

# CAMPERDOWN BOTANIC GARDENS AND ARBORETUM TRUST INC

NEWS

4

AUTUMN 2014

## Visit to Mooleric and Turkeith

The enthusiasm of the local community for the refurbishment of the Botanic Gardens and Arboretum is very heartening. Despite the hot dry weather in the past months the Sunday morning working bees have been well attended and have contributed around 70 hours of work. Thank you to all who have come along.

Over the years many people have contributed to the development of the Gardens and in more recent years to its restoration. We aim to continue their vision. We are fortunate to have electronic communication to keep you informed of what is happening. We are also fortunate to have a connection with William Guilfoyle (1840–1912), designer of Melbourne Botanic Gardens and several

private gardens in this district, including Mooleric and Turkeith near Birregurra. On Wednesday 30 April we are pleased to offer for both members and friends an escorted tour of these gardens. The properties were held until recent years by descendants of the Ramsay family, and continue to be in the hands of appreciative and sympathetic owners. Both gardens demonstrate Guilfoyle's particular design skills and planting style.

The Colac Botanic Gardens will also be included in the tour. In 1910 Guilfoyle created a plan for remodelling those gardens. Evidence of his planting suggestions can still be seen.

Do take this opportunity to visit these very special gardens. Tickets are \$25 and available at the Shire office.

Pamela Jellie, President



Originally from Colac, Pamela Jellie is no stranger to the Western District's gardens. She has a degree in landscape architecture and a special interest in heritage gardens, having played a significant role in the restoration of some of Victoria's important historic sites, including Sunbury mental hospital and the Abbotsford Convent. Pamela is a past chair of the Victorian branch of the Australian Garden History Society and is regularly invited to speak on gardens and garden makers from Victoria's history. Pamela moved to Camperdown in 2013, and is enjoying the garden at her new home at 'Penzance' in Scott Street.



Mooleric near Birregurra – one of Guilfoyle's finest private gardens.



The garden at Turkeith showcases Guilfoyle's style.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Wed. 30 April:** Mooleric and Turkeith bus trip  
Tickets \$25 from Shire office

**Sun. 1 June 2 pm:** Talk by John and Michelle Rayner  
Children, gardens and nature  
Theatre Royal (details to come)

**First Sunday of every month 8–10 am:** Working bee

## Children, gardens and nature

Providing opportunities for children to engage with nature is increasingly important as our cities grow, our backyards shrink and disconnection from the natural world impinges on their learning, creativity and physical and emotional wellbeing.

We are delighted to announce our next public talk on Sunday 1 June by Michelle and John Rayner. John is a senior lecturer in Urban Horticulture at the University of Melbourne's Burnley campus. Michelle is an environmental education teacher at The Patch primary school. Their presentation will focus on nature-based learning and planting for play. Stay tuned for details!

## Autumn planting

With the coming of autumn, conditions will soon be just right for planting. A first-stage planting plan is currently being prepared, with the aim of adding shrubs to the western border and new plants to perennial beds. Elements of William Guilfoyle's original plan and plant selection will be incorporated.



### What's growing?

#### *Olearia paniculata* (Akiraho)

In late autumn clusters of fragrant flowers appear on one of the garden's most popular trees, *Olearia paniculata*. The name may not be familiar to many, but the tree is always a major attraction for children visiting the Gardens.

Commonly known as Akiraho in its native New Zealand, *Olearia paniculata* is a member of the daisy family Asteraceae. Its bright green leaves have a distinctive wavy margin and white underside. It makes an attractive small branching evergreen tree or tough hedging plant suitable for windy or coastal sites. Ours is an unusually large specimen.

The genus *Olearia* contains more than 130 species of shrubs and small trees, which occur mainly in Australia, New Guinea and New Zealand.

