

OPINION

victorharbortimes.com.au/opinion

COLUMN

Lorraine McLoughlin: What more could I want?



COMBINING books and gardens is a magic mix. As Cicero said more than two thousand years ago, "If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need".

Many writers have revered gardens in song and poetry. Thirteenth century Persian poet Rumi wrote, "Beauty surrounds us, but usually we need to be walking in a garden to know it".

Victor Hugo, in *Les Misérables*, put it this way. "A garden to walk in and immensity to dream in - what more could (one) ask? A few flowers at one's feet and above... the stars."

For centuries gardens have had religious associations of paradise and bliss. In the 16th century philosopher Thomas More said, "The soul cannot thrive in the absence of a garden. If you don't want paradise, you are not human". And my grandmother used to quote, "You are nearer God in the Garden, than anywhere else on earth".

We don't, however, need to be religious to use Eden to conjure delight and a special place. And most of us find beauty and inner sustenance from plantings around us, whether roses or fruit trees, pots of herbs or beds of spinach. We join garden groups, flock to open gardens, and, admiring flowers over the fence, are often rewarded by friendship, and cuttings.

Gardens benefit our physical health and mental wellbeing. Public gardens and parks and native forests lure us with beauty and serenity. Among plants one can just sit and read, or just sit and breathe in the joy. This April, Festival Fleurieu will combine gardens and poetry in its 'Garden Magic' series because writing is so often a homage to the beauty and nurturing of gardens.

Whatever our creed, however big or small our garden or book collection, there's something enchanted in books and gardens.

Lorraine McLoughlin is an author, who has been involved in community events on the Fleurieu Coast. For more see www.fitzmcl.com

PRIMO PIC OF THE WEEK



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Victor misses out on SALA cultural events

SALA GONE MISSING

Last year Victor Harbor hosted five SALA events; Port Elliot and Middleton hosted nine, and Goolwa eleven. This year's Fringe Festival had events in Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Mount Gambier, and of course Goolwa. Victor Harbor? Nothing. Why?

Arts and cultural activities have always had a strong following in Victor Harbor, which is growing significantly. It appears the City of Victor Harbor executive and councillors have little interest in supporting and promoting the arts. The council still has no Arts and Culture policy. Council's draft 17/18 budget includes elimination of arts and culture grants, removal of the Artisan Market, and closure of the Whale Centre, and withdrawal from Rock and Roll Festival. There is no further support included for the proposed Coral Street Arts Precinct.

In 17/18 the City of Victor Harbor will increase rates by more than 3.5 per cent - double the 1.8 per cent CPI. Nearly 400 volunteer ratepayers assist the city in providing key services. The payroll for the council staff will increase by over one million dollars, to almost 10 million dollars. Yet again extra staff are proposed, when council staff numbers need to be cut. Executive

corporate services costs are now over two million dollars.

Councillors have again failed to control Council executive interests and spending.
*Andrew Robertson,
Victor Harbor*

PARKING ISSUES

Fleurieu Festival of Sports extends its sincere apology to the community for any inconvenience or misunderstanding concerning parking and access to the Esplanade half road closure on Sunday, April 9.

*Trevor Mayhew,
Chairman*

SCULPTURE PARK

Does anyone seriously think that tourists are going to drive from Adelaide, to see man-made sculptures on Granite Island?

Any development on the Island should be to enhance what it is known and loved for: A place to glimpse dolphins, seals, whales, penguins and other wildlife, in a beautiful natural environment. And Oceanic Victor will be in keeping with this experience.

The department for the Environment should be involved in developing the island as a wildlife sanctuary. Possibly facilitating

more native wildlife, and securing it at night for their safety.

A 'sculpture park' has its place, and possibly in Victor Harbor. But on Granite Island it would be completely inappropriate, and an outright eyesore. The people who are pushing this proposal are being given a voice (by the media), simply because they are known in their fields. But they are using the island as a vehicle for their own personal interests - not to enhance what we have.

Any public or government consideration of this ludicrous proposal should be balanced with an alternative, wildlife based enhancement of the Island. And then put to a community vote.

*David de Brequet,
Victor Harbor*

PRIMO PIC OF THE WEEK

Victor Harbor's Tania Monaghan was in the right place to photograph a rainbow over The Causeway recently. Tania has won a \$20 voucher for Primo Victor Harbor.

Submit your local photo to victortimes@fairfaxmedia.com.au. Not all photos will be printed. Winners can visit *The Times* to collect a \$20 Primo voucher.

CONNECT WITH US



ONLINE

Find us on the web
victorharbortimes.com.au



EMAIL

Send your letter to:
victortimes@fairfaxmedia.com.au



PHONE

Call us:
(08) 8552 1488



VISIT/POST

PO Box 107
Victor Harbor, SA, 5211