



## CAMPERDOWN BOTANIC GARDENS AND ARBORETUM TRUST INC.

Newsletter no 16

Summer 2016–2017

### VIP visitors – from near . . .

Deputy Mayor of Moyne Shire Jordan Lockett and friends from Port Fairy, Warrnambool, Port Campbell, Koroit and California celebrated a friend's birthday in December with a picnic in the Gardens.

Below, Jordan explains the finer points of the game of petanque to Emily Bissland, Andrew Clancy and Tate Radford.



### . . . and far

On a whistle-stop visit in January, Richard Barley called in with his family for a picnic in the Gardens. Richard, who is the Director of Horticulture, Learning and Operations at London's Kew Gardens, takes a keen interest in the development of our Botanic Gardens and Arboretum. He also checked on the progress of the Mediterranean Fan Palm (*Chamaerops humilis*), which he planted in 2015 during his last visit to Camperdown (not to be confused with the Kniphofia behind it in the picture below!)

Richard also gave some advice about collections and future plantings. We are privileged to be able to benefit from his 25-years' experience at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne, 15 as its director.



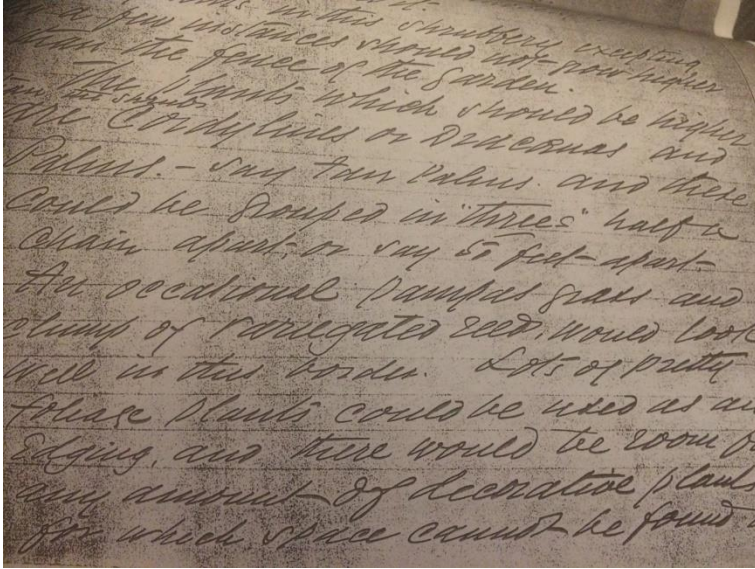
## What's growing?

### Monocot clumps

Visitors will have noticed two clumps of new plants growing just outside the garden fence.

In Guilfoyle's 1910 plan and notes (below), he specifies clumps of monocots at 50-foot spacing around the perimeter to frame views.

The plants he specified for this purpose were Pampas Grass, Danubian Reed (*Arundo donax*) and fan palms.



The fan palms we have chosen are Chusan Palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei*).

We have also planted Yucca, Strelitzia, Furcraea and Gahnia (*Gahnia sieberiana*). The latter is a local plant, which is well worth a place in gardens, although it can be hard to find and difficult to propagate. With its grassy foliage and striking dark plumes of flowers it could make a good substitute for Pampas Grass.

As they grow, these plants will contribute to the sub-tropical atmosphere, which was characteristic of Guilfoyle's style.



Below: A clump of monocots outside the fence has been planted to reflect the spirit of Guilfoyle's plan.

## CMP update

The CMP process continues. The draft report, prepared by Context heritage consultants is currently before the Steering Committee. It sets out what is of heritage significance on the site and the actions that could be taken and policies put in place to conserve the heritage values.

The report will be made available for public comment before going to Council for approval.

## A universal interest

Language was definitely a barrier, but two recent visitors (below) seemed to be indicating they would like to help with the gardening. One picked up a rake and enthusiastically set to work, while his partner stood by with the camera.

With smiles and nods all round, we only managed to work out that they were from China, they had driven in a car to Camperdown, and they like gardens.

Botanic gardens and arboreta are popular destinations for Chinese tourists. In their own country there are over 200 botanic gardens, and with a recent surge of interest, new ones are being established every year.

Botanic gardens in China, as well as in Australia and around the world, are engaged in plant conservation and environmental education as well as providing clean and green spaces for healthy recreation.

