



CAMPERDOWN BOTANIC GARDENS AND ARBORETUM TRUST INC.

Newsletter no 34

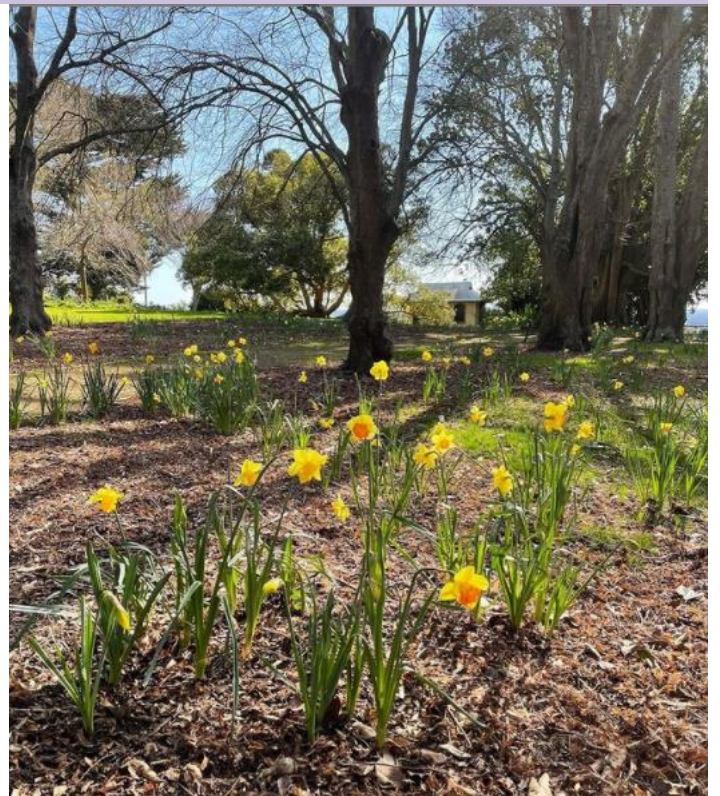
Winter 2021



Bulbs under the Linden trees

Our working bee volunteers have planted around 2000 daffodil bulbs, and they're coming up now. The bulbs were purchased with donated funds, and some were brought in by member Gwen Hindhaugh. The mulching and bulb planting will help to protect the root zones of these significant trees as well as cutting down the maintenance tasks of mowing and blowing – and being a beautiful addition to the garden.

Above: Trust member Rohan Adams of Noorat and daughters Amelia and Heidi helped with planting the bulbs.



Succession trees

Visitors might have noticed that several new trees have been planted recently. This is the start of the implementation of a succession plan for the Botanic Gardens and Arboretum, which will make sure there are young trees coming on as the older trees decline over time. New trees will also be going into the Arboretum in both the area currently leased to a caravan park and the north-eastern section, which is planned to be reopened early in 2022.

Additional planting over the next few years will revive the Arboretum as a special public park and a showcase for beautiful and interesting trees from around the world.

The people you meet

New members Mary and Tim Greene (below) from Elliminyte are regular garden visitors. We spotted them enjoying a walk in the garden in between lockdowns.



Garden designer Lisa Stafford (left) stopped for a chat about the Sparrmannia, and South West TAFE horticulture students Loretta Gurnett and Jennifer Allen (below) enjoyed a visit with their class and teacher Nick Graesser.



Titanga book launch

CBGA Trust members Val and Chris Lang will host a launch of a new book on the history of their property Titanga on Sunday 26 September.

Titanga in Lismore, has a fascinating story. The property is renowned for its comprehensive and well-recorded collection of eucalypts, one of the largest in the country, its historically significant garden and remnant western Victorian grassland plants.

Author Tim Gatehouse is a retired lawyer, garden historian and member of the Victorian committee of the Australian Garden History Society, which commissioned the work. Tim has been a regular contributor to CBGA Trust working bees over the last nine years, as well as being involved in the care of heritage gardens at Bishops court and La Trobe's Cottage in Melbourne.

Limited tickets for the book launch at Titanga are available through the Australian Garden History Society or the CBGA Trust. Contact us at maclura@bigpond.com.



