



From Kew to Camperdown

Director of Horticulture at London's Kew Gardens Richard Barley made a brief trip home to Melbourne in January. We were thrilled when he agreed to give a public talk in Camperdown during his visit. Richard is well known among garden networks in Australia, having spent 30 years at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, including 15 as the Melbourne Gardens director, and more recently as CEO of Open Gardens Australia. Around 160 people came from Melbourne, Geelong and the South West region to attend the event.

Richard gave a fascinating account of the history of Kew Gardens and its place at the heart of plant exploration and botanic garden development in the 19th century. Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum were among the many established in Australia during that period, especially in Victoria, where there were 21 botanic gardens by 1870.

Richard, his wife, botanical artist Anita Barley and their daughter Georgina were welcomed to Camperdown at a Trust members reception in Fiona and Alun Morris's beautiful garden at Gnotuk House.



Above: Trust members gather in the garden on Saturday morning 30 January for a commemorative tree planting.

Left: Richard Barley plants a Mediterranean Fan Palm (*Chamaerops humilis*). (Photos: Pat Gabb.)

Annual General Meeting

The first AGM of the Trust was held on 11 February. President Pamela Jellie summed up the achievements of the first 18 months, including five public lectures, a bus trip and several commemorative tree plantings.

The Trust has contributed over 250 volunteer hours, planting hundreds of new plants in the Botanic Garden and new trees in the Arboretum.

Treasurer Garry Moorfield reported a bank balance of \$16,000. The main purchases for the year were \$16,000 for plants and \$3,000 for mulch.

The annual membership fee was set at \$10.

A new Committee was elected for the Trust:

President	Pamela Jellie
Vice-President	Leon Morrissey
Treasurer	Garry Moorfield
Secretary	Janet O'Hehir

General Committee members	Dennis Bant Emma Bell Ruth Brain Sue Cole Donna Ellis Karen Richardson Judy Roycroft
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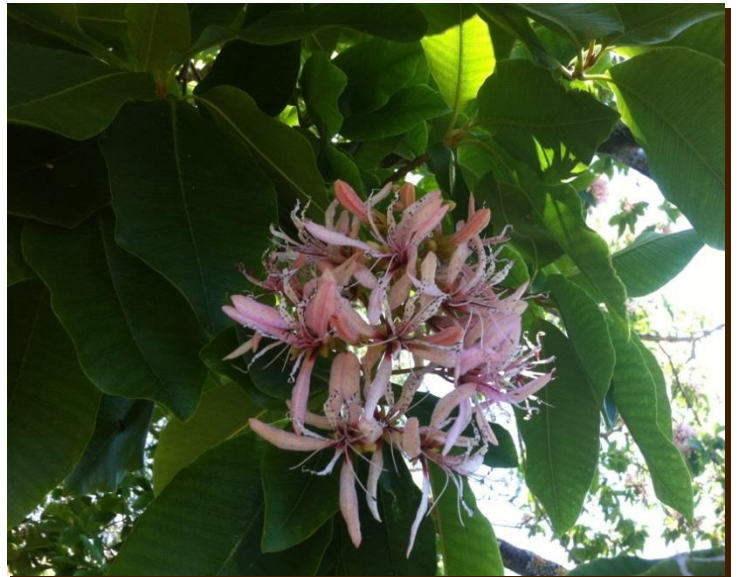


Arboretum planting continues

Corangamite Shire has leased out the 3.5 hectare section of the Arboretum (pictured above) adjacent to the caravan park. This land remains closed to the public and will be grazed by cattle over the three-year period of the lease. However, the Trust will continue to work towards restoration of the site as a public park.

Around 45 new trees are being established in the Arboretum, and two unsightly Golden Cypress trees, dating from the original Guilfoyle plan, are soon to be removed and replaced.

Meanwhile, Trust members will continue to water, weed, mulch and care for newly planted trees, and install fences to enable further plantings to take place.



