

Discovering Guilfoyle

Around 90 members and friends from as far away as Berwick and Ballarat enjoyed our first bus trip on Thursday 30 April. After a wild and wet start to the week, the sun shone as we headed off. Friends' president Anne Mercer welcomed us to the Colac Botanic Gardens and head gardener Laurence Towers talked about William Guilfoyle's involvement in their early days. He and new apprentice Dylan McCarthy showed us around the wonderful plant collection and special features.

On our arrival at Turkeith, owner Mary Anne Holt explained how she sees her role as custodian of one of Guilfoyle's most beautiful private gardens. As we explored the shrubberies, stone paths, lawns and borders, garden historians Helen Page and Pamela Jellie described the involvement of the Australian Garden History Society in the restoration and conservation of the garden. Helen also highlighted the work of stone waller David Long, supported by the AGHS, in restoring and creating the beautiful stone walls on the property.

The garden at Mooleric was unfortunately withdrawn from our program due to heavy rain earlier in the week. We look forward to a visit there on another occasion.



Above left: Turkeith owner Mary Anne Holt chats with Warrnambool Botanic Gardens curator John Sheely.

Above right and below: Enjoying the garden at Turkeith.



What's growing?

Pittosporum undulatum (Native Daphne)

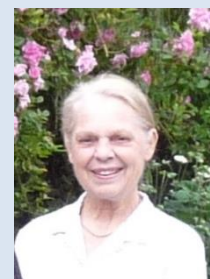
The genus *Pittosporum* has been enjoying a burst of popularity – some might say over-popularity – among home gardeners in recent years. Many of the small-leaved cultivars make attractive and undemanding hedges and screens. Most of these originated across the Tasman.

At the Camperdown gardens we have a number of old specimens of the Aussie species *Pittosporum undulatum*. Indigenous to the south-east of New South Wales and Victoria's north-east, it has glossy evergreen foliage and clusters of fragrant creamy coloured flowers. It was a popular hedging plant and specimen tree in early gardens and a regular inclusion on William Guilfoyle's planting lists.

Nowadays *Pittosporum undulatum* is more likely to incite controversy than enthusiasm among gardeners and environmentalists. It has become one of our native trees that is often regarded as an 'invader' outside of its natural range. Birds eat the sticky orange fruits and spread the seeds, which sprout readily in bushland and backyards.

Vale Gaye Wuchatsch

Passionate about history, gardens and dry stone walls, Gaye Wuchatsch and her husband Rob were among the first to sign up as members of our Trust. Sadly, Gaye became ill early in the year and passed away on 23 April.



Friends, family and Gaye's faithful red dog attended her funeral service at the historic German settlement of Westgarthtown. Garden Club and Trust members gathered flowers from their gardens to honour and farewell a gentle lady and a generous friend. (Photo courtesy of Graeme Fischer.)