

## Collections

The Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum contain splendid mature trees and a diverse collection of plants from places with similar climates around the world.

At the picnic shelter, beneath the historic New Zealand Cabbage Trees (*Cordyline australis*) a collection of flora from Aotearoa/New Zealand is being established.

On the south-western border, near the giant Canary Island Pines (*Pinus canariensis*), is a collection of plants from the Macaronesian region, which includes the Canary Islands and Madeira.

## Significant trees

The Botanic Gardens and Arboretum feature many century-old trees, including Algerian Oaks, Canary Island Pines, Himalayan Cedars and Californian Redwoods. Dozens of new trees are being planted in the Arboretum as part of a recent renewal plan.

Several trees are listed on the National Trust (Vic.) Register of Significant Trees: an avenue of nine European Lindens (*Tilia x europaea*), two Himalayan Oaks (*Quercus lanata*), an African Holly (*Elaeodendron croceum*) and a New Zealand Akiraho (*Olearia paniculata*).

## William Guilfoyle

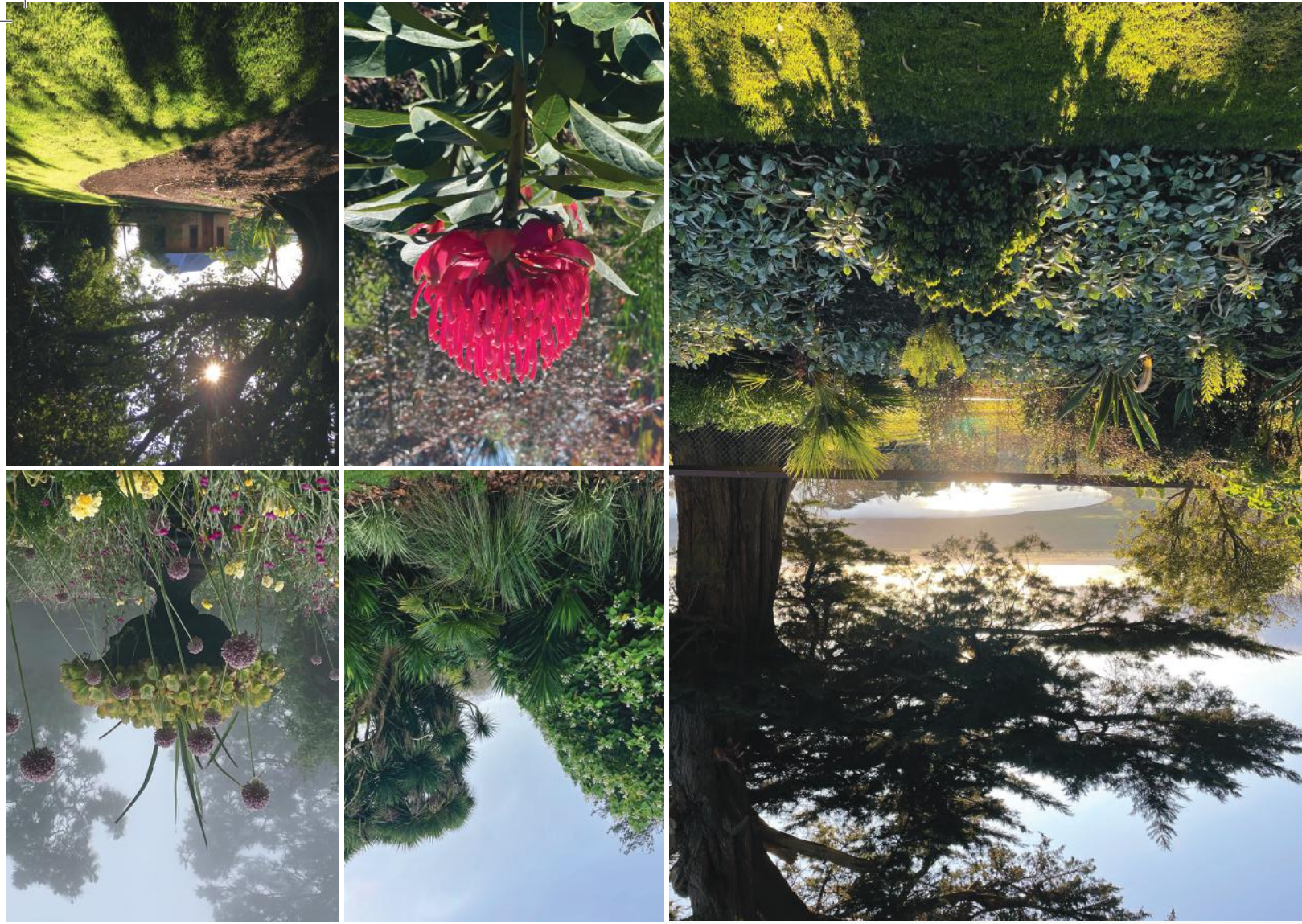
William Guilfoyle, director of Melbourne's Botanic Gardens from 1873 to 1909, guided developments at Camperdown between 1888 and 1910. A botanist and skilled horticulturist, he became Australia's most renowned landscape designer, inspired by the sub-tropical vegetation of northern New South Wales and the volcanic landscapes of the South Pacific.

