



Doreen Norman, Jane Storey and Pamela Anderson at the Market Day Stall

FRONT DESK

Wednesday Mornington Market Stall

First you wonder if it is worth bothering trying the main Coles car park and you do a fruitless lap of honour. After that you try the top car park which is hopeless. And then you opt for the side streets.

Getting a park on Market Day in Mornington is a mission. But you know you it is worth the reward. After you pass the Swiss donut stand, the dog collar man and the yellow tent where they sell some peculiar mosquito repellent you find Beleura's blinding pristine white show tent – the best stand in the market.

Richard, Nathan and Bodi had set it up early in the morning with pot plants and a Turkish rug. Who else has a chaise lounge with satin pillows?

And best of all are the smiles on Doreen, Jane and Pamela when you get there. They are handing out brochures and giving away big Beleura fold outs. It is action stations.

This has been a great marketing venture. Our best patrons are our neighbours, local shoppers and residents. When we first started the stall, many people looked puzzled and said "What is it?" Despite living here for years many said they had never heard of Beleura. Now most people in the street respond "I think I've heard of this place" And Jane tells them "Well you'll simply have to go!". Thanks to all our volunteers for their market day efforts and support.



Australian Ballet Exhibition finishes

We extended our Australian Ballet "Ballet in Camera" exhibition by two weeks to mid-April.

Ingrid, myself and the volunteers from Archives put together selected images from Beleura's Fairfax collection of original press photographs of the Australian Ballet with the corresponding costumes borrowed from the wardrobe collection of the Australian Ballet. Two tour groups from the Australian Ballet Society came especially to see the display.

This new Gallery space has proven a great way of offering patrons new things to see.

Our next exhibition is top secret so I cannot tell you that it will be based on original fashions from Jane Austen's period drawn from the fashion collection of her great great great great niece.

Fortunately, I have been the sole of discretion and not let the secret out.



New Curator Lyn Johnson joins Archives

It is over twelve months since Ingrid Hoffmann left Beleura after ten years working as our Collections Curator.

Over the past few months Lyn Johnson has been working on a catalogue project with our Klytie Pate collection. Lyn will now join us as a new part time curator for a period and work on new exhibitions and our collections.



Nicole, Ros, Pam, Joy and Trish, in concert



Convergence - music based on Beleura

Jesse Vivante and Aditya Bhat are two recent music graduates of the Australian National Academy of Music. Late last year they wrote and performed a piece of music based on number sequences in Beleura's architecture.

Their performance was like a ballet and involved them striking numerous cymbals. Now I am not an expert on modern music, but I thought it was highly symbolic.

You can see *Convergence* on Youtube by looking up Beleura House and Garden on Youtube.

Tour Numbers slowing

Previously we were reliant on busloads of Probus groups coming to Beleura to swell our visitor numbers. This year we have seen a decline in tour numbers.

Unfortunately, we have had very few Probus groups arrive this year. Frequently I go to Probus group meetings to give talks and I can see that they are growing older and choosing to go on fewer tours.

At the same time we are getting more independent visitors who seem to be younger but just not in the same number. I think we are in a generational transition at this point in time.

Recent Visitor feedback:

Beautiful setting, fabulous volunteers, great lunch and a thoroughly enjoyable day out. My fifth visit and not my last.

Recoveries from illness

Recently a number of our volunteers have suffered setbacks to their health or the health of their partner but are all now on the road to recovery.

We are thinking of you and sending good wishes and hope to see everyone back at Beleura soon including Jan Dayton, Isabella McMasters, Glad Hungerford, Barbara Shepherd, Helen Gorissen and others.

Martin Green
GENERAL MANAGER

HOUSE GUIDES

Hello from your House guide Co -Ordinator.

And a big welcome to Barbara and Wayne, who are our new trainee House guides.

Barbara has a wealth of experience guiding at National Trust properties including at Como House and more recently at Mulberry Hill, the home of Daryl and Joan Lindsay.

Wayne has been an enthusiastic promoter of the Mornington Peninsula's best attractions by volunteering in Mornington's Tourist Information booth as well as being a guide and tourism volunteer in the centre of Melbourne.

Both have extensive experience so do ask them., although I know some guides have already met them when they were shadowing.

Barbara and Wayne will be guiding patrons through the House once they complete their guiding driving test very shortly.

This month I believe almost everyone was rostered and a huge thank you to all.

REMINDER we have a training afternoon 2 - 4pm on Tuesday 6th May. Review emergency procedures etc.

Wendy Brack
HOUSE GUIDE COORDINATOR



GARDEN GUIDES

What a glorious time of year this is!!

