

The First Sod

Diary of Macedon Railway Station Garden Restoration

19th August 2014

After 2 years of negotiations, the diggers have turned up and the first sod turned! Some of the crew removed the old sleeper retaining wall and the digger removed tree stumps and other foreign material.



SBJ Landscapes constructed a gabion rock retaining wall (supplied at cost by Yarrabee Slate) in preparation for the terraced garden with appropriate native plants. These plants have been selected by local gardening guru Stephen Ryan (Dicksonia Rare Plants).

22nd August 2014

In just 4 days the site really began to show its potential. Most of the gabions have been constructed, soil

levelling almost done and selective placement of some beautiful rocks taken place. A simple but stunning vertical element has been installed and represents people waiting at the station. The beautiful *Echium candicans* (shown below) are planted throughout these columns to make a dramatic statement.



End of Week 2

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31st August 2014

The gabion wall is complete with vertical railway sleepers at the end. This is the point where new meets old. In front of the old shed is a unique statement to the old railway line. A short section of track has been laid with a different gauge each side representing an unused railway line.

A "call to arms" saw several families arrive on a lovely sunny morning with many small and eager children in tow. Stephen Ryan (Dicksonia Rare Plant Nursery) and Scott O'Brien (SBJ Landscapes) delivered the trees and other shrubs with very definite instructions as to their placement. Ben Bush (SBJ Landscapes) delivered

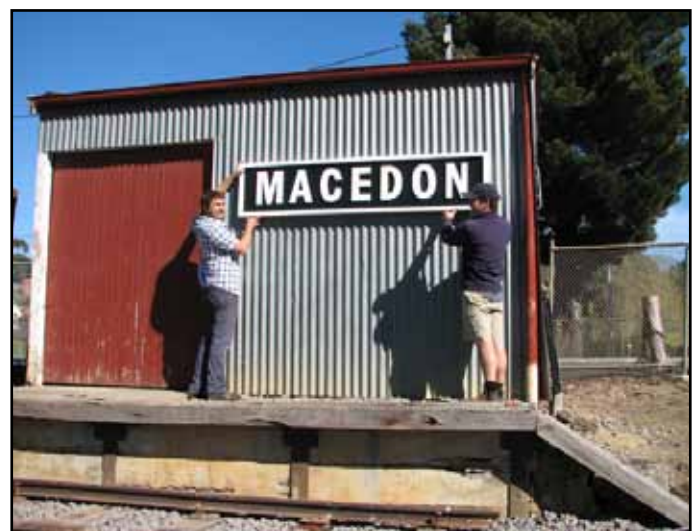


the safety briefing before shovels were taken up and the planting began. Plants included *Echium candicans*, *Myoporum parvifolium*, *Pynosorus Globosus* (Billy Buttons), Bromeliads

(donated by Stephen Ryan) and *Hardenbergia* (Happy Wanderer). A highlight of the morning occurred when

Grant Smitten (Macedon Ranges Garden Services) arrived with the new heritage **Macedon** sign. The sign is installed on the platform with a second sign to be erected on the old shed facing the carpark. Evidence of the pride we have in our station is now clearly apparent. Several volunteers cleared weeds from the left hand garden. At midday a sausage sizzle became the hub for all to stand back and admire the day's work.

All in all, a great result. Final works include irrigation pipes through the new garden then a layer of mulch. Congratulations to all on a fine job.



The Concept

Macedon Railway Station Garden Restoration

The totems and fake rail clearly refer to the railway heritage of Macedon.

The boulders are local basalt which is a dominant soil type in the area from volcanic activity. Those soils give rise to a variety of plants, both local and introduced, that thrive in the district. Macedon and Mt Macedon are famed for their gardens amongst other things.

The variety of plants in the garden pay homage to the area's 19th century horticultural heritage.

The gabion wall system is a modern method of retaining which employs the solid rustic look of the industrial revolution era rail works coupled with the modern ingenuity of clever design and simple forms.



Week 3 - A New Beginning

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4th September 2014

The seemingly unimportant task of removing the safety fencing has opened the space up to fresh scrutiny and the full panorama can now be appreciated. It will be a joy to watch this garden mature.

With the fence gone and the wheelbarrows packed up, the team from SBJ Landscapes has completed their task. Congratulations again to all on a fine result.

