



CAMPERDOWN BOTANIC GARDENS AND ARBORETUM TRUST INC.

Newsletter no 28

Summer 2019–2020



Above: Professor Tim Entwisle was in the dock to open our 150th anniversary exhibition at Courthouse Camperdown.

Below: John Hawker and Tim Entwisle, planted two Golden Horizontal Cypress trees in the Arboretum.



Above: Richard Barley, Director of Horticulture, Learning and Operations at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in London.



VIPs celebrate 150 years

Our 150th anniversary was marked by visits from VIPs of the Botanic Garden world. Richard Barley, Director of Horticulture, Learning and Operations at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in London stopped by to check on the progress of the Chamaerops palm he planted in 2014.

Professor Tim Entwisle, Director and CEO of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria opened our 150th anniversary exhibition. Professor Entwisle gave a public talk the following day after he and John Hawker, recently retired heritage horticulturist from Heritage Victoria, planted two Horizontal Golden Cypress trees in the Arboretum.

What's growing?

Cape Chestnut, *Calodendrum capense*

Greg Mewkill (below) from Timboon is a regular visitor to the Botanic Garden. After he's taken his little blind dog for a walk, Greg gets out his camera. The *Calodendrum* has been a magnet for photographers over the last few weeks.

Calodendrum capense, the Cape Chestnut from South Africa, is a pink-flowering tree in the family Rutaceae. That means it's more closely related to citrus fruit and *Correa* than it is to chestnut, as its common name suggests.

We have propagated some new plants from seed from this tree, which we hope will eventually be planted in the Arboretum.

There are three or four beautiful specimens in gardens around Camperdown, including one in the grounds of the secondary college.



Bees

Visitors have been captivated by the number of bees and butterflies they've seen in the garden over summer. With all the new and varied planting we've done over the last few years, it's not surprising that there are more insects and more birds.

Local boutique apiarist and botanist Dr Anna Carrucan has installed a number of beehives in the Arboretum. They're in the area currently off limits to visitors, but the bees will find their way into the garden and we look forward to sampling the honey from her Buukaar Wuurong Apiary.



Above: Tess and Chris from London and June from Melbourne watched the bees and butterflies in the perennial bed.



VCAT appeal

While the CBGA Trust was being set up in 2012 to conserve and improve our Botanic Gardens and Arboretum, unbeknown to us there was a parallel plan to develop the caravan park that sits in our Arboretum. 'Co-existence' has been talked about as a necessary evil, but it is clear that an arboretum can't properly manage or display trees, or provide a pleasant experience for visitors while it is also used as a caravan park. The caravan park's potential for development is also limited by restrictions that apply to this site, which is covered by a range of environmental, landscape significance and heritage protections. Plans have persisted, however, and we appealed to VCAT against the issue of a permit for several new buildings. The case was heard in January and the decision will be handed down soon.

We are confident that our Botanic Gardens and Arboretum will withstand this threat and that Council will take the opportunity to find a better site for the caravan park where it can grow and develop as it needs to.



Above: We met keen plant photographers, Linda Williams and Karen Grosvenor from Melbourne on a Sunday afternoon in the Gardens.



Above: Grum (above) and Jazette (below left) Johnston from Lord Howe Island took some shots in the Gardens when they passed through Camperdown.



Happy snappers

When a regular visitor to the Gardens rang to say she'd found a telephoto lens in the Gardens, I immediately thought of one of the photographers I'd met the previous day. It wasn't hers, though. Fortunately, after it was dropped off at the local police station the owner, a Russian tourist, was able to claim it.

We're meeting more and more people in the gardens lately taking photographs of everything from insects, birds and flowers to vistas across the gardens and the wider landscape with its spectacular views over Lakes Bullen-Merri and Gnotuk, and the Western District volcanic plain. Sometimes we find their photos posted on Instagram.

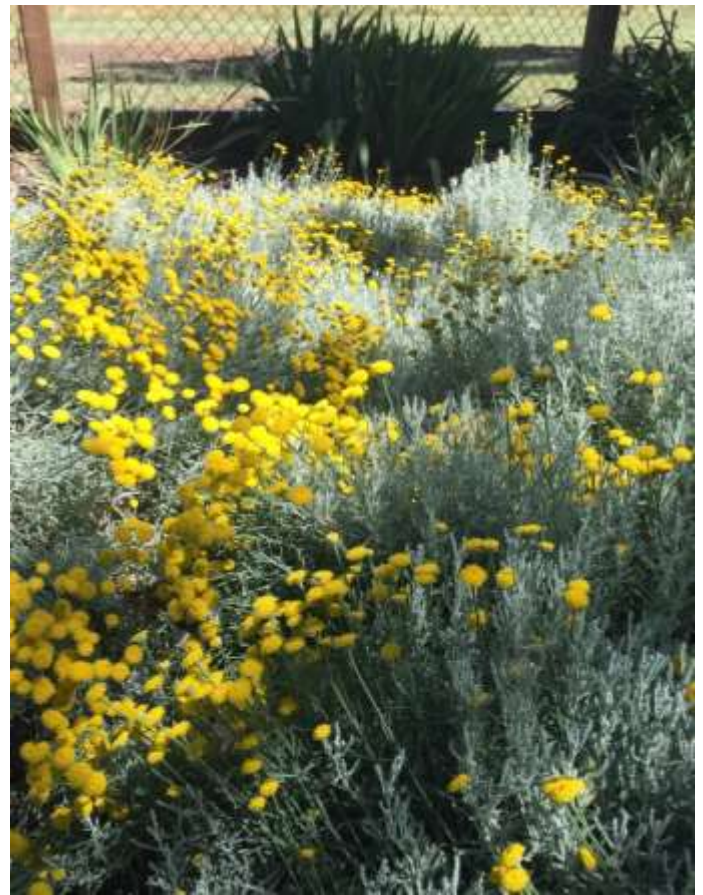


Thanks to the Lions Club

Dennis Bant (fourth from right) was one of the Lions Club members who worked to reclaim and rejuvenate our Botanic Gardens in the 1980s. We got together with the Lions Club at the Gardens in December for a celebration of the 150th anniversary and an acknowledgement of their hard work and foresight over 35 years ago.



Above: Visitors from Melbourne enjoyed the cool of the evening in the Gardens and the view across Lake Gnotuk.



What's growing?

Plants for dry summers

Two plants that have stood up well to the hot dry summer conditions are *Santolina chamaecyparissus* from the Mediterranean (above) and *Romneya coulteri*, the Matilija Poppy, from California (below).

Gardening for a changing climate was the subject of the public talk by Professor Tim Entwisle during his visit in November.

All gardeners need to think about planting for the warmer and dryer conditions we can expect in future.



Working bees

Working bees are held on the second Sunday of every month. We start at 8.30 am and finish around lunchtime.

The next working bee is on Sunday 8 March.