The autumnal colours are bursting out everywhere in our suburbs and of course at Beleura. Soft yellows to strong burgundy!!!

I am waiting for the Boston Ivy weaving through the Pencil Pine near the Summerhouse, to change into a rich red and burgundy. This is one of the most spectacular specimens in the garden at this time of the year.

We welcome several new guides into our fold. Julia Cull, Joan Strauss and Nathan Hirst (Beleura gardener) have all met the necessary requirements of the role of a garden guide. Congratulations and we look forward to their experience and input. Our program of training new garden guides has been very successful over the last year.

This group is enjoying a regular afternoon tea with many of our garden guide volunteers. Richard provides the latest garden news, or he may take

us on a stroll to discuss some significant plants or future plans for some parts of the garden.

This informal meeting provides a time when the volunteers are able to interact with each other- this is an important aspect of the volunteers' role. The feedback is very positive.

Thank you Richard for your assistance.
I thank all of the volunteers for their ongoing support.

Sue Shergold
GARDEN GUIDE COORDINATOR

GARDENS TEAM

I can't remember wanting rain so much in a long time. The forecast is for up to 20mm tomorrow (Anzac Day) and it couldn't come soon enough.

However, the application of compost we have made on the property over the last few years and as good a watering regime as is possible, is just starting to prove its merit. Compost helps water penetrate the soil but acts like a nutritious sponge and holds water ready for plant uptake. I can't talk about compost highly enough.

A few changes or upgrades in the garden. The Hanzel and Gretel garden has a brush fencing wall I managed to procure from a friend of mine resting on top of a smaller wall made from my old deck from home. Being from Yorkshire, the only thing I like more than a bargain is free stuff and that wall was free so I'm very happy.

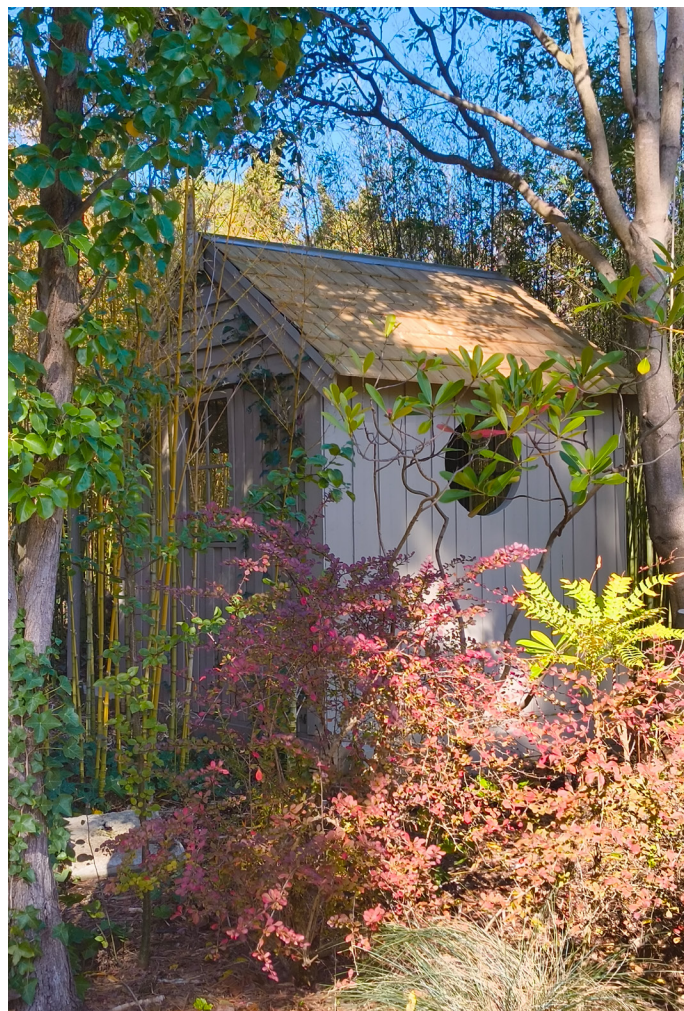
The small hut, known as the bus stop in the Bamboo Garden has also had a birthday and we cut a round hole in the back of it.

This small change has truly transformed the area. Just a hole in a wall has changed the way people on tours interact with this part of the garden. Have a look for yourself, I reckon it's worth it.

Thanks to Paul Gribble for making it possible.

Ta Ra for now,
Richard

HEAD GARDENER



Coming up at Beleura

HOUSE & GARDEN GUIDE TRAINING

Tuesday 6 May Please RSVP to Monique

Concerts

Jess Hitchcock

Friday 9 May

ANAM 2

Thurs 5 June

Emma Gilmartin & Tony Gould

Fri 13 June