

Buninyong Botanic Gardens Baths

A New Botanic Garden Design

CITY OF
BALLARAT 

 **DELIVERING
A BETTER
BALLARAT**

BUNINYONG
BOTANIC
GARDENS

History - The Baths & Concrete Walls



October 1993 Landscaping in progress.

1860 – Sunken bluestone tank built

1872 – Swimming Pool

1920 - Concrete walls & changerooms built

1930 – Baths closed to public

1990 – Baths entrance widened

1993 – Converted into a Garden

2019 – Garden closed – wall safety concerns.

2026 – Concrete wall restoration completed.

A new garden has been designed in response to recommendations from the Buninyong Botanical Gardens Master Plan.

The Buninyong Gardens in the 1920's

The Curator John Ogilvie & his family lived in a cottage in the Gardens during the 1920's. The children shared their vivid memories of gardens full of colour & perfume & of the Fernery!

Ogilvie Children



Main Walk 1910



Fernery



Plants Grown in the Buninyong Gardens

Many beds of flowering plants were grown by John Ogilvie, and the two curators before him. They include the species below. Coincidentally, they also have medicinal uses.

- Dahlias
- Snapdragons
- Violas
- Sweet Peas
- Aquilegias
- Lupins
- Stocks
- Lilacs
- Daisies
- Fuchsias
- Shasta Daisy
- Clarkias
- Phlox
- Banksia Rose
- Red Hot Polka
- Tree Peonies
- Oriental Poppies
- Larkspurs
- Delphiniums
- Picotees/ Dianthus
- Golden Rods
- Agapanthus

History - The Baths Garden

In 1993 the Baths were transformed from sunken tank to walled garden

1990's



2019



Master Plan Recommendations

The two master plans (2004 & 2023) collectively speak of revitalizing the historical aspects of a bygone era and providing increased relevance & education.

The Master Plans ask us to create;

- **Ornamental gardens which provide the colour and scent in descriptions of the original gardens.**
- **Increased seasonal interest.**
- **Increase in botanical enrichment – New Plant Collections**
 - Wet exotic understory collection (ferns, woodland plants)
 - Plant evolution collection (ferns, cycads)
- **Primary theme of ‘Education’**
 - Pollinators
 - Medicinal Plants

Design Inspiration - Garden Experience



Continued point of gathering



Celebrational



Botanic / educational



Quiet and contemplative



Engaging of the senses



Beautiful gathering space for the whole community

- More colourful point of gathering.
- Gathering space all on one level – better access for people with wheelchairs, walkers or prams.
- A choice of event spaces - small central open event space, seating in amongst the gardens, or stages.
- Two ‘stage’ areas – wedding steps & eastern stage.
- Better viewing of ‘stages’ from the whole garden – no blind spots.
- Seating relocated to ground level – more easily reached.
- Paths more accessible than grass in wet weather.

Celebrations enhanced



- Entry hedge provides a grand entrance
- Easier access for wedding guests – no steps to navigate.
- ‘Wedding stage’ steps are wider & deeper.
- Alternative eastern stage area.
- Clear view of ceremony by all.
- Elevated viewing path easily reached by ramp.
- Beautiful flowering gardens.



Education within the Gardens

Recommended theme of the Master Plan.

By using Garden Explorer we can educate about;

- Pollinators
- Medicinal Plants
- History of the Baths
- Plant Evolution
- Importance of Water



Quiet and contemplative

- A place for you to unwind surrounded by nature.
- Seating nestled in amongst flowers & easily reached.
- A garden that changes throughout the seasons –something new to see on every visit.
- Able to be used by whole community including people with wheelchairs, walkers, or prams.
- More protected from north wind by new entry hedge.
- New path layout encourages more movement options through gardens when strolling through.
- A place ‘to stop & smell’ the flowers!



Engage the Senses

Provide a garden experience, not found in most modern-day backyard gardens

- A garden of colour
- A garden of scent
- A garden of seasonal change
- A garden of wonder
- Immersed in flowers

Design Inspiration - Overarching Themes



Prior formal layout



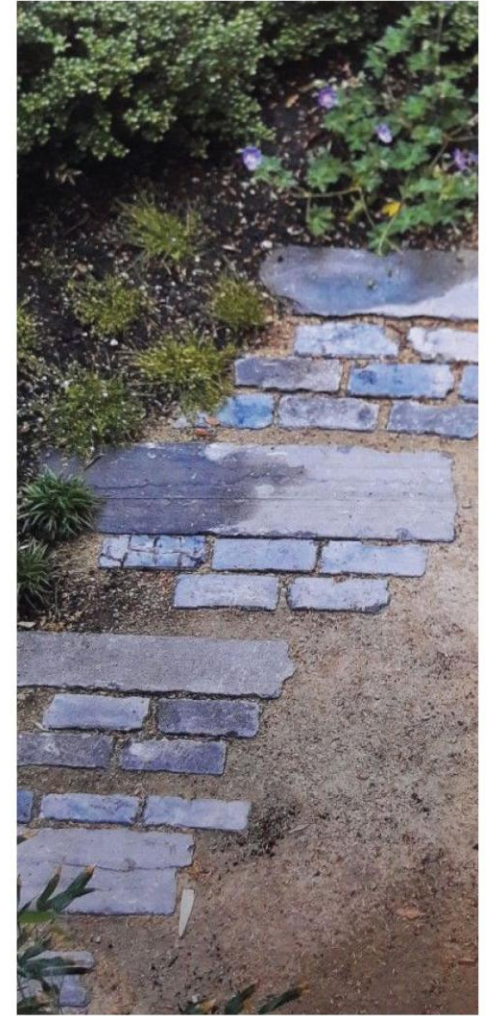
Water and the tank/baths



Hidden gem / secret garden



Historical planting palette



Suitable materials

Prior Formal Layout

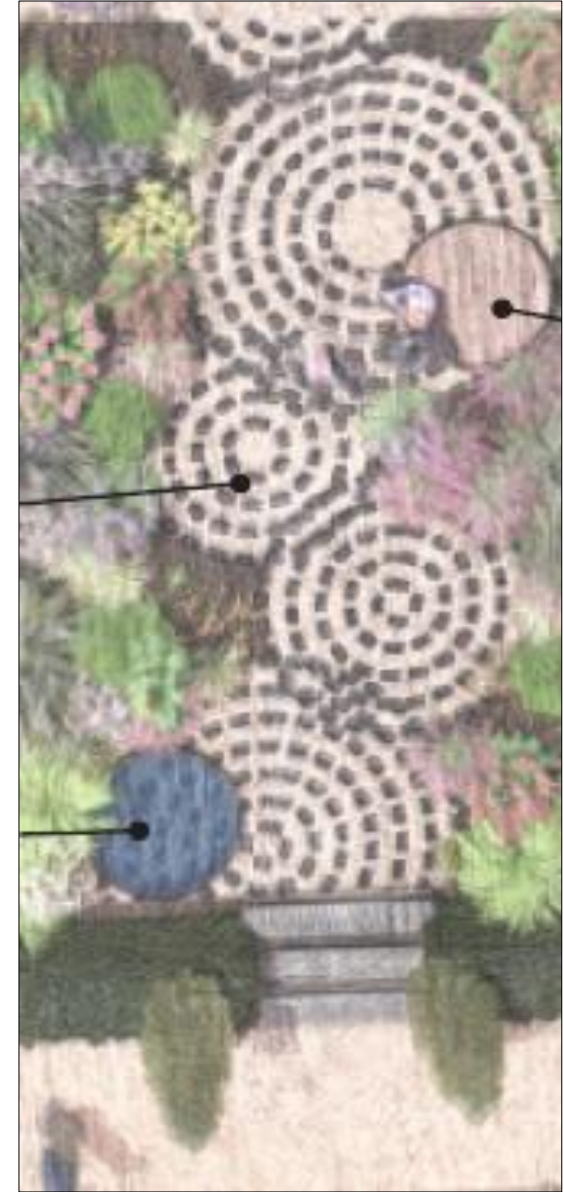
Key elements of the 1993 design have been included in the new design.

- Narrow conifers replanted
- Circular motifs
- English Box hedging
- Granite sand paths
- Upper Path remains
- Exposed southern edge of underground tank
- Wedding steps



Water & the Tank & Baths

- The design talks of the water origins of the garden.
- The sunken bluestone water tank – southern wall bluestone edge featured.
- Non-existent north edge represented by English Box hedging - show full size of tank.
- Pavers represent ripples caused by water drops.
- Shallow dishes are to capture
- water, reflections, splash hands in, float things in, tell vital story of preciousness of water.



The Secret Garden

- A true 'Secret Garden' - delightfully unexpected - all will be revealed – *only* once inside!
- Unique experience not found in any botanic garden in Victoria
- A hedge will replace the concrete panels removed in the 1990's to recreate original Baths entrance size.
- Create a more formal entrance, the perfect frame for event photography.
- The vibrant surprise does not impact the serene-green feel of the rest of the gardens.
- Imagine telling the story of 'The Secret Garden' in theatre or readings of the book.



Historical Plant Palette

“A lasting memory of the Gardens is the perfume. One can still smell the phlox, godetias, clarkias and sweet peas”

Ogilvie's Pallet, Bold, bright and scented.



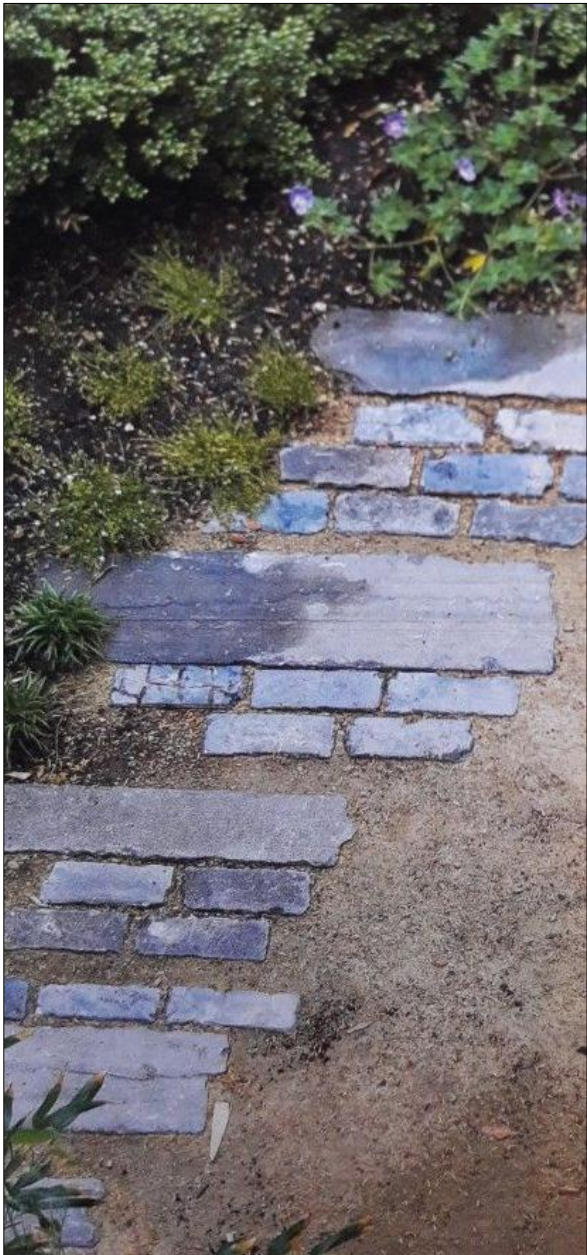
"we remember long, sweetly-scented drifts of picotees which seemed to bloom continuously."

"A lasting memory of the Gardens is the perfume. One can still smell the phlox, godetias, clarkias and sweet peas"

- Ogilvie's children

Materials

- The paving, steps, and small wedding stage steps area will use aged, recycled bluestone.
- This will speak to the bluestone tank buried beneath.
- Granite sand paths will be used throughout - this path material was also used extensively throughout the Buninyong BG history.