What's flowering?

Cape Chestnut (*Calodendrum capense*)

In 1921, a commentator in the Melbourne *Argus* made an observation about William Guilfoyle's use of colour:

Guilfoyle had a liking for the Turneresque touch – the great landscape painter's way of putting in a final patch of red colour after the picture was supposed to be finished. Hence, as your gaze wanders from point to point you catch a glimpse of the scarlet of Eucalyptus ficifolia or the deep red of the coral tree (Erythrina) or the softened yet gay millinery of the Cape Wild Chestnut.

Like many of the garden makers who created our early parks and gardens, Guilfoyle was inspired by the colourful flowering trees native to Australia and other southern hemisphere countries.

The South African Cape Chestnut in our garden provides more than just a glimpse of colour. It puts on a stunning display of fragrant pink flowers in summer.

And it's not a chestnut at all, but a member of the family Rutaceae, more closely related to oranges and lemons.



Bush play group

A report from Tania Moloney

The Nurture in Nature Bush Playgroup and Family Nature Club enjoyed a visit to the Gardens in November.

Five adults with children aged from 18 months to six years from five families enjoyed exploring the nooks and crannies of the garden, playing hide and seek and making 'nature art' from sticks, feathers and leaves.

Many of the parents commented that they had been to the Gardens in the past, but most also agreed that they 'don't come here often enough'.

Recent research by Planet Ark has revealed some disturbing figures: around 27% of children have never climbed a tree or planted or cared for a vegetable garden or other plants, and one in 10 Aussie kids plays outside only once a week or even less.

The Bush Playgroup conducts its sessions at bush sites, parks and gardens around the district. It's all about encouraging families to get outside and connect with nature and with each other – and creating cherished memories along the way.

In April, I'll be running a mini family nature retreat at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. It's part of Nature Play Week and will be fantastic fun!

Find out more at www.nurtureinnature.com.au



Above: Nash Hansen (in the red hat) looks on while Ollie and Max get some tree climbing advice from their mum Honor Rahles-Rahbula at the bush playgroup. (Photo: Tania Moloney)

Dates for the diary

Sunday 29 March	9 am Bulb planting Everyone can help – kids are welcome too!
Sunday 12 April	9 am Normal monthly working bee



The potting shed

The potting shed on the western edge of the Gardens has recently been fitted out with tools for the use of Trust volunteers. Wheelbarrows, hoses, rakes and a collection of old garden implements have been installed.

The Victorian Heritage Register includes the potting shed among the significant buildings on the site, along with the gardener's cottage, which dates from 1880 and the picnic shelter, constructed in 1908.

Plans for restoration of the potting shed were drawn up in 1985 and works were completed in 2007.



A pig's just a pig for a' that

The small pig that until recently delighted children – and adults – on Burns' vacated plinth (above) has become the victim of vandals.

He has found refuge in the potting shed.



What's growing?

European Linden (*Tilia x europaea*)

The avenue of nine Linden trees was part of Guilfoyle's original plan. It is the only known instance where he used this tree to create an avenue as a garden feature, which is one of the reasons for its inclusion on the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees.

The European Linden is a hybrid of *T. cordata* (heart-shaped) and *T. platyphyllos* (having broad leaves). In summer, the bright green foliage creates a cool retreat on a hot day. In autumn, the avenue is a sea of yellow leaves.

(Photos: Pat Gabb)



Walking and talking

Visitors to the Gardens for the Richard Barley events included Kate Gane from Torquay (above right) and journalist Megan Backhouse (left), who featured our Gardens in her column in *The Age*.

We were also pleased to show members of the Mortlake Garden Club and Camperdown Country Women's Association around the Gardens. A group from the Cobden Quota Club (below) enjoyed a picnic tea in the Gardens in February.

Anyone wanting to arrange a walk and talk through the Gardens is invited to contact Janet O'Hehir (details below).

