



Camperdown Botanic Gardens Management Plan



DRAFT

Prepared by
Camperdown Botanic Gardens Advisory Committee





TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Executive Summary	3
2. Mission Statement	3
3. History	4
4. Existing Site	6
Climate	8
5. Statement of Significance	9
(i) <i>SIGNIFICANT TREES (within the Botanic Gardens)</i>	9
(ii) <i>SIGNIFICANT TREES (within the Arboretum)</i>	11
(iii) <i>SIGNIFICANT TREES (within the Caravan Park)</i>	12
(iv) <i>BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES</i>	12
(v) <i>VIEW FROM GARDENS</i>	12
6. Landscape Plans	13
7. Development Program	14
(i) <i>PARK FURNITURE/ STRUCTURE - Existing</i>	14
Picnic Shelter.....	14
Robert Burns Statue.....	14
Fence	15
Potting Shed	15
Rubbish Bins	16
Seating.....	16
Gardeners Cottage	17
Lighting	17
Paths	17
(ii) <i>PARK FURNITURE/ STRUCTURE - Removed</i>	17
Rotunda	17
Pond.....	17
Sundial.....	17
Gates.....	18
Glasshouse.....	18
Aviary, Windmill, Fireplace, Overhead Tanks	18
(ii) <i>PARK ACCESSIBILITY/FACILITIES</i>	18
8. Maintenance of Gardens	19
Staff.....	19
Pruning	19
Equipment	19
Watering	19
9. Promotion	20
<i>REGULATIONS</i>	20
<i>FRIENDS GROUP</i>	20
<i>LABELS/SIGNS</i>	20
<i>INTERPERITIVE SIGNAGE</i>	20
10. Funding Options	21
11. Management Targets and Actions	22
Short Term Management Targets and Actions.....	22
Medium – Long Term Management Targets and Actions	22
12. Appendices	23
13. References	23



1. Executive Summary

The Camperdown Botanic Gardens Management Plan was presented by the Camperdown Botanic Gardens Advisory Committee as a starting point to establish some guidelines for the appropriate management and conservation of the Gardens.

The Committee consisted of representatives from the following community groups:

- Garden Club
- Heritage Victoria
- Camperdown Historical Society
- Advance Camperdown
- Corangamite Shire

The Plan provides information about the significance of the site and a development program for those features of the Gardens which information was available. Implementation of the listed objectives is dependant upon the long term commitment and interest of the Camperdown community and funding applications.



Plate 1: Existing entrance sign to the Botanic Gardens



Plate 2: Picnic Shelter

2. Mission Statement

The purpose of the Camperdown Botanic Gardens Management Plan is to achieve the following goals:

- To conserve the cultural heritage of Camperdown's Botanic Gardens.
- To manage the gardens as a Botanic Garden incorporating William Guilfoyles intent for the site where possible.
- To take full advantage of the views from the gardens which overlook the twin crater lakes of Lake Bullen Merri and Lake Gnotuk.
- To reinstate selected features of the gardens established in the past, which have been lost.
- To investigate funding opportunities to achieve objectives outlined in the plan.

The Botanic Gardens have significant intrinsic value to Camperdown and the surrounding community, which needs to be preserved for future generations.



3. History

The Botanic Gardens are located south west of the township of Camperdown, within the 292-acre site at the public park reserve. This area was officially recognised and reserved on the 12th July 1869 which led to the establishment of a public park committee to manage this large area. The members included William Ower, Charles Pike, John Stevenson, William Bramley, Duncan F. Walker, James Bishop and John Walls and it is noted that the township of Camperdown has several streets, which bear these names.

The gardens take in the magnificent and unique view of the twin volcanic crater lakes of Lake Gnotuk and Lake Bullen Merri. These lakes are part of an uncommon volcanic landform known as a maar. A maar is a broad, roughly circular flat floored volcanic crater with steep inner walls and a low surrounding rim built of fragments of rock blown out of the crater during eruptions. Lake Gnotuk is a small singular maar whilst Lake Bullen Merri is believed to be two maars which have joined together.

Daniel Bunce (1813-1872) did the original layout plans for the gardens in 1870 who at the time was the director of the Geelong Botanical Gardens. In 1872, tenders were called to construct a picket fence to enclose 3 acres of land, which is what is now known as the actual gardens. David Harboard, Hampden Shire Engineer made alterations to these plans and organised mass plantings on the reserve in 1874.

In 1875, it became apparent that a more formal layout was required with the then Hampden Shire engineer Mr Daskein preparing plans for the drive and doing designs for the band rotunda in conjunction with a Geelong architect Mr Hamilton. This rotunda was erected by 1879.

The area was now really starting to take shape as it finally had some clear direction, and then in August 1879 the Board of Land and Survey permanently reserved the land.

The caretaker's cottage was constructed in November 1880, within what is now known as the caravan park which was established in 1960. The caretakers duties included all of the maintenance associated with the gardens. The rotunda was now constructed and a statue of poet Robert Burns arrived from England in 1883, which received a prominent location in the gardens.

This sandstone statue was donated to the public park from W.A. Taylor of Rennyhill. It was based on a painting by his father and was carved by John Greenshiells in Scotland in 1830 and had previously been located at Tydenham Palace, London.

Further plantings were carried out, fish ponds were installed, an aviary built and even a glasshouse. There was also a sundial and even a public chimney and tea rooms. Some important photographs of various features of the gardens can be seen in Appendix I.



Plate 3: View of Lake Bullen Merri from the Gardens

A landscape gardener, Mr William Guilfoyle set a new plan for the gardens. This included the removal of several cypress trees and the removal of some inner paths but he specifically targeted appropriate plantings (1888 – 1890) for the area. He spent time in identifying appropriate species for the location and soil type, colourings to be achieved and of course to preserve the magnificent view of the two lakes. His contribution sets the scene for the gardens today. William Guilfoyle was the director at the Botanic Gardens in Melbourne and was highly regarded for his work.



Over the coming years saw the establishment of the potting shed, the picnic shelter and watering systems. However, the gardens soon became neglected, including the demolition of the beautiful rotunda in 1960, when the caravan park was introduced on the site.

In more recent times, a “Guilfoyle in the Western District” tour was arranged by the Victorian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society. This tour was a contribution from the Society recognising the 150th Anniversary of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne and visited several private gardens and provincial gardens in the Western District.

This event was attended by Mr Jim Guilfoyle, the grandson of Mr William Robert Guilfoyle in Camperdown on 23rd March, 1996. He planted a Montezuma Pine (*Pinus Montezumae*) which is from NE Mexico to Guatemala and had not previously been cultivated in Victoria.



Plate 4: Montezumae Pine

Also as part of the 150th Anniversary of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne and the centenary of their first director, botanist Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, over 3000 plants were donated to thirty five regional botanic gardens.

Known as the “Flora for Victoria” project, the Camperdown gardens received 56 plants from a range of rare indigenous species and trees and shrubs which can be difficult to obtain. Mueller was committed to the development of botanic gardens in Victoria and distributed international plants across the state, which was inspiration for this project. A list of the supplied species can be seen in Appendix I, which were received by Council on the 2nd April, 1996.

Over the years some aspects of the gardens have deteriorated. The band rotunda is now gone with only its bluestone base intact on site. The statue of Robert Burns is damaged and needs restoration work. The fencing has deteriorated; picnic areas and seating either damaged or missing and some of the other significant features, which were there in the past, are now non-existent. However, the Gardens are still a magnificent experience with a beautiful landscape.

Unique plantings can be discovered with two Himalayan Oaks which are rare in Victoria, one African Holly which is listed on the Worlds Rare and Endangered List and an avenue of nine Linden trees which are the only known occurrence of this species used in this way as designed by William Guilfoyle. The intent of Guilfoyles design is still captured and can be experienced at the Camperdown Botanic Gardens.



Plate 5: View of the nine Linden trees



4. Existing Site

Camperdown is a country township located on the Western district volcanic plain of Victoria. It is 60km west of Colac and 200km south-west of Melbourne with a population of 3500. The Camperdown Botanic

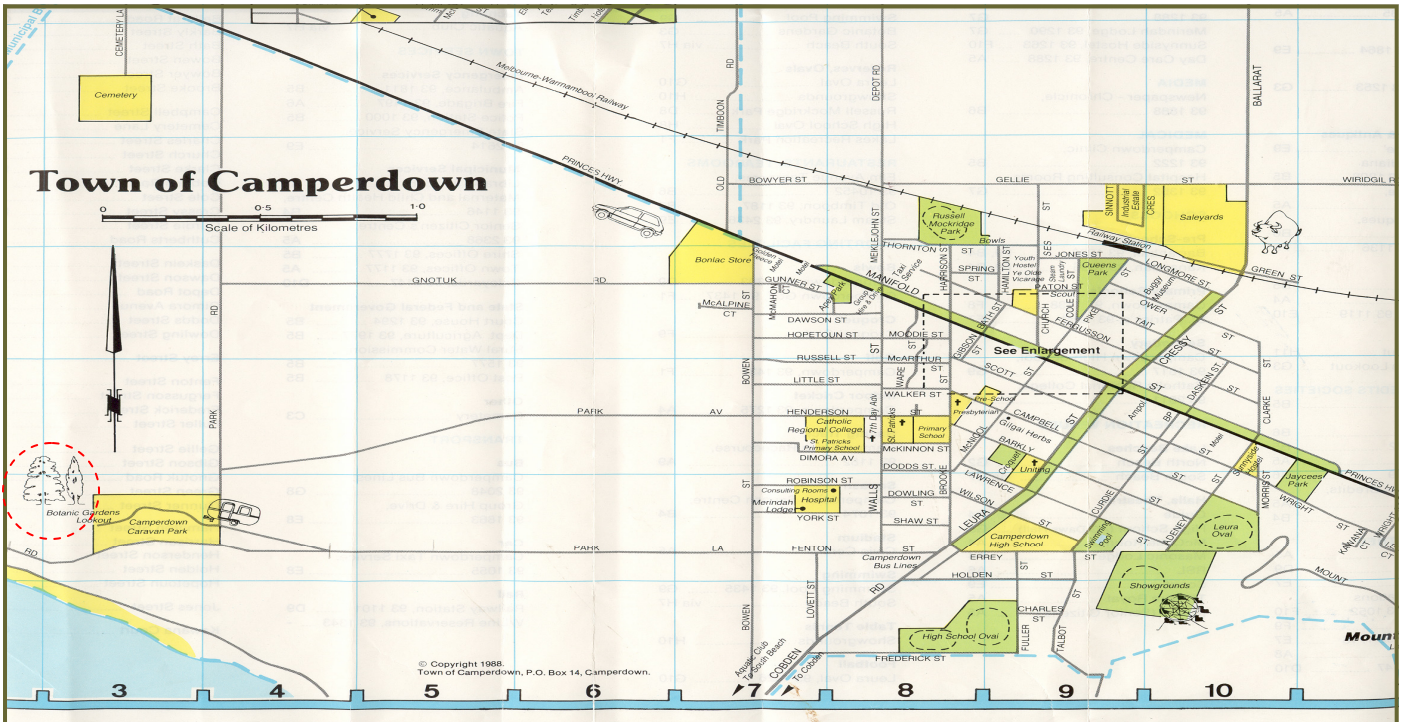


Plate 6: Location of Botanic Gardens relative to Camperdown

The gardens are bounded by the Public Park Reserve, which has an area of 292 acres, which spans between the lakes of Lake Bullen Merri and Lake Gnotuk. The views over these lakes are a tremendous attribute for the gardens as you take in the amazing characteristics of the volcanic craters.



