



CAMPERDOWN BOTANIC GARDENS AND ARBORETUM TRUST INC

Newsletter no 23

Spring 2018

A talk about palms from Jo Wilkins

Favoured by William Guilfoyle and a staple of Victorian and Edwardian gardens, palms are being rediscovered for their ornamental value and adaptability.

Palm expert Jo Wilkins will provide an insight into a fascinating and diverse group of plants found all over the world.

Saturday 17 November 2018

2.00 pm

Killara Centre, Camperdown

Entry \$15

The tropics and subtropics are home to many of the 2,600 species, but a large number hail from temperate climates. Adapted to heat and cold, frost and drought – and searing UV levels – palms are underutilised as a landscaping choice in our ever more challenging environment.

Jo is based in Melbourne, with a 20-year palm garden of over 90 species she uses to educate and inspire others.



Above: Jo Wilkins brought palms for our Botanic Garden on her last visit to Camperdown.

Here's a link to an interview with Jo screened on Gardening Australia back in 2012.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcCsEOIOW2A>

Membership

Is your membership current? Many people renewed their memberships before the AGM in October. Membership remains an annual \$10 fee. It can be sent by cheque to the address on this newsletter or paid direct into the CBGA Trust bank account:

BSB 633 000

A/c 150 506 913

Please include your name in the Reference.

Australian Garden History Society grant supports new plantings

We are very excited to announce that the Australian Garden History Society has provided a substantial grant to enable further development and renovation of our Botanic Garden and Arboretum.

In 1910 William Guilfoyle drew up a plan for Camperdown's 250-acre Public Park. His plan included a comprehensive collection of trees (Arboretum) to be planted in the park surrounding the central fenced Botanic Garden. Many rare and special trees can still be found here today from that original planting.

Guilfoyle provided detailed lists of the trees he selected. We are fortunate to have these lists and his explanatory notes, which are in safe-keeping at our Heritage Centre, where the plan is on display.

His instructions included a shrubbery around the perimeter of the central ornamental Botanic Garden at the heart of the park. He specified clumps of monocots, including fan palms, to be planted every 50 feet, as well as border planting to hide the fence.

Lots of pretty foliage plants could be used as an edging, and there would be room for any amount of decorative plants for which space cannot be found in the Garden. The more the outer fence of the garden is hidden or clothed the better.

After discussions with Heritage Victoria and Corangamite Shire Council, we are ready to go ahead with some of this border planting and new beds over the next few months.

As with other new plantings in the last five years, we will base plant selection on a range of criteria, including

affordability, availability, size, growing conditions (wind, shade, soil and water), maintenance needs, suitability for a public garden, safety, the design intent, and the vision and objectives for the place as a botanic garden. We are fortunate to be able to draw upon a range of advice and expertise through our engagement with horticultural and botanic garden networks, including Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand and the Plant Trust.

A hundred years on, we are also able to take into account some things that are now better understood about the suitability or otherwise of some of the plants originally specified. We now know the environmental risks of Pampas Grass and some of the Acacia and Coprosma species, for example!

In 1910, when he drew up his plan, Guilfoyle said he didn't expect it to be implemented all at once, but it might be done in stages as funds became available.

Now is a good time for some new developments, because next year, 2019, will be the 150th anniversary of the reservation of Camperdown's Public Park and our public Botanic Garden and Arboretum that sit within it.

With the support of the Australian Garden History Society, we will be able to commemorate that anniversary with a worthwhile investment in this special place.

Below: Betty Hine visited with her daughter Pam Phillips on a sunny spring morning.



Below: When Deb and Graham visited the Gardens, they came prepared for sun or rain with a parasol.



What's growing?

Roses

With funding from the Australian Garden History Society, we will be able to take the renovation of the rose garden to the next level. This will include soil improvement with mulching and fertilising, as well as some new planting, and additional companion planting.

Paul from Theo's Gardens (below) has been busy repairing and upgrading the old watering system ready for summer.



Tree ferns

When Ian and Sue Currell removed three large tree ferns from a newly acquired property recently, they offered them for planting in the Botanic Garden.

These are Soft Tree Ferns, *Dicksonia antarctica*. They are occasionally seen growing in local gardens so we hope we can establish these ones in the Botanic Garden.

According to Kevin Sparrow's *Plants of the Great South West*, the *Dicksonia antarctica* is a plant from cool temperate rainforests, wet and damp sclerophyll forests and deep moist shaded gullies in all eastern states. They can be transplanted, but it is illegal to remove them from the wild.

We have installed them near the picnic shelter in a shady and sheltered spot out of the wind, and they have started to put out some new fronds. (See above.)

Power underground

Recent visitors will have noticed works being carried out at the eastern fence. The power pole, which has been something of an eyesore in this area, has now been removed and the power line has been put underground.

Corangamite Shire was successful in gaining funding from the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to have the power line from the front entrance to the Botanic Garden put underground as part of the Government's strategy for fire prevention on Crown Land.

Bulbs

Visitors have been delighted by flowering bulbs over the last few months. First, there were Daffodils under the Elm tree next to the carpark. These were followed by Bluebells under the trees on the northern border, and Tulips under the Camperdown Elm (below). These are all finished now, but Liliiums will be up for summer.

We have ordered hundreds of new bulbs to add to the display for spring and summer next year.



Vale Frank Rose

Members of the Trust were saddened to learn of the passing of Frank Rose in October. Frank had a keen interest in botanic gardens and was a supporter of the Trust from its beginnings in 2013. He will be sadly missed by all of us.

Dates to remember

Working bees: Second Sunday of every month
8.30 am to mid-day
Sunday 11 November
Sunday 9 December

Palms: A public talk by Jo Wilkins
Saturday 17 November
2 pm, Killara Centre, Camperdown

Follow us on Instagram



camperdownbotanicgardens

Also follow Corangamite Trees, which highlights some of the interesting and special trees around the Shire.

What's growing?

Plants of the Great South West

When it comes to selecting plants for the windy western border, a good place to look is in our own backyard. White Correa (*Correa alba*) and Coast Daisy (*Olearia axillaris*) (below) are common along the edge of the Southern Ocean. They stand up to harsh winds and dry conditions, and with their grey and silver foliage, they look great in combination with a wide variety of other plants. We sourced ours from Codrington Nursery west of Port Fairy.

