



VICTORIA BRANCH NEWS: MAY 2020

A warm welcome to all, especially our new Victorian members as we settle into late Autumn. You may be experiencing some chilly starts, depending on where you are, but the reward is a particularly good season of colour in the garden this year. As Victorian isolation measures are relaxed, I hope you are all doing well and able to find some bright spots outdoors and, in your daily life. This month we thought we would tantalise you, by way of a quiz, with the thought of a day trip to some of our regional Botanic Gardens.

How many do you know? Take the quiz and check in next month's newsletter for the answers.

Also, while we are all based at home, we thought you may like to see what our committee members are appreciating in their home gardens. Lynda Entwisle starts this series in her backyard.

Take care and enjoy reading this newsletter.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Fiona Robinson, Gwen Adams, Juliet Berry, Rose Blandon, Prateek Kathuria, Philippa Kelly, Alan Lambell, Katherine Masiulanic, Clare Petrovich, Juliet Simpson, Alicia Teska and Ian Turnbull.

IN MY GARDEN



At this time of year as cold damp days settle in, I feel uplifted by the colours of the Boston Ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*) covering our fences. A few weeks ago, the view from our living area was of a lush layer of waving green, but now I am enjoying seeing a full range of autumnal colours:

mossy greens, golden yellows through to bright jewel reds. As the Hostas fade and the other plants in the bed below start to look a little untidy, my eye is conveniently distracted upwards. In summer the vine provides a cooling layer where blackbirds and insects seek shelter and in winter the bare vines create an intricate pattern over the bare walls. This "Ivy", although really a member of the grape family, is a vigorous plant that in the space of a couple of years has effectively 'greened' our outlook. Some of you may have spied my small collection of Australian epiphytic orchids hiding in the shelter of the foliage. The south-facing position helps protect them from desiccation in summer and, if I am lucky, they will reward me with some subtle, but sweetly scented blooms in spring. A bit like finding hidden treasure! Do you have a special corner in your garden?

REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN QUIZ



Victoria is unique in having over 40 Botanic Gardens. These gardens flourished in the C19th as their towns prospered. Sadly, many no longer have the resources to replicate their golden years but they are often cherished and cared for by their local communities. How well do you know these gardens? Perhaps this quiz will inspire you to take a day trip once the lockdown restrictions are lifted.

QUIZ QUESTIONS



1. Which Botanic Garden features an avenue lined with the busts of Australian Prime Ministers?
2. Which garden features displays of over 180 varieties of Dahlias that are used in a local ANZAC day floral display? They were first introduced by curator William Allitt.
3. This garden, whose first curator was Daniel Bunce, now features an entrance of Queensland Bottle Trees (*Brachychiton rupestris*).
4. Which garden features a set of restored cast-iron gates from the former property 'Fairlie' in Anderson St, South Yarra?
5. Which garden, set on a hill overlooking the district, was remodelled by William Sangster in 1884?
6. Baron Von Mueller contributed many plants and seeds to this garden. The first curator was Phillip Doran who served his apprenticeship under Joseph Paxton at Chatsworth estate. He remained for forty-seven years.
7. This garden of four acres features sweeping lawns, curved paths, rockeries and a recently restored aviary. It was classified by the National Trust of Victoria in 1990.
8. Which of these gardens have layouts designed by William Guilfoyle?
 - a. Warrnambool
 - b. Horsham
 - c. Koroit
 - d. Camperdown
 - e. Colac
9. This garden has several precincts including: the Cottage Gardens of Victorian Goldfields, the Habitat Garden, the Edwardian Garden as well as the National Lavender Collection, and National Canna Collection.
10. This garden sits high on the rim of an extinct volcanic crater and includes a number of mature significant trees including a rare example of an avenue of nine *Tilia x europaea* (Linden).



Answers in June newsletter.

GROWING VICTORIA'S BOTANIC GARDENS

In very good news this year, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has announced a second round of its grants program to assist Victoria's botanic gardens. The successful applicants will be able to use their funding for diverse projects, such as: responding to risks to their collection, promoting sustainable uses of resources, and developing records and collections management systems.

The program will be advertised on the Victorian Government grants and DELWP websites; providing access to information on funding guidelines, eligibility and application requirements, and contacts for further enquiries.

Finally, please note that Round Two will be the final round of funding to be made available under the Growing Victoria's Botanic Gardens grant program.

If you require any further information about the grants program, please contact Lucie Curtis at the following address: botanicgardens@delwp.vic.gov.au or Janette Hodgson, Land Management Policy Division, DELWP, via email: janette.hodgson@delwp.vic.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN NOTABLE GARDENS

The National Management Committee is reviewing the Society's list of the ten most notable public gardens in each state, territory and region as well as the ten most notable private gardens not usually open to the public (but for AGHS). Reasons for inclusion on this list might be for heritage significance, quality, intactness or integrity (eg: of an era or style), expression of their geographic location or just a hidden gem. Please email your thoughts to Wendy Dwyer at wamdwyer@gmail.com by June 8.

THERAPEUTIC ROLE OF GARDENS

The therapeutic role of gardens in the current health crisis was illustrated in a BBC radio broadcast on Saturday 9th May in an interview with the traveller and writer Robin Hanbury-Tenison. He had fallen ill at his farm on Bodmin Moor in Cornwall the day after returning from Europe. After being taken to hospital and diagnosed with Corona Virus he was placed in an induced coma, in which he remained for five weeks. After his initial recovery he was taken for a short period into a secluded garden in the hospital grounds where he experienced an immediate lift of his spirits. The fresh air and the sight of the sky, plants and bird life restored his sense of being part of the natural world, in contrast to the clinical austerity of the hospital. After returning to his farm and normal life, his most vivid memory of his Corona experience was the joy of being taken into the garden. He felt that the immense difference it made to him was evidence of the healing power of gardens, to which he gave much of the credit for his physical recovery. Even though fortunately few of us have suffered from the virus as severely as Robin Hanbury-Tenison, the stresses of the conditions in which we now live are considerable. We should make the most of our own gardens and where possible public gardens to help ease our anxieties and frustrations in concert with nature.

By: *Tim Gatehouse*