Plate 7: Public Park Reserve



Access to the gardens is currently through the Camperdown Caravan Park, as the arboretum has no constructed road through the area. In April 2005, Council approved the grazing of the arboretum to a local resident in Camperdown. The grass is very long and the site can be quite steep making it difficult to slash or mow, and this will assist with maintaining the grass levels. It is a 3 year lease and would need to be reviewed if access through the arboretum was obtained in the future.

The mature plantings in the gardens are quite spectacular; however several of the garden beds are looking sparse due to the lack of replanting. The avenue of Linden trees forms a beautiful avenue through the Gardens and is a unique occurrence of this type of avenue created by Guilfoyle.

Appendix II is a site plan drawn of the gardens current condition. This plan shows all details including structures, garden beds and vegetation and will be valuable information as a snapshot of the Gardens as they were in 2004.

Aerial photographs of the site have been taken, as shown below;

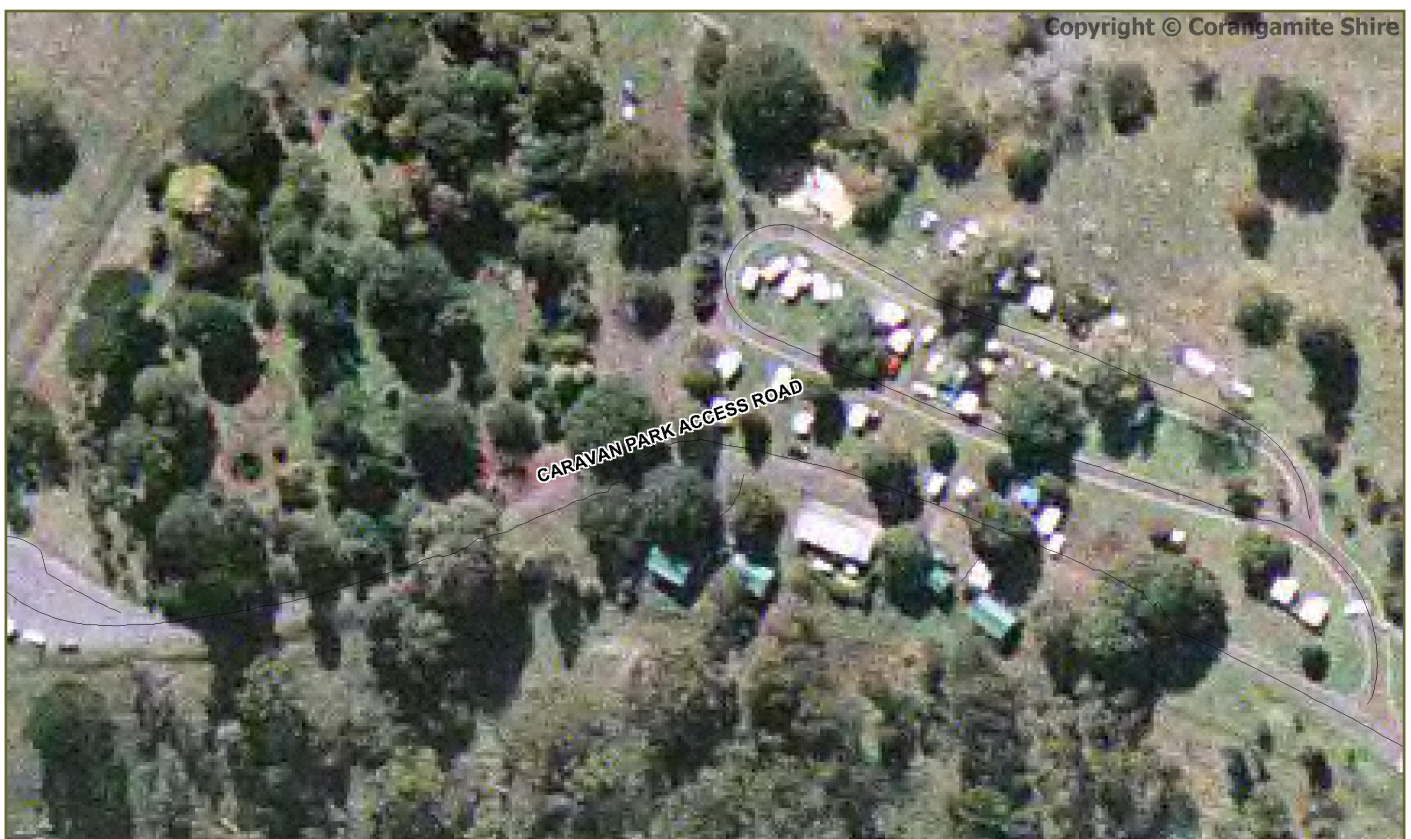


Plate 8: Aerial photograph of Caravan Park and Botanic Gardens

Whilst the true focus of this plan is the fenced 3 acres of Botanic Gardens, the Public Park Reserve of 292 acres also encompasses the following assets:

- 18 hole golf course and amenities (function centre), approximately 100 acres
- Two cricket grounds - approximately 12 acres
- Lawn Bowls rinks - approximately 1.5 acres
-

The rest of the land is utilised for grazing and is also used for a horse trails course which does also utilise some components of the golf course area.



