



CAMPERDOWN BOTANIC GARDENS AND ARBORETUM TRUST INC

Newsletter no 41

Autumn 2023



Reminiscing in the garden

Sisters Helen Chivell, Maureen Adeney, Trish Hughes and Bev Fleming (above) met in the gardens on a February afternoon. They enjoyed the Cape Chestnut tree in glorious flower and shared recollections about visits to the gardens in their childhood.

The Cape Chestnut, *Calodendrum capense*, is a South African tree with panicles of pink flowers in summer.

Locals may have seen another magnificent specimen in the entrance drive at Camperdown Secondary College.

We have planted a young one in the Arboretum, which we grew from seed collected at the Koroit Botanic Gardens.

From Kew to Camperdown

What a thrill it was to have Richard Barley, Director of Gardens at London's Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in Camperdown to give a talk for us on 25 February.

The Theatre Royal was buzzing with botanic garden enthusiasts, coming from as far as Melbourne, Geelong, Ballarat, Buninyong, Colac, Warrnambool, Port Fairy and Lavers Hill.

Richard highlighted the developments he has overseen at Kew during the last 10 years, including the restoration of the historic pagoda and the grand Temperate House, and planting of the Broadwalk border.



Earlier in the day, after lunch in the picnic shelter, Richard (above) planted a tree in the Arboretum: *Exbucklandia populnea*, commonly called Pipli in Asia, which was donated by Lyle Fillippe of Roraima Nursery.

Keeping the noise down

Corangamite Shire Council has recently invested in some battery-operated tools. Dale Evans (below) has been keeping the path edges neat with the new edge trimmer. Battery-operated tools are better for staff and better for the environment, and keep the noise levels down in the garden.



Arboretum development

Planning for the Arboretum is underway. It will include paving, furniture, picnic shelters and a carpark at Park Road. Council expects a draft plan to be available for public comment by the end of June. The plan will also include a guide for a tree collection.

Meanwhile, we continue to water and care for the trees we have been planting over recent years.

Twelve new trees have been planted along the northern boundary. These include two New Zealand Akiraho, *Olearia paniculata* (below) propagated from the much-loved specimen in the Botanic Garden, which is listed on the National Trust (Vic.) Register of Significant Trees.

A grove of Holm Oaks, *Quercus ilex* (below right) is also becoming established. This is an evergreen species native to the Mediterranean region. We have planted eight trees in the Arboretum, propagated from seed collected at the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens.



Meet Glenys Rose

Glenys Rose is currently Vice-President and Membership Officer for the Trust. Originally from Dunkeld, Glenys now lives at Weering, north of Colac. She has a passion for the grasslands of the Western Victorian volcanic plain, regenerative farming techniques and the mitigation of climate change. Glenys holds a Bachelor of Horticulture and a Graduate Diploma in Environment from the University of Melbourne.



As well as running her farm, Glenys assists customers at Shalimar Nursery in Colac, helps to care for a number of private gardens, and is part of the team growing organic produce at Brae restaurant in Birregurra.

Glenys says she first got involved in the Trust because of her interest in historic gardens and the value of green spaces.



The people you meet



We caught up with arborist Megan Brittingham (above) from Homewood Consulting inspecting trees in the Botanic Garden and Arboretum.

Corangamite Shire Council has engaged Homewood to conduct the regular assessment of the condition of trees throughout the Shire.



Keen gardener Gretta Cockerell (above) from Melbourne stopped for a chat about some of the plants that caught her attention in the garden, including these *Aeonium* 'Velour' growing in the Macaronesian collection.



An unexpected visitor

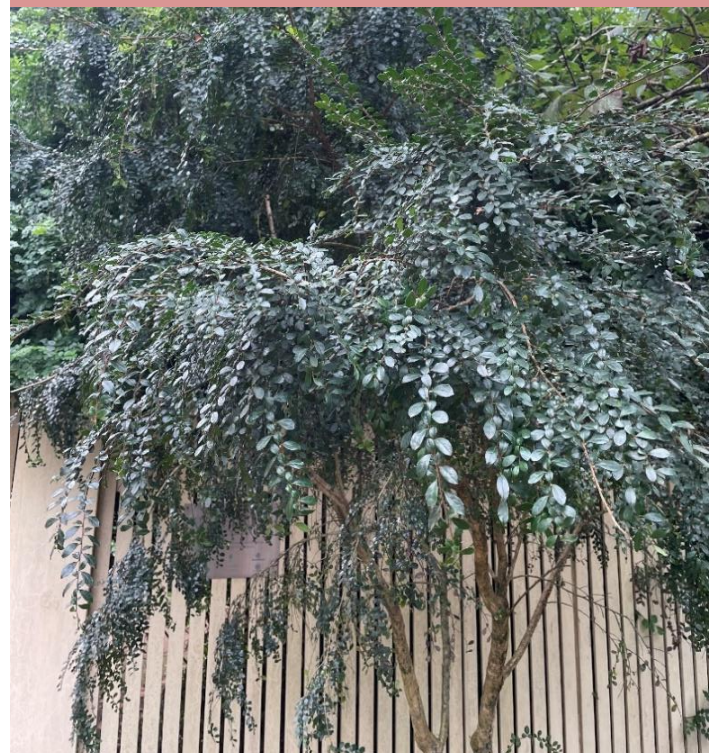
Occasionally we catch sight of a koala in the native plantation on the southern slope of the Botanic Gardens and Arboretum site, but recently one decided to take a closer look at the garden. He was happy to pose for photographs on the fence, and has attracted a lot of attention on our Instagram account.

What's growing?

Box-leaf Azara, *Azara microphylla*

At the Botanic Garden gate we have planted *Azara microphylla*, an evergreen native of Chile and Argentina with glossy deep green leaves on pendulous branches. Its tiny yellow flowers hide beneath the foliage in winter and surprise visitors with their vanilla fragrance.

You can see a large old specimen growing beside the Gardener's Cottage.





Working bees

In 2023, working bees will continue on the second Sunday of the month, with a 8 am start.

There is a good supply of tools in the potting shed and tasks can be as light or strenuous as you like. We finish up with morning tea in the picnic shelter at 11.30 am.

Anyone who would like to participate but is unable to come on Sundays is welcome to contact Janet O’Hehir (details below) to arrange to come during the week.

Alan and Penny Rattray (above) did some cutting back on the western border during our March working bee.

Follow us on Instagram



We post regularly on Instagram. You can follow our progress at Camperdown Botanic Gardens.

Also follow Corangamite Trees, which features trees of interest around the Shire.

What's growing?

Water Gum, *Tristaniopsis laurina*

The Water Gum, *Tristaniopsis laurina*, appeared on William Guilfoyle’s planting list for the Arboretum in 1910. It is a native Australian tree in the family Myrtaceae, with glossy green foliage and bright yellow flowers. It is a popular ornamental and is often grown as a shady park tree or street tree.

CBGA Trust members (below) planted two specimens of *Tristaniopsis laurina* in the Arboretum when we began the rejuvenation project in 2013.



Dates to remember

9 April at 8.30 am	Working bee
14 May at 8.30 am	Working bee
28 May	National Botanic Gardens Day