



# CAMPERDOWN BOTANIC GARDENS AND ARBORETUM TRUST INC.

Newsletter no. 26

Winter 2019

## State invests in botanic gardens and arboreta

Four million dollars of funding has been announced for the State Government's 'Growing Victoria's Botanic Gardens' program. Grants of \$20,000 to \$300,000 are available to enable botanic gardens and arboreta to adapt to climate change, maintain valuable plant collections, improve amenities for the community and support local tourism development.

We have identified a number of possible projects, one being the restoration and return to public access of the north-eastern section of the Arboretum. We will be seeking the support of Council so that we can take full advantage of this opportunity for State Government funding to boost recent conservation and improvement efforts.

Below: Autumn view of Californian Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and two deciduous North American Swamp Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) in the north-east section of the Arboretum, currently closed to public access.



## 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary

This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reservation of the Camperdown Public Park, which was first reserved in 1869.

The Botanic Gardens and Arboretum occupy a 25-hectare section of the park reserve, with the garden designed as a 'floral enclosure' at the top of the ridge overlooking Lakes Bullen-Merri and Gnotuk and surrounded by a treed park.

To celebrate the occasion we will be presenting an exhibition of old and new photographs and other historic materials at the Courthouse Camperdown in November.

This event is being organised in collaboration with the Camperdown Courthouse and Camperdown and District Historical Society.

We are very fortunate in having Professor Tim Entwisle, CEO of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria agree to open the exhibition on 15 November. He will present a public talk at the Theatre Royal on the following day. More details closer to the date.



Above: Grandsons of Botanic Gardens curator David Fuller in front of a bed of gladdies in the 1930s. This photo is in the collection of the Camperdown and District Historical Society and was kindly donated by Stan McIntosh, one of the boys in the picture.

## What's growing?

### Donations of plants

We recently received some Irises from Beverley McArthur from her garden at historic Meningoort, north of Camperdown. Many of the plants in our Botanic Garden have been donated. We are keeping a record of the individuals, businesses and other botanic and historic gardens that have given us plants. So far there are more than 40.

Another recent donation was a Cycad from Mr Ailey of Camperdown. He had grown this plant in a pot on his front porch for many years, but decided to offer it to the Botanic Garden, and we were very pleased to accept. We believe it is a *Macrozamia*, possibly *M. macleayi*, a species native to the Byron Bay area, but will take steps to confirm its ID.



### Tools for volunteers

Garden tools for the use of our volunteers have recently been purchased with two grants: a Community Grant from Corangamite Shire Council and a Federal Volunteers Grant.

Rakes, spades, wheelbarrows and other hand tools enable our gardening team to continue the work they began in 2013. Working bees are held on the second Sunday of every month. All hands are welcome.

Below: Janine and Pamela put the new tools to use at a working bee.



### VCAT appeal

In March, we lodged an appeal with VCAT against the issue of a planning permit for five new buildings in the caravan park. We object to the development of this incompatible business in our Arboretum and its occupation of what was intended to be a beautiful entrance drive from the front gate of our Public Park through to the Botanic Garden. The VCAT hearing is set for September.

### Follow us on Instagram

We post regularly on **Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum Trust** and also on **Corangamite Trees**.

Don't forget to tag us when you post your own photos too.



## National Volunteers Week

A group of our volunteers and supporters gathered in the picnic shelter for morning tea on 23 May to celebrate National Volunteers Week.

National Volunteers Week is an opportunity to get together to celebrate all the things that are achieved by unpaid contributions to our community.

We have a core of about a dozen people who volunteer either by coming along to working bees in the garden, or carrying out the work of our committee. Then there are the supporters who contribute ideas and enthusiasm. It all helps to conserve and improve our Botanic Gardens and Arboretum and make them a wonderful asset for the enjoyment of our community and visitors.



Above: Members and supporters gathered in the picnic shelter on a perfect autumn day in May to celebrate National Volunteers Week.

## Network events coming up

The Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AAFBG) will hold its AGM at Sydney Botanic Gardens on 19 July.

Botanic Gardens representatives from around Victoria will get together at the next Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) network meeting at Domain House in Melbourne on 28 August. The forum will focus on 'conservation, collections and community'.

Plans are going ahead for the BGANZ bi-annual congress, to be held in Wellington NZ in October, and the annual conference of the Australian Garden History Society (AGHS) also in Wellington in October.

Our CBGA Trust will be represented at all of these events.

## Dates to remember

Wednesday 7 August	Annual General Meeting 5.30 pm, Killara Centre
Sunday 11 August	Working bee
Sunday 8 September	Working bee
Friday 15 November	Opening of exhibition 150 Years
Saturday 16 November	2 pm Public Talk by Professor Tim Entwisle, Theatre Royal

## National Botanic Gardens Day

The fourth National Botanic Gardens Day was held on 26 May.

The day is organised by Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ). Over 100 botanic gardens and arboreta across Australia and New Zealand participated, with a range of activities and events.

This year we began in a small way by offering plants for sale, morning tea and a guided walk through the Gardens.

We were also fortunate to have a visit from Tania Moloney with the Nature Bus for kids. Tania from Noorat uses the bus to offer nature-based kids' activities around the district as part of her Nurture in Nature program.

Below: Tania Moloney brought the Nature Bus to the Gardens for National Botanic Gardens Day.



## What's growing?

### Silk Tassel Bush (*Garrya elliptica*)

Californian plants make a big impression on our Western District landscapes. The Monterey Cypress (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*) and Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*) are two of the most commonly seen trees, mainly as farm windbreak trees.

Another Californian you might see making a spectacle of itself in many old gardens at the moment is *Garrya elliptica*. A coastal evergreen shrub, it puts on a display of silk tassels in winter. This one is growing on the wild and windy south-west outside the Botanic Gardens fence near the lookout.



## AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 7 August at 5.30 pm in the Killara Centre.

As well as the formal business of reports of activities for the year, financial statements and election of office bearers, we will again be making a Before and After presentation to highlight the progress we have contributed to in the Botanic Garden throughout the year.

A Notice of Meeting will be sent out soon.

## The people you meet

We met up with Graeme and Ruth Caple one weekend in the Gardens. They called in on their way home from Warrnambool to Melbourne. Ruth was particularly interested in the Persian Shield Plant at the Botanic Garden entrance.



## The Sunset Bar

Few local sights are more spectacular than the sun going down behind Lake Gnotuk. A group of Trust members have found themselves on the western edge of the Gardens on several evenings recently watching the sunset.

They decided to make it a (semi) regular activity. It's all informal and spur-of-the-moment, and entirely dependent on weather conditions. You'll need warm clothing, your camera and your choice of refreshments.

If you'd like to join in, you can be added to the list to receive messages when the Sunset Bar is happening.

Contact details are below.