Climate

Camperdown offers a moderate climate, which experiences windy conditions due to its proximity to coastal areas.

Data collected from the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology recorded the following minimum / maximum temperatures and rainfall as recorded in 2001.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Highest Maximum Temperature (°C)											
41.7	40.6	39.4	32.7	25.4	18.3	21.0	22.1	27.8	32.2	38	38.6
Mean Daily Maximum Temperature (°C)											
26.2	26.1	23.6	19.2	15.7	13.	12.6	13.6	15.9	18.5	20.7	23.6
Lowest Minimum Temperature (°C)											
4.7	6.8	4.6	2.2	2.2	-0.6	-0.6	-0.6	0.6	-0.6	2.2	5.0
Mean Daily Minimum Temperature (°C)											
11.6	12.3	10.9	8.6	6.8	4.8	4.2	4.8	6.1	7.4	8.8	10.4
Mean Rainfall (mm)											
38.3	38.2	46.9	61.6	76.2	78.7	81.8	91.4	82.3	73.8	60.7	48.8

The average rainfall is 65mm per month with temperatures ranging from a high of 41.7°C to a low of -0.6°C, however the mean temperatures average between 8°C and 19°C.

The average wind speed across the Corangamite Shire is 7 metres per second which is higher than the Victorian average of 6.5 metres per second. With the gardens being located on the edge of the lake and thus the maar, they do experience strong winds which can have a detrimental effect on the growing conditions for some species.



5. Statement of Significance

In the Macquarie Concise Dictionary a botanic garden is defined as following:

“A large garden usually open to the public where trees, shrubs and plants, typically from many lands are grown and studied.”

Botanic gardens are therefore established for the enjoyment of the public and to provide educational opportunities so that plants can be studied and observed.

The Camperdown Botanic gardens achieves these aspects. The gardens are open for the public to enjoy and have a diverse and unique plant collection. It is considered to be one of the largest public park reserves in Victoria and has the wonderful outlook over the two crater lakes of Lake Bullen Merri and Lake Gnotuk.

(i) SIGNIFICANT TREES (within the Botanic Gardens)

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) recognised twelve trees within the gardens on the 9th April 1987 registering these trees as significant.

The following details each of those entries, as listed by the trust:

AVENUE OF NINE (9) LINDEN TREES

Tilia x europaea	Camperdown Victoria 3260	No of trees	9
Location Info:	Camperdown Botanic gardens	Spread	12.5
Municipality	Corangamite Shire	Girth	1.8
Region	Geelong/Ballarat region	Height	10.9
File No	T11450	Estage	80
Category	Tree	Condition	Good
Tree Species	Tilia X europaea	Class	Local
Common Name	Linden or Common Lime	Last Revised	9th April 1987
Tree family	Tiliaceae	Citation type	Trust
ACCESS: Unrestricted			
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
Location or Context: historic garden or park; Aesthetic Value			
NOTES			
An outstanding avenue being the only know occurrence of this species used in this way.			



HIMALAYAN OAKS

Quercus leuco-trichophora	Camperdown Victoria 3260	No of trees	2
Location Info:	Camperdown Botanic gardens (1) east of burns Statue, (2) Near picnic shelter	Spread	10.0
Municipality	Corangamite Shire	Girth	1.4
Region	Geelong/Ballarat region	Height	11.0
File No	T11452	Estage	70
Category	Tree	Condition	Good
Tree Species	Quercus leuco-trichophora	Class	Local
Common Name	Himalayan Oak	Last Revised	9 th April 1987
Tree family	Fagaceae	Citation type	Trust
<p>ACCESS: Unrestricted STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Location or Context: historic garden or park; Rare or Localised; 1-10 known specimens</p> <p>NOTES Measurements from tree near shelter, Uncommon in cultivation, other known specimens occur at the Royal Botanic gardens, Kyneton, Hamilton and Mount Macedon.</p>			

AFRICAN HOLLY

Cassine Crocea	Camperdown Victoria 3260	No of trees	1
Location Info:	Camperdown Botanic Gardens	Spread	7
Municipality	Corangamite Shire	Girth	2.6
Region	Geelong/Ballarat region	Height	9.5
File No	T11451	Estage	70
Category	Tree	Condition	Good
Tree Species	Cassine crocea	Class	Local
Common Name	African Holly	Last Revised	9 th April 1987
Tree family	Celastraceae	Citation type	Trust
<p>ACCESS: Unrestricted STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Location or Context: historic garden or park; Rare or Localised; 10-50 known specimens</p> <p>NOTES A fine example of the species, which is listed on the IUCN Rare and Threatened Species List.</p>			



(ii) **SIGNIFICANT TREES (within the Arboretum)**

The following two trees are found within the arboretum and whilst are not listed with the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) are still considered significant.

Quercus Pubescens.

DOWNY OAK – This is a rare specimen which can be found along the fence line within the arboretum. It is described as follows:

“A deciduous tree growing to 20m. The flowers are monoecious (individual flowers are either male or female, but both sexes can be found on the same plant) and pollinated by wind.” (www.ibiblio.org)

“Leaves on new growth have a downy grey covering from which it gets its name. The dead, russet-brown leaves of the fall often hang on through much of the winter, even until the new leaves form in spring. In the springtime, in a typical forest of dark green cork oak and kemes oak, an occasional pubescent oak stands out as a contrasting pale-bright green.”