Guilfoyle's 1910 plan can be viewed at the Camperdown Heritage Centre.

## Timeline

- 1869 Camperdown Public Park (292 acres) reserved for enjoyment of the public
- 1870 Daniel Bunce advised on layout
- 1874 Over 300 trees planted
- 1879–90 Caretaker's cottage, potting shed and rotunda erected (base remains)
- 1881 Henry Fuller appointed curator (to 1901)
- 1888–89 William Guilfoyle guided improvements
- 1900s Picnic shelter erected
- 1901 David Fuller appointed curator on the death of his father (to 1948)
- 1910 Guilfoyle prepared plan for the entire Public Park site
- 1948 Abe Waddell appointed curator (to 1962)
- 1960s Caravan park developed on 2.5 hectares adjacent to entrance drive
- 1980s Camperdown Lions Club led Gardens recovery project
- 1996 Flora for Victoria planting project implemented
- 2011 Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum listed on Victorian Heritage Register
- 2013 Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum Trust Inc. established to contribute to the restoration and protection of the site  
Janet O'Hehir appointed as the Trust's honorary curator  
Community volunteers commenced restoration work
- 2017 Conservation Management Plan prepared by Dr Helen Doyle
- 2020 Victorian State Government Growing Victoria's Botanic Gardens grant awarded
- 2022 North-eastern section of the Arboretum (4 hectares) re-opened to the public





## Inspired by plants and the natural world

The Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum occupy a 25-hectare section of a larger public park which was reserved in 1869. It was originally laid out by Daniel Bunce, with later design refinements by William Guilfoyle.

The 1.2-hectare Botanic Garden is a central 'floral enclosure' surrounded by a treed park – the Arboretum. The Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum contain splendid mature trees and a diverse collection of plants from around the world.

The place is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register. Significant structures include the picnic shelter, potting shed, gardener's cottage and the waterhole. In addition to the Heritage Overlay (HO) the site is protected by an Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) and a Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO). Corangamite Shire Council is the Committee of Management for this Crown Land site, which is cared for and maintained by community volunteers and Council gardening staff.

To the west of the township of Camperdown, at the top of a windswept hill, you will find the Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum. They occupy a spectacular site with views across the ancient Western Victorian volcanic plain and the crater lakes of Bullen-Merri and Gnotuk. This is the sacred land of the Djargurd wurruŋ people – Eastern Maar Country.



## Getting there

The Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum are located to the west of the township, roughly 3 km from the town centre as the crow flies. Visitors can also approach from the west along Sadlers Road, inside the crater rim of Lakes Bullen-Merri and Gnotuk.

**V/Line trains and coaches** provide multiple daily services between Melbourne and Warrnambool. Train travellers can ride or walk the 3.7-km climb from the Camperdown railway station to the Botanic Gardens, or call Camperdown's taxi service on 0419 764 981.

**The main entrance** to the Botanic Gardens and Arboretum is currently occupied by a commercial caravan park, which can become crowded through the summer months and holiday periods. This is a public road and visitors can walk, ride or drive through the caravan park to the Lookout or Botanic Gardens car-parks.

Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times.



## Get in touch

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## Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum

