



CAMPERDOWN BOTANIC GARDENS AND ARBORETUM TRUST INC.

Newsletter no 35

Spring 2021



Titanga book launch

Tim Gatehouse's book *Titanga: A Homestead in the Landscape* was launched on 7 November. Members of the Australian Garden History Society, which commissioned the work, and the CBGA Trust gathered at Titanga to hear heritage architect Dr Timothy Hubbard launch the book on a fine Sunday morning.

The wild storms that ravaged much of Victoria in late October caused some damage among the extensive collection of historic trees at Titanga, but visitors were able to make their way along the driveway and there was a festive air among the guests, with Melbourne visitors only just out of the COVID lockdown and enjoying being able to get together.

After lunch, many came to Camperdown and enjoyed a guided tour of our botanic garden (below left).

The book is available for purchase through the Australian Garden History Society's website.



Arboretum development

Corangamite Shire Council has begun planning to reopen the north-eastern section of the Arboretum in 2022. The 3.5 section of the Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum has been closed to the public for many years and leased for cattle grazing. Council's Director of Works and Services Brooke Love explained that the redevelopment was the next stage in the implementation of the community plan *Imagining Camperdown*, which placed a high priority on the conservation and improvement of the Botanic Gardens and Arboretum.

The area contains many splendid trees that date from the early days of the park's establishment, and many more recently planted when the Trust began work in 2013. It also contains a pond, currently used for waste water storage, and the original Waterhole, a reservoir which appears on Guilfoyle's plan.

The development of the Arboretum will include the planting of a collection of rare and unusual trees for the enjoyment of the local community and as an attraction for visitors.

Landscape architect Dr Jen Dearnaley has been engaged to prepare a concept plan to add an 'extra layer' to the 1910 Guilfoyle plan. The Trust has begun consultation on the redevelopment and opportunities will be available for community input as the process unfolds.



What's growing?

Pandorea 'Ruby Belle'

Pandorea 'Ruby Belle' is becoming established on the arches in our rose garden. A cultivar of the twining Australian native Wonga Wonga Vine (*Pandorea pandorana*) 'Ruby Belle' has clusters of bell-shaped flowers in cream to dark pink. It makes a beautiful addition to our rose garden on the arches where climbing roses have found it difficult to become established in the windy conditions.



Birds in the garden

Visitors often say that one of the most beautiful things about our botanic garden is the sound of birdsong. Kookaburras, blue wrens, red-browed finches, grey fantails, scrubwrens, yellow-tailed black cockatoos, blackbirds, wood ducks, crimson rosellas and magpies: these are some of the birds you will find in the garden.



With all the diversity of the planting that has been taking place over the last nine years, there is so much more habitat for birds.

Right: Thanks Markus Neilson for the kookaburra photo.

Blossoms and bulbs

What a lush and lovely spring we have had this year. Visitors to the Botanic Garden have enjoyed the pink and white blossoms of several ornamental cherry trees. They also delighted in the display of spring bulbs. Tulips, Spanish Bluebells, Daffodils and many other spring bulbs are establishing well under the trees.



A Guilfoyle tour

We were pleased to welcome an enthusiastic group from Port Fairy U3A for a visit on 8 November.

Botanist John Miller led a program on Guilfoyle's botanic gardens of the Western District. The course included tours of the botanic gardens in Hamilton, Warrnambool and Koroit. They finished the program with a day in Camperdown with lunch and a guided look around our botanic garden.

After the visit, the group presented us with two specimens of *Correa* 'Granny's Grave', cultivars of *Correa reflexa*, which originated from the Warrambool foreshore.

After the storm

The Botanic Garden sustained very little damage in the recent storm. The fence on the western border was damaged by branches falling from the Cypress trees outside the garden. Within the garden there were broken branches from the Californian Redwood, and the Himalayan Cedar, but major damage was probably averted by the timely work commissioned by Council from The Tree Co., whose arborists carried out maintenance and removed dead wood from the Tilia avenue and other trees throughout the botanic garden earlier in the year.

Below: Parks and Gardens staff member Dale Evans cleans up under the Cedar tree after the storm



Vale Kate Gane

Kate Gane was a member of the CBGA Trust from its inception in 2013. As an artist, Kate had a deep appreciation of the value of beauty in our lives, and keenly supported her mother Janet O'Hehir and our volunteers in their efforts to protect and develop the Botanic Gardens and Arboretum.

In 2017, while she assisted with hosting a week-long tour of the district for the International Dendrology Society, Kate introduced us to Instagram – a turning point in raising our profile.

When her many artist and musician friends and her adored niece and nephew visited Camperdown, Kate always showed them her favourite places in the local landscape or took them on photo shoots at some special spots: Lake Tooliorook at sunset, Mount Porndon in the rain, the bush down Hawks Nest Road, the Mount Noorat crater, the track down to Lake Gnotuk, the hidden secret of Lake Mumblin, birdlife at Lake Elingamite, and the wallabies waking up in the morning on Mount Leura.

As she became constrained by illness, Kate enjoyed sitting on the grass under the trees at the Botanic Garden watching the birds. Friends gathered for her birthday last December under the Himalayan Cedar, her favourite tree.

Below: Kate sang at the launch of her good friend Kate Kent's business Excuse Me Agency in Camperdown.



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General meeting of the Trust will be held on 8 December. Details to come.

Mavis's Irises

When centenarian Mavis Reed passed away earlier this year local gardeners were concerned that her garden would be lost and her iris collection dispersed. Mavis's family has offered the Trust a selection of her irises to be planted at the Botanic Garden. At the end of summer, when the plants can be lifted, we will be creating a new bed in a sunny spot in the north-west of the garden as a memorial to one of Camperdown's most well-loved gardeners.

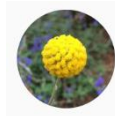


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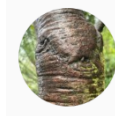
Check out our Instagram account.

We post pictures regularly and have over 2000 followers.



camperdownbotanicgardens

Showcasing the beauty of our Botanic Gardens and Arboretum through the seasons.



corangamitetrees

Featuring interesting and special trees around Corangamite Shire.

Dates to remember

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| 21 November | Open Gardens Victoria tour of four Western District gardens |
| 8 December | Annual General Meeting |
| 12 December | 8.00 am to 11.30 am Working bee |
| December TBA | CBGA Trust members Christmas gathering |