(www.beyond.fr/flora/oakpube.html)

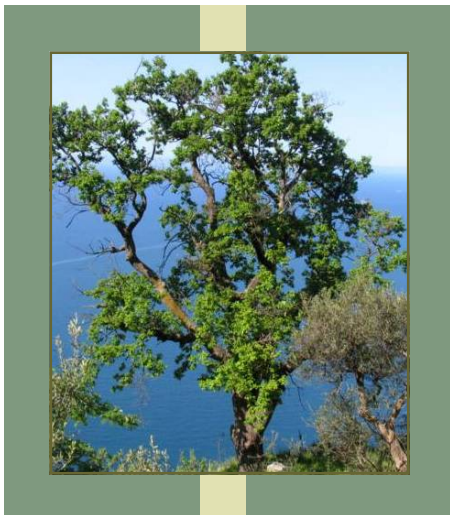


Plate 9: Quercus Pubescens (Downy Oak)

Image from www.meditflora.com

Quercus Petraea

SESSILE OAK (Durmast Oak)

Also found within the arboretum. It is described as follows:

“Durmast Oak is a very similar tree to English Oak, but rarely forms the massive low crowns of the latter; it is less prone to zigzag growth so is, typically taller, straighter, more elegant tree. It is best told from English Oak by its grey-purple twigs, its long-stalked leaves, lacking the small, backward-pointed lobes, and tapering smoothly onto the stalk, and its unstalked acorns – in other words, the stalk is on the leaves in Durmast Oak and on the acorns in English Oak. The bark, too, tends to have longer, straighter fissures and to be less cracked; the male catkins are longer and the female flowers are inconspicuous in the leaf axils.”

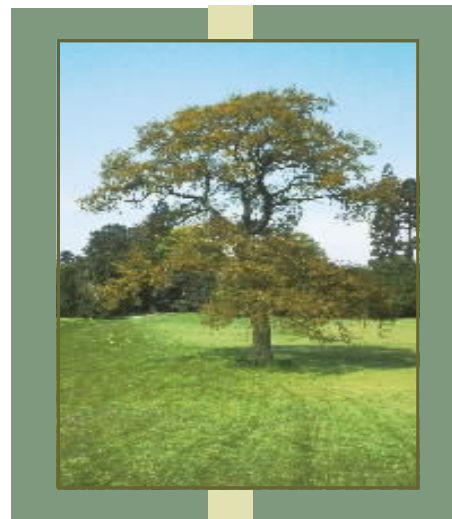


Plate 10: Quercus Petraea (Sessile Oak)

From the Collins Gem Guide to Trees
(www.roman-britan.org/chase/oak.htm)



(iii) SIGNIFICANT TREES (within the Caravan Park)

Again, the following tree found in the Caravan Park is not listed with the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) however is still considered significant.

Acer Opalus

ITALIAN MAPLE - This is also a rare specimen as there are only a few occurrences through the state of Victoria and can be located near the toilet block.

“A deciduous round headed tree growing in height and spread to 15 metres. Clusters of small yellow flowers emerge from early to mid spring before foliage. Leaves are broad, 5 lobed and dark green turning yellow in autumn.”



Plate 11: Acer Opalus (Italian Maple)

iv) BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

There are several buildings and structures throughout the public park area, some are still at the gardens to be enjoyed and others lost over time.

The caretakers cottage which was built in 1880, is located at the entrance to the Caravan Park. Within the fenced garden are the remains of the once splendid rotunda, with only its bluestone base intact. This was constructed in 1878 but was unfortunately demolished in 1960. The rotunda is particularly significant due to its unique design as a shelter within the gardens and as a lookout tower. It is one of the few bandstands built in these times, and it is disappointing that it was demolished.

The sandstone statue of Robbie Burns, which was donated to the park in 1883, is still in good condition, with only some minor repairs required. The picnic shelter, which was built in 1908 (being repainted in 2005) and the potting shed are both in reasonably good condition.

There is reference to other structures such as the windmill and overhead tanks, however unfortunately these are no longer on site and there is no further information about them at this time.

(v) VIEW FROM GARDENS

The amazing view from the gardens and the rotunda, which overlook the twin crater lakes of Lake Bullen Merri and Lake Gnotuk must also be recognised as significant to this site.



Plate 12: View over Lake Gnotuk

All of the above attributes make the Camperdown Botanic Gardens a truly significant site.



6. Landscape Plans

A copy of a plan of the public park is currently in the Camperdown District Historical Society. This plan is undated and unsigned, but is believed to have been prepared by William Guilfoyle around 1890. It is large in size and is currently being appropriately conserved and housed at the University of Melbourne.

For the purpose of this document, photographs were taken of the plan which were then traced in order to achieve a hard copy of the original plan. This is shown in Appendix III.

The numbering system bordering the plan relates to a plant list prepared by Guilfoyle which accompanies the plan. This was a difficult list to read and was translated by John Hawker, Horticulturalist, Heritage Victoria, in 1984 for the Sesquicentary Project, Victoria. This translation is also shown in Appendix III.



