

HISTORY

From as early as 1859, two years before Benalla was proclaimed a town, land was set aside for public recreation where the Gardens now stand.

Early residents cleared a small area among the flood-prone, red gum forest for a cricket pitch. The picturesque cricket ground in this area has been the site of a number of international matches.

Mr Alfred Sangwell, a Melbourne landscape gardener, was appointed in 1886 to design and create the Gardens. His use of gracefully curved walking paths sweeping through plantings of trees and shrubs is typical of 19th century public gardens.

The Rotunda, built in 1911, was the focal point of entertainment in these early days.

The Rose Garden was first established in 1959 with the

assistance of the Apex Club. Many more roses were planted in 1966 when Benalla's first Rose Festival was held.

A major change occurred in 1972 with the damming of the Broken River to create Lake Benalla, an important landscape feature that provides the setting for the Benalla Art Gallery constructed in 1975.

In 1995 the Benalla Gardens was listed on the Register of the National Estate in recognition of its heritage values.

Many of the improvements recommended in the 'Benalla Botanical Gardens Conservation Plan, 2001' are now in place for all to enjoy, including; the boardwalk and picnic lawn by the lake foreshore, the restored 1886 path layout, the New Zealand Collection and the new Rose Garden.



THE ROSE GARDEN

The Rose Garden was first established in 1959 and is a significant feature of the Benalla Botanical Gardens, which gained national status in the 1960s. Construction of Benalla's innovative, new Rose Garden began in 2004.

The rose collection has been retained in the rose border along Bridge Street. Part of this border now folds back into the Gardens to define the central feature – a large island of roses. A number of

varieties are displayed on the island using a red theme for maximum visual impact.

Between the island bed and the rose border is a sunken grassed area that highlights the shape of the main bed, suggesting an island in the river.

The original 1886 curved paths have been reinstated to link the rose island with the rose borders and the rest of the Benalla Botanical Gardens.

A COMMUNITY GARDEN

Since its beginnings, the community has strongly supported the development of the Benalla Botanical Gardens. Community groups and service clubs have often been central to the planning, fundraising and actual work involved in developing our beautiful Gardens, the Art Gallery and the Lake Benalla and Broken River environs.

The Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens & Riverine Parkland is an active community group working to stimulate interest in the Botanical Gardens and surrounding riverine area,

and to foster their conservation and development.

You can become involved in this very special area by joining the 'Friends'. For more information contact:

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BENALLA

RURAL CITY

  
Friends of the Benalla Botanical Gardens & Riverine Parkland



GARDENS GUIDE

BENALLA *Botanical Gardens*

Map and photos by Stephographics

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