, the migratory birds, guests and guides are slowly flying back to Beleura.

We have a new guide in training, Pam Anderson, and hopefully all three trainee guides will soon be taking tours on their own. Sadly, Judy Donnelly has decided to resign from guiding and we will miss her warm, welcoming smile and enthusiasm. Judy, you will always be welcome at Beleura Christmas parties etc so please keep in touch.

Congratulations went out to Margaret Kendall and husband Tim on being awarded an OAM in the King's Birthday Honours. Margaret and Tim unselfishly spend huge amounts of their time going to supermarkets and suppliers to source food for "Second bite" which provides food for people in need. They are kept very busy but Margaret tries to make time to guide at Beleura, which she loves doing.

Iain Buckland continues to educate and enthrall us with his Insight articles each month. In June Iain entertained us with 'Cocktails at Beleura – an enduring link to the Jazz Age'. The Tallis family had a passion for these drinks (as is very fashionable and expensive at the moment) and "Lady Tallis was known for mixing superb martinis." Iain mentions "cocktails were initially taken in the morning as a restorative" - Now, I don't advise any of you to do that, especially if you are guiding that day!

The Jazz Age seemed to be a real fun age, especially for the rich and famous. Shorter and skimpier dresses, long cigarette holders, people bopping around with cocktail in one hand! Iain suggested "So with drink in hand, sip slowly and imagine that you are sitting comfortably on the terrace at Beleura in the early evening, watching the sun setting on the garden just like John Tallis did and his parents before him. Perhaps put on some music by Jelly Roll Morton, Earl Hines or Duke Ellington and listen to the Jazz Age that gave birth to the cocktail culture." Sounds idyllic – anyone want to join me? Cheers!!

In July Iain wrote about the caravan which is parked next to the small flat. This very tiny "space capsule" or 'Tardis' was designed by Mick Tallis and built by Manning and Burris in Mornington. Do have a look inside sometime. Mick Tallis did two Outback trips in it, the second one with his wife, Dorothy. It is hard to imagine why Mick and Dorothy Tallis who were used to luxury would actually choose to holiday in something as small and primitive as this.

Then in August we learnt about John Tallis' voyage to England on the RMS Otranto. Next month Iain and his wife Julie Edgar are going on their own voyage - actually flying to London for the unveiling of Julie's bronze bust of Sir David Suchet (Poirot) at LAMDA. They were to go a few years ago but Covid put a stop to that, and the sculpture went on its own. Have an exciting and safe trip Julie and Iain.

Carol Hunt



blossoms, Crab Apple blossoms, Wisteria and other Spring surprises within the garden. This will be a lovely contrast to the Horn Beams which look very sad and sorry throughout the gardens. But we just have to wait for their new foliage.

Anne Neal and Anne Bischoff have enjoyed some tours recently. Thank you Ladies and we all hope you are feeling very comfortable in your new role. I would also like to welcome Roger Oates who will be joining our team in a couple of weeks. You may have met him already as Roger has been driving the bus this year.

We will also have another Monday afternoon tea with our gardeners in September. Stay Tuned!!!!

It is such a special time in the Beleura Garden and we are so privileged to be a part of it. I am glad to be back for a few months!

Cheers

Sue Shergold



GARDEN GUIDE NEWS

Today the garden was sparkling in the warm sunshine. The gardeners have been very busy over Winter with refurbishments and ongoing maintenance. Everything was looking perfect - raked pathways, green manicured lawns, pruned rose bushes and some colourful blooms emerging from the darkness of Winter.

The most beautiful vista today was the Magnolia tree standing in all its glory at the end of the Japanese Bridge. This same tree took my breath away last year as well. Don't miss it!

There are so many signs of Spring which is about to pounce on Beleura. Near the Summer House many daffodils are lifting their trumpets. In the veggie patch Early Cheers, snow drops, daffodils and jonquils indicate a warmer time ahead. Camellias are still providing plenty of colour throughout the garden, as well as Azaleas in front of the house.

The hedging around the Japanese Pavilion had been beautifully trimmed as well as the pleached hedging around the pond. There are also new basalt seats that have been installed.

At the end of the veggie patch much of the growth has been removed to open up that area. We can now see a very crooked column! I am sure it will have a story! Dugald has also done a great job of trimming the Spindle Berry Hedge - it looks amazing! The veggie patch is full and lush at the moment with many offerings. Of course, the Thyme Garden has taken on a new structure which will look amazing when the pines increase in height.

In a few weeks we will be able to enjoy the Cherry



Judy Barrett, Noelene Spicer, Jan Dayton and Barbara Shepherd

TUESDAY ARCHIVES GROUP

The Tuesday archive volunteers have been working for several years on the 28,000 photos purchased by Beleura.

These consist of opera, ballet and musical productions and personalities from Australia and internationally.

At the moment we are busy working on the ballet photos - 8,000 in all, sorting and indexing them into various categories. While Ingrid is away Barbara, Jan, Judy and Noelen are working hard on the collection.

We have come across some amazing photographs especially relating to the Australian Ballet who are celebrating their 60th anniversary this year. They are so thrilled we have this amazing collection. And several members from the Friends of the Ballet have been down to view them.

As we have several boxes still untouched to go through, we keep finding new treasures. We have come across many famous people for example Sir Robert Helpmann, Rudolph Nureyev and Dame Margo Fontaine who have also been involved with Ballet and dance.

Also, in this collection we have photos from the Sydney Dance company, Bangara dance company and many more other dance companies.

We all enjoy our Tuesdays at Beleura.

Jan, Judy, Noelene and Barbara

Volunteer Ticket Draw - 8 September

In our recent Volunteer Survey some people mentioned how they would like to be acknowledged with concert tickets. This gets difficult when we sell tickets to everyone including volunteers. And our shows sell out.

But if you would like to go in the running for a draw of free tickets to Andrea Keller's *Journey Home* solo piano concert on Friday 8 September Evening please email admin@beleura.org.au and we will let the winners know for a small number of available tickets. Exclusive to Beleura volunteers.

Coming up at Beleura

School Holiday Magic Show

The Pirate Fairy Dinosaur Rainbow Magic Show is back for the September school holidays! Tuesday 26, Wed 27 and Thursday 28 September Two shows daily - for ages 3 to 7 years old (with an adult!)

Concerts

Andrea Keller	Friday 8 September
Melba Opera Trust	Thurs 14 September
ANAM Concert Five	Thurs 5 October