Plate 13: Replanted Rose Garden 2006



Plate 14: Paths through the Gardens

The most specific reference to the botanic gardens area as detailed on the plant list by Guilfoyle is as follows:

“Q.Q.Q A shrubbery with pathway all around it. The plants in the shrubbery excepting in a few instances, should not grow higher than the fence of the garden. The plants which should be higher than the shrubs are Cardylines or Dracaruas and Palms – say Fan Palms and these could be grouped in “threes” half a chain apart or say 50 feet apart. An occasional Pampas grass and clump of variegated reed would look well in this border. Lots of pretty foliage plants could be used as an edging and there would be room for any amount of decorative plants for which space cannot be found in the garden. The more the outer fence of the garden is hidden or clothed the better.”

In order to ensure that the gardens are well maintained and always displaying new varieties of plants, Councils horticulturalist will continue to purchase suitable replacement plants as required. Always having regard to this plan and the intent by Guilfoyle for the gardens, plants will be selected by Guilfoyles plant list where appropriate or substituted with a similar species.

Development of any specific area, such as the rose garden bed, will be carried out by the Camperdown Botanic Gardens Advisory Committee Horticulturalist Representatives (which at this time has been nominated as Mr Craig Hanks).



7. Development Program

(i) PARK FURNITURE/ STRUCTURE - Existing

Picnic Shelter

The picnic shelter was constructed in 1908 – 1909, with the architect being Warburton Pierre (Perry) Knights. Restoration works including a drawing of the shelter and the required colour scheme, was developed by Mr Craig Wilson, an architect for the Historic Buildings Branch in approximately 1985 as shown in Appendix IV. This shelter is located on the north eastern corner of the gardens with restoration works completed in 2005.



Plate 15: Picnic Shelter 2002



Plate 16: Picnic Shelter 2006

Robert Burns Statue

The statue of Robert Burns was donated to the public park in 1883 by W.A. Taylor of Rennyhill, Camperdown.

Refer Appendix V for a full history of the statue as prepared by Artcare, Conservation Report 1991. This document details historical information as well as conservation of the monument and repair procedures.

It is noted that repairs to the statue were carried out as recommended in this report, however vandals have again damaged the statue and maintenance works are required on the nose of Robbie Burns and the dog.



Plate 17: Robbie Burns Statue in 2003



Fence

The original specification for the fence is shown in Appendix VI. This specification details a hardwood picket fence which is to enclose three acres. A sketch of the fence and timber sizes is attached.

The original colour of the fence is not detailed in the specification and is unknown. A local resident, Ms Norma Wynd of the Camperdown District Historical Society believes that she found a piece of the old paling fence when strolling through the arboretum during the 1970's. The colour of this was a dark green.

As vermin has been an issue in the past and problems associated with timber palings, particularly rotting boards, the fence was changed to cyclone fencing in order to rabbit proof the area. It was in a dilapidated condition and in need of urgent repair in 2002.

Due to the nature of the area, reconstruction of the original picket fence is not recommended and the cyclone fence should be retained and restored. The colour of the posts are to be brown in colour in order to compliment the rest of the structures in the Gardens.

Repair works commenced in 2004 and completed in 2005.



Plate 18: Existing Fence 2006

Potting Shed

Restoration works for the potting shed were also developed by Mr Craig Wilson, an architect for the Historic Buildings Branch in approximately 1985. His drawing which also details the appropriate colour scheme can be seen in Appendix VIII.

The potting shed is located against the Western edge of the fence line of the gardens. Restoration works are proposed in the 2006/2007 financial year.



Plate 19: Potting Shed 2002



Rubbish Bins

Currently there are rubbish bins within the botanic gardens adjacent to the picnic shelter. These bins are in a reasonable condition with timber slat sides and steel inserts.



Plate 20: Rubbish bin in 2003

This bin style is to be retained and should be painted brown in order to coordinate with the picnic shelter. Rubbish bins should only be located around the shelter, as it is not appropriate to have them throughout the gardens.

In 2006, all rubbish bins were replaced as shown below:



Plate 21: Rubbish bin in 2006

Seating

Several seats in the gardens are missing or have deteriorated, whilst others which have been upgraded or maintained, are in good order.



Plate 22: Seats in the gardens in 2003

It is essential to have a coordinated approach to the park furniture which is appropriate for the gardens.

It is proposed to use an iron frame with timber slats consistently throughout the gardens in order to achieve a uniform theme. The iron should be painted black with the timber painted with a clear varnish.

In 2006, all missing seats in the Gardens have been replaced as shown below:



Plate 23: Seats in the gardens in 2006



Gardeners Cottage



Plate 24: Different views of the gardeners cottage

The cottage was designed by James Daskein, Shire of Hampden Engineer, with the main construction built in 1880 by Evans & Son. In 1887, a new verandah was added by McCrae & Fullerton. Described as a Picturesque Cottage, it is currently resided by the caretaker of the caravan park, who also does some maintenance of the botanic gardens.

Lighting

Fluorescent lighting can be found within the picnic shelter and is deemed as appropriate for the gardens.

Paths

The paths were initially designed to achieve a circular shape around the gardens, however in particular the entrance path does not reflect this intent. It would be desirable to realign this path to achieve the circular concept of the gardens.

Currently the paths within the gardens are constructed with brick edging and a red scoria. The scoria needs to be replenished as required and the brick edging re-levelled in some areas as it has become covered in dirt.

(ii) PARK FURNITURE/STRUCTURE - Removed

Rotunda

The importance of the rotunda as a historic structure within the gardens cannot be underestimated, nor its attraction to the public.

Refer Appendix VII for a full history and reconstruction of the rotunda as commissioned by the Previous Town of Camperdown and the Departments of Conservation Forests and Lands as prepared by Richard Aitken, 1985.

The location of the rotunda is at the southern end of the gardens, and its original location can be easily determined as the bluestone base is still onsite.

This area had been planted with conifers and some large boulders. In order to restore the area back to its true intent, these have been removed in 2006, as shown below.



Plate 25: Original location of the Rotunda bluestone base.

Pond

The ornamental pond was located on the northern edge of the botanic gardens. It can clearly be seen in Appendix X with the potting shed in the background. This was a beautiful feature of the gardens to be remembered. It is not intended to reconstruct the pond at this time.

Sundial

Adjoining landowner at the time, Mr Robert Scott, former District Surveyor, in 1888 donated a large sundial to the public park. Its true location and type is unknown. No further information can be traced regarding this at this time.



Gates

In 1872, tenders were invited for the erection of gates for the gardens. A photograph circa 1890's is shown in Appendix VIII which is believed to be the original magnificent double opening entrance gates into the gardens. Also shown in Appendix IX is a photograph of the entrance gates and the gate into the arboretum in 2003.

The current entrance gates are considered appropriate and will be retained. The gate into the arboretum needs maintenance works in order to be in a reasonable condition.



Plate 26: Entrance gates to the Gardens and the Arboretum

Glasshouse

It is believed that a glasshouse was positioned within the gardens, 100m south of the potting shed, near the water meter. No further information has been found.

Aviary, Windmill, Fireplace, Overhead Tanks

There are references and recollections of all these features, however no detailed information has been found. (Photographs showing various garden features can be seen in Appendix X).

(iii) PARK ACCESSIBILITY/FACILITIES

Currently access to the botanic gardens is through the Camperdown Caravan Park, which detracts from the experience for visitors to the gardens.

As indicated on Guilfoyles (Appendix III) plan access through the arboretum would substantially enhance the gardens and the entire experience.

From the "Feasibility Assessment for the Camperdown Caravan Park" done in 2001 by Neil Noelker Consulting it was accepted that the access to the gardens through the caravan park was undesirable. It was felt that an internal road through the caravan park "is an unacceptable circumstance if the caravan park is to be subjected to opportunities for growth when there is general travelling public, including large coaches, travelling through the middle of the caravan park." The assessment concluded that alternative access through the arboretum to the gardens was favourable.

It is therefore recommended that access through the arboretum be constructed as a long term objective. Parking access at the gardens needs to be also considered for visitors to the gardens. This would need to be incorporated as part of the access works.

It is also noted that members of the community who are visiting the gardens need access to public facilities, with the toilets in the caravan park having shared purpose. This is a desirable relationship which should be retained and signed accordingly from the garden area



Plate 27: Entrance gates to the Caravan Park



8. Maintenance of the Gardens

Staff

The current standard of maintenance at the gardens is considered to be just satisfactory. Staff levels currently consist of one staff member approximately one day per week at the gardens.

In 2002, Councils Works Department appointed a coordinator of Parks and Gardens who was a qualified horticulturalist. This has dramatically increased the efficiency of the department across the shire, by bringing in specialist skills which are utilised by staff.

However, for the gardens area to be maintained to a higher standard and if it was to be increased in size by incorporating a portion of the arboretum for regular maintenance, the staff effort at the gardens would need to be increased to at least three days per week at a cost of approximately \$30,000 per annum.

It is also essential for ongoing training to be provided to staff, particularly with emphasis towards the fact that the garden is a nineteenth century garden which needs to be maintained. This can help staff appreciate the management of the historic garden and complement job satisfaction.

Pruning

All pruning works should be carried out by a qualified arborist as per the Australian Standard, AS 4373, Pruning of Amenity Trees. This work should involve selective pruning and dead wooding as appropriate. Currently, some of the trees in the gardens are in need of maintenance in order to prolong their life, enhance their appearance and remove hazards. All ongoing daily maintenance is to be carried out by Parks and Gardens Staff, which includes any minor pruning as required.

Equipment

Currently the gardens are maintained by either a ride on mower or a push mower, as required. All other hand tools are available for staff as necessitated.

As council has a large fleet of plant and equipment across the entire shire, access to heavier machinery would be available if required. All elevated work platforms and wood chipper work are services which Council would hire.

Watering

An automated sprinkler system is currently working within the botanic gardens and is sourced via the town water supply. There is sufficient water pressure with majority of the gardens being adequately watered at night.

Unfortunately, the sprinkler system is not deeply embedded in the ground, which results in frequent problems with the sprinklers. An updated, more reliable sprinkler system which is properly installed, needs to be considered.



Plate 28: Sprinkler System



9. Promotion

The Camperdown Botanic Gardens are a unique garden which needs to be promoted and recognised throughout not only the State of Victoria, but its immediate surrounds.

The gardens association with Guilfoyle could be utilised as a tour across the south west to visit other Guilfoyle gardens such as Colac Botanic Gardens and Dalvui Gardens. This would help achieve tourism into the area and all associated benefits. Councils Economic Development department would also need to include information about the gardens in all Council promotional material, including Councils internet site and Councils Tourism Strategy.

In order to improve the experience for tourists, other features of the gardens could be enhanced.

This could be achieved by the following methods:

REGULATIONS

A copy of the regulations for the gardens as adopted by the original public park committee are found at Appendix XI.

These regulations have never been reviewed to date. As some of them appear outdated, it is recommended that these be revised. Display of the final agreed regulations as well as the original should be at the entrance of the gardens.

