

CAMPERDOWN BOTANIC GARDENS AND ARBORETUM TRUST INC

NEWS

3

SUMMER 2014

Establishment of Trust

The Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum Trust was incorporated on 6 September 2013. Its primary purpose is to support the Corangamite Council in its management of the site. The inaugural committee was elected at a public meeting in January:

President:	Pamela Jellie
Vice-President:	Leon Morrissey
Secretary:	Karen Richardson
Treasurer:	Garry Moorfield
General members:	Dennis Bant, Emma Bell, Sue Cole, Janet O'Hehir, Judy Roycroft

The Trust obtained its ABN on 4 December 2013.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Membership forms are available at the Courthouse Visitor Information and Arts. Encourage your family and friends to join in helping to conserve and improve Camperdown's beautiful historic botanic garden and arboretum. Annual membership fee is \$10.

New trees

It's been many years since new trees have been planted in our historic Arboretum. Professor Tim Entwisle kicked off the renewal by planting an Australian Desert Willow *Geijera parviflora* during his visit in June. Late in spring, while the weather was still cool and wet, an intrepid group of Trust members joined with Corangamite Shire gardens staff to plant another 20 new trees. The trees were selected according to the original Guilfoyle plan for the Arboretum and include species of Pine, Oak, Brachychiton, Cedar and Water Gum. The trees were purchased with funds raised from events and several were sponsored by community members. Metro Trees, who supplied most of the trees, also added some donations.

Arboretum neighbour Scott Carbury upgraded a number of the tree guards to keep the grazing cattle at bay, and Corangamite parks and gardens staff have been busy keeping the trees watered during the sizzling summer weather.

More plantings are planned for the coming autumn and there will be further opportunities for individuals and community groups to sponsor trees.

Events calendar

Our first successful public event was a talk in June at the Theatre Royal on 'Botanic Gardens in the 21st Century' by the CEO of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Professor Tim Entwisle. A second talk in October featured local stone waller Alistair Tune and the Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia. In December an enthusiastic group of garden clubs from around the district enjoyed the film 'Greenfingers' screened by the Trust in partnership with the Corangamite Film Society.

A program of speakers, events and social activities is currently being planned for 2014.



Allan Willingham thanks Alistair Tune and DSWAA chair Jim Holdsworth after their talk on 13 October 2013.

Working bees

We have had three working bees to plant new trees in the Arboretum and weed and tidy up beds in the garden.

Working bees are scheduled for the first Sunday of every month. In summer we start at 8 am and work for two hours, finishing at 10 am. We finish before the heat of the day and still manage to get to the market.

It's a fun way of getting some exercise, getting to know the gardens and helping to make a difference.

You don't need to make a regular commitment. Come when you can.

Dates to remember

SUNDAYS: First Sunday of every month. Working bee 8–10 am. All welcome. Bring tools and a hat.

19 MARCH: Committee meeting 6 pm at the Courthouse. All members welcome to attend.

Part of the national botanic garden network

The Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum Trust is now a member of three important networks. Check these links to find out more about their activities and the ways they support and promote Australia's botanic gardens.

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens
<http://www.friendsbotanicgardens.org/>

Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ)
<http://www.bganz.org.au/>

Australian Garden History Society
<http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/>



Trust members watch as Professor Tim Entwisle shows how it's done at the first tree planting in June 2013.



What's growing?

Doryanthes palmeri (Australian Spear Lily)

Just inside the garden gate you can see the Australian Spear Lily *Doryanthes palmeri*, one of the signature plants of William Guilfoyle's gardens. It is native to a small area of south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales, where it is listed as a vulnerable species. It is one of only two species in this Australian genus (the other being *Doryanthes excelsa*, the Gynea Lily).

The Spear Lily was a popular inclusion in 19th century parks and gardens with its dramatic rosette of leaves, spectacular flowers and drought tolerance. In spring, the flowering stem can reach up to three metres in length, bending under the weight of its spike of bright red flowers.

Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum contain many interesting and unusual trees and other plants. A Trust sub-committee of Pamela Jellie, Sue Cole and Janet O'Hehir is working on a planting plan to rejuvenate borders and shrub beds and add to the plant collection.

[Pictured: Jan Murray, Judy Roycroft and Janet O'Hehir at January's working bee.]



Jan Murray and Karen Richardson plant a new Oak tree, with guidance from Council staff Mick Lodge and Matt Pemberton.