In an increasingly urban environment, botanic gardens are recognised as models for the harmonious development of community, humanity and nature.





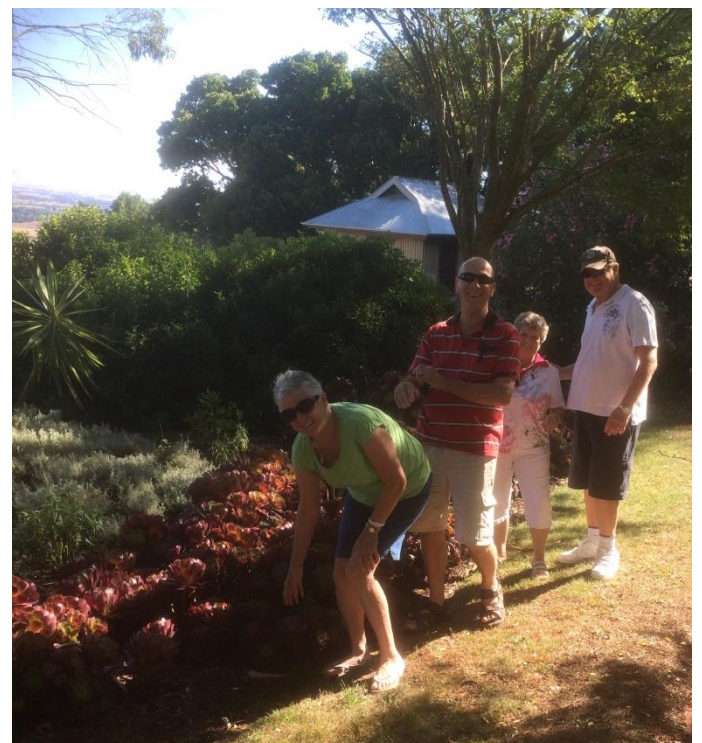
## That Scottish play

On a perfect summer afternoon on 22 January an audience of around 120 were treated to an OzAct performance of Macbeth. Our Botanic Garden was one of several gardens to host the performance in Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Our volunteers spent many hours planting, watering, raking and weeding, to help make sure the Gardens looked their best. Corangamite Shire's communications manager Rory Neeson said many positive comments were received.

## The people you meet

Recent visitors Bev and Len Turner from Adelaide and Ray and Leora Duffield from Warracknabeal (right) enjoyed the spectacular views across the volcanic plain, while Bendigo's Diane Davies (below), as a botanical artist, focused on the close-ups, examining the fascinating textures of tree trunks and fungi.



## What's growing?

### Holm Oaks (*Quercus ilex*)

Castlemaine Botanic Gardens staff are keenly watching the growth of a group of Holm Oaks planted in our Arboretum. The new trees were propagated from seed collected several years ago from a historic specimen in their Gardens.

The Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*) is a large tree with dark green leaves reminiscent of Holly (*Ilex* sp.), Holm being an ancient name for Holly. It is an evergreen native of the Mediterranean basin and well adapted to windy conditions and dry summers.

It is a slow-growing tree, but in years to come the Holm Oak grove will be a cool and shady spot in our Arboretum

Among the best specimens you might find locally is a Holm Oak at Tea Tree Lake Reserve in Mortlake (below).



Left: Parent tree at the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens.

Below: Foliage of the Holm Oak, showing its resemblance to Holly.



Below: Searching for acorns beneath the Holm Oak at Tea Tree Lake Reserve in Mortlake.



## Thanks to Burnley

The sharing of plants between botanic gardens is a long-standing tradition. Established botanic gardens can be a great source of rare and interesting plant material for gardens with more limited resources.

We were pleased to receive a generous donation of plants recently from the Friends of Burnley Gardens Plant Propagation Group. They include some uncommon species of *Plectranthus*, *Abelia* and *Abutilon*, which will go in the eastern border.

Trust committee member Glenys Rose and her team of skilled horticulturists (Thea Roche, Fran Mason, John Hill and Cheryl Andrews, below) are also using the specialised facilities at Burnley campus of the University of Melbourne to begin propagating some of our rare and significant species to ensure that we have succession plantings for the future.



## Working bees

Working bees are continuing on the second Sunday of every month, from 8.30 am to around mid-day. Mountains of mulch were moved (below) at the February working bee beneath the Algerian Oak at the Garden entrance.

The next working bees will be on Sunday 12 March and Sunday 9 April. All hands welcome.