FRIENDS GROUP

The development of a 'Friends' Group is strongly supported. Usually consisting of a group of volunteers, members are dedicated to the continual improvement of the Gardens and development of the site. Such a group could really revive the Gardens to their prime, and source grant applications which can only be applied for by community groups. General promotion of the Gardens and information sessions involving the community through such a group would achieve better utilisation of this wonderful site.

LABELS/SIGNS

For any visitor to a botanic garden it is essential for the various trees and plantings to be labelled. Every individual visiting the gardens can then have direct information associated with each tree.

Labelling has been carried out in the gardens, however vandalism has resulted in the loss of some of the labels and others are quite difficult to locate.

It would be recommended that labels be uniform throughout the gardens and provide not only the plant name but any interesting additional information possible eg. economic, significant or historic information.



Plate 30: Example of labels currently in the gardens, 2003

INTERPRETATIVE SIGNAGE

Interpretative signage in the gardens would also be recommended. An information sign showing a site map and key components at the entrance to the gardens would be beneficial. Tourist signs giving direction to the gardens have now been installed.



10. Funding Options

All of the following listed funding sources should be considered by the advisory committee so that applications for funding can be prioritised and actioned. These are suggestions only, with all possible options to be investigated. As funding sources change every year, alternatives need to be considered for application as appropriate.

(i) **Corangamite Shire**
(Local Government)

Applications to the Corangamite Shire can be made through the minor grants scheme or provided in Councils forward works program. Projects would be considered by Council and funded subject to budget limitations and competing priorities with supporting documentation for the importance of the project and costings.

(ii) **Regional Solutions Program**
(Federal Government)

This funding program is targeted at rural and regional communities with applications to demonstrate:

- Circumstances and degree of disadvantage and need in the local community or region
- Significance and benefit of the proposal to the local community
- Anticipated economic or community development results are sustainable as a result of the project
- Strong community support and industry support
- Organisation, financial and project management abilities

(iii) **Cultural Heritage Projects Program**
(Federal Government)

This program supports the conservation of places of cultural significance with funding only available for historic or indigenous places on the Register of the National Estate, its Interim List or a State Heritage List that provides long term statutory protection.

(iv) **Public Heritage Program**
(State Government)

The selection criteria for this funding is very prescriptive with some of the following key areas to be addressed for consideration of the project:

- Quantified benefits in terms of reduced costs and/or new income opportunities
- Potential to employ more people
- Enduring value or ongoing benefits to a community
- Opportunities for broad community involvement and participation in the project
- Support from other government programs
- Good community or funding partnerships
- Ongoing use
- Good heritage restoration practice
- Financial and project management capacity.

(v) **Small Towns Development Fund**

Objectives of this fund are to assist small rural towns in creating opportunities, particularly contributing to economic development. Funding is on a dollar for dollar basis.

(vi) **Creating Better Places**

Funding is available for the restoration and conservation of heritage places on public land.



11. Management Targets and Actions

Since the commencement of development of the Camperdown Botanic Gardens Management Plan, the following objectives have been actioned:

- Establishment of advisory committee for the gardens (achieved, 2002)
- Restoration and upgrade of the existing picnic shelter (achieved, 2005)
- Restoration of fencing around the gardens, including realignment of fence on the north west corner to a more oval shape as originally intended (achieved, 2005)
- Installation of Tourist Signs giving directions to the gardens (achieved, 2005)
- Automated sprinkler system be extended (achieved, 2005)
- Have the original plan believed to be prepared by William Guilfoyle appropriately protected (Achieved 2006)
- Replacement of missing seats (achieved, 2006)
- Restoration of the rose garden bed (Achieved 2006)
- Missing Interpretative signs to be replaced and additional labels to be added
- Selective pruning of established trees as required within the gardens (proposed 2007)
- Screen planting around the perimeter fencing
- Purchase and planting of suitable plants for arboretum
- Lay new sprinkler system
- Development of a 'Friends Group'

Medium – Long Term Management Targets and Actions

The following objectives are recommended within the next 4 to 7 years:

- Council to fund an additional 2days/week for a gardener
- Restore the garden beds within the botanic gardens with appropriate plantings
- Reinstate the band rotunda, as proposed by Richard Aitken, 1985
- Restore the Robert Burns statue as per the Artcare Conservation Report, 1991
- Provide alternative access to the gardens through the arboretum

The following management targets and actions are to be considered:

Short Term Management Targets and Actions

The following objectives are recommended within the next 1 to 3 years:

- Obtain funding to further develop the plan by consultants
- Nominate the Camperdown Public Park for the Register of the National Estate

These objectives are subject to funding applications, and are listed in order of short and medium - long term objectives to ascertain some of the highest priority works to be done at the gardens. Within each group, items are not prioritised as their implementation will be subject to funding and community interest.

It is expected that this document will be formally reviewed in 10 years, to ensure its accuracy and assess actions as outlined in this report.



12. Appendices

- I List of supplied species
- II Site plan of the gardens current condition
- III Copy of public plan
- IV Picnic Shelter
- V Robert Burns Statue
- VI Fence
- VII Rotunda
- VIII Potting Shed
- IX Gates
- X Various Garden Features
- XI Regulations for gardens by original committee

13. References

Dowdy K. The Making of our Town Camperdown

Willingham A. (1995). Camperdown a Heritage Study

Readers Digest Gardeners Encyclopaedia

Internet –

www.beyond.fr/flora/oakpube.html

www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_090011.shtml

www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/trees-new/quercus_petraea

www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-5nlj46

www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Quercus+pubescens&CAN=COMIND

www.roman-britain.org/chase/oak.htm