Mushroom compost for the garden

Mushroom compost is ready for topping up garden beds and adding to new beds and borders thanks to a \$500 Quick Response Grant from Council. If you would like to help with the work, or the many other gardening tasks we carry out, you can come along to a working bee on the second Sunday of every month. (Note: Volunteers need to be paid up members.)



What's growing?

Ponytail Palms (*Beaucarnea recurvata*)

We were pleased to receive a donation of several Ponytail Palms from Linda and George Jacovou when they moved here recently. It was a big effort getting such large and heavy plants from the verandah of their former shop in Birregurra, but thanks to Bob Addison's assistance with his truck and crane they were safely moved and then installed in the garden at our July working bee.

Beaucarnea recurvata is a palm-like plant from Mexico, with strappy foliage and a distinctive swollen caudex for storing water, which enables it to withstand a long dry season.

We have planted the Ponytail Palms in the central bed near the Bunya Pine, where we already had another specimen donated by Raelene Marshall.



Vale Philip Ayres

We were very sad to learn of the recent passing of Professor Philip Ayres. Philip joined the CBGA Trust when it was set up in 2013. We often met him walking in the gardens and he always stopped to tell us how much he appreciated the work we are doing. We have valued his involvement in our events, and his willingness to share his own beautiful home Gilgai with garden tour groups visiting Camperdown. We will miss Philip's conversation around the dinner table, and his encouragement and enthusiasm in the garden.



Working bees

Members' donations have enabled us to plant hundreds of new plants over the last couple of months. Above, our working bee team put some Australian species in a new border on the western side of the central path. These included Mt Warning Tea Tree (*Leptospermum variable*) from John Hawker, former heritage horticulturist at Heritage Victoria, and some local provenance Dogwood (*Cassinia aculeata*) and Tree Violet (*Melicytus dentatus*) from the Mount Leura and Sugarloaf friends group.

The new lawn border contains a range of perennials, bulbs and shrubs, and a Mediterranean Fan Palm (*Chamaerops humilis*), which had to be held over for several months at Stephen Ryan's Dicksonia Rare Plants while we waited for a gap in the lockdowns.

The new plants will take off as the weather warms up.



Sunset over the volcanic lakes and plains

The best places to watch the sun go down in Camperdown are Mount Leura and the Botanic Garden. Many lockdown walkers are choosing to come out for their two-hours of exercise at the end of the day when views of the Volcanic Lakes and Plains from the Gardens are spectacular. To the west they take in Mt Noorat and Mt Shadwell, and to the north across Lake Colongulac you can see the scoria cones of Mt Kurweeton, Mt Koang and Mt Elephant at Derrinallum.

Below: Robyn and Michael Emerson take Bertie for a walk at sunset.



Visiting friends

Through the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AAFBG) we keep in touch with other groups supporting botanic gardens and arboreta around the country. In August, between lockdowns, we met up with Friends at Hamilton Botanic Gardens and Ballarat Botanical Gardens, where we were shown around their gardens and heard about some of the latest developments and challenges.

At Ballarat we met with AAFBG secretary Elizabeth Gilfillan, who showed us around the restored historic fernery and gatekeeper's cottage. The Ballarat Friends have been working on these projects alongside the local council over many years.

At Hamilton we met with a group of Friends in the gardener's cottage and heard about plans for some of their new development projects. We also exchanged plant gifts. Hamilton Friends Leigh Coggins and Midge Hough (above) presented our president Emma Bell (and Milton) with a Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*), while we made a donation of some new plants for the restoration of their New Zealand bed,

Dates to remember

- Sunday 12 September Working bee, 8.30 am
- Sunday 26 September Launch of Titanga book
- Oct/Nov (to be advised) Arboretum consultation
- Sunday 10 October Working bee, 8.30 am
- Sunday 14 November Working bee 8.30 am
- Date to be confirmed Annual General Meeting

Note: Working bees and events will of course be subject to COVID requirements advised by the State Government.

Follow us on Instagram



Follow us on Instagram @camperdownbotanicgardens. We now have over 2100 followers locally and around the world. Don't forget to tag us when you post your own pictures from the garden.

See also @corangamitetrees, which showcases trees around the Shire.