



CAMPERDOWN BOTANIC GARDENS AND ARBORETUM TRUST INC.

Newsletter no 27

Spring 2019

Special guests

It's been six years since Professor Tim Entwisle came to Camperdown to give a talk as our first guest speaker. He will return on Friday 15 November to open our 150th Anniversary Exhibition, and will present a public talk the following day at the Theatre Royal.

Tim is the CEO of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, which includes both the Melbourne Botanic Gardens and the Australian Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne.

On Saturday 16 November Tim and John Hawker, recently retired heritage horticulturist for Heritage Victoria, will plant two trees in the Arboretum to commemorate the occasion.



Above: Professor Tim Entwisle took some photographs in the Botanic Garden on his last visit in 2013.



Above: Old pictures will feature in an exhibition celebrating 150 years of our Botanic Gardens and Arboretum. This photo of Alice, Elizabeth and Beverley Mitchell sitting on the top level of the rotunda was provided by the Camperdown and District Historical Society.

150th Anniversary exhibition

On 15 November we will open an exhibition of old and recent photographs to celebrate the 150th anniversary of our Botanic Gardens and Arboretum. The site is a 25-hectare part of the much larger Camperdown Public Park, which was first reserved in 1869.

The park was laid out initially by Daniel Bunce, then director of the Geelong Botanic Gardens. It was later re-designed by William Guilfoyle, who had a long association with Camperdown, from 1888 until 1910 when he prepared a comprehensive plan for the park.

The Botanic Garden was set out as a 'floral enclosure' at the heart of the treed park.

The Camperdown and District Historical Society is partnering with us in presenting this exhibition, which will be an opportunity to display some of the historic images from its collection.

Meeting up with Friends in Sydney

In August we were represented at the AGM of the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens in the Maiden Theatre at Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney.

The AAFBG brings together botanic garden friends groups from around the country to share their experiences, ideas and information.

A highlight was a guided tour of Sydney's Botanic Gardens with Paul Nicolson (right).

We were also treated to the fabulous display of carnivorous plants in the Calyx exhibition space.



VCAT appeal

Our VCAT appeal continues against plans to squeeze yet more buildings and more traffic into the caravan park that is still allowed to operate in 2.5 hectares of our Arboretum, including the entrance avenue.

What began as a camping ground in our park, has become a private business focused on using publicly funded infrastructure for a private commercial purpose.

After six years of volunteer gardening to make our Botanic Gardens into a worthwhile place for locals and visitors to enjoy, we are disappointed to have to appeal against the privatisation and ongoing degradation of what was intended to be a beautiful place for public enjoyment.

Specialist service from Cranbourne

At the recent Victorian forum of Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) Mandy Thomson (at left), leader of the propagation team at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria at Cranbourne presented us with two Golden Horizontal Cypress trees for planting out in our Arboretum.

The new trees were needed to replace two old ones removed under a heritage permit some time ago.

These are trees that were indicated on Guilfoyle's 1910 plan, but they are no longer commercially available.

Cuttings taken from one of the remaining trees in our Arboretum were taken back by Cranbourne's horticulture manager John Arnott after a BGANZ meeting in Camperdown in 2017. Two were successful, and will be planted as part of our 150th anniversary celebrations.



AGM

A new committee was elected at the August AGM:

Emma Bell, President
Janet O'Hehir, Vice-President
Rebecca Lines-Kelly, Secretary
Leon Morrissey, Treasurer
Glenys Rose, Membership Secretary

General committee members:

Sue Cole
Pamela Jellie
Michael Emerson
Garry Moorfield

Emma Bell, our new president is a life-long resident of Camperdown, and a dedicated gardener, opera fan and dog lover. She is a keen supporter of the care and protection of our local landscape and natural assets, as was her mother Meredith Bell, a leading figure in the 1980s campaign to conserve Mount Sugarloaf.

What's growing?

Spring bulbs

A succession of spring bulbs has been delighting visitors to the gardens over the last few weeks. Daffodils and jonquils under the Elm trees outside the garden fence have been followed by Spanish Bluebells and Tulips under trees within the garden. There are sprinklings of other bulbs too, such as Muscari, Veltheimia, Ipheon, Scilla and Dutch Irises. Others, such as Liliun and Gladiolus will follow.

There are many bulbs perfectly suited to our climate, especially those that come from the Mediterranean, California and South Africa. They put on a colourful display in spring or autumn, but take a break underground through the heat of summer.

There is a huge range of bulbs, corms and tubers suitable for planting in our garden and we will be adding more.



Camellias

There are about a dozen Camellias growing near the entrance gate to the Botanic Garden. There is also a large and particularly beautiful bi-coloured specimen growing next to the old gardener's cottage at the front gate.

These were all planted before we began our garden rejuvenation in 2013. There is no record of their names so they can't be labelled. Perhaps Camellia ID could be a project for a keen volunteer.





The people you meet

Jennifer and Greg Blood from Canberra travelled inland after a visit to Port Campbell. They enjoyed a stroll around the Botanic Garden and surprised us with a generous donation.

Below: A Californian Redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, one of three magnificent specimens of this conifer growing in the north-eastern section of our Arboretum. We are keen to see it reopened to the public for our 150th anniversary.



A Clivia by any pronunciation

Clivias are flowering at the moment. These South Africans, which are a good choice for shady and dry conditions, are looking great under the Norfolk Island Pine at the entrance to the Botanic Garden. These were donated by Leonie Salmon before she left Camperdown for Tassie.

Recently we were delighted to receive another donation of Clivias from Jenni Livingstone, who came from Melbourne to deliver them. These, and some white Nerines, have been planted under the Photinia trees on the lawn.

By the way, despite what the pronunciation police say, there are no rights and wrongs in the pronunciation of botanical names. The important thing is to write them correctly.



Dates to remember

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| Friday 15 November | Opening of 150 th anniversary exhibition at Camperdown Courthouse, 6 pm |
| Saturday 16 November | Public talk at Theatre Royal by Tim Entwisle from RBGV, 2 pm |
| 15-17 November | Visit by the Friends of Burnley Gardens |
| 10 November | Working bee, 8.30 am |
| 8 December | Working bee, 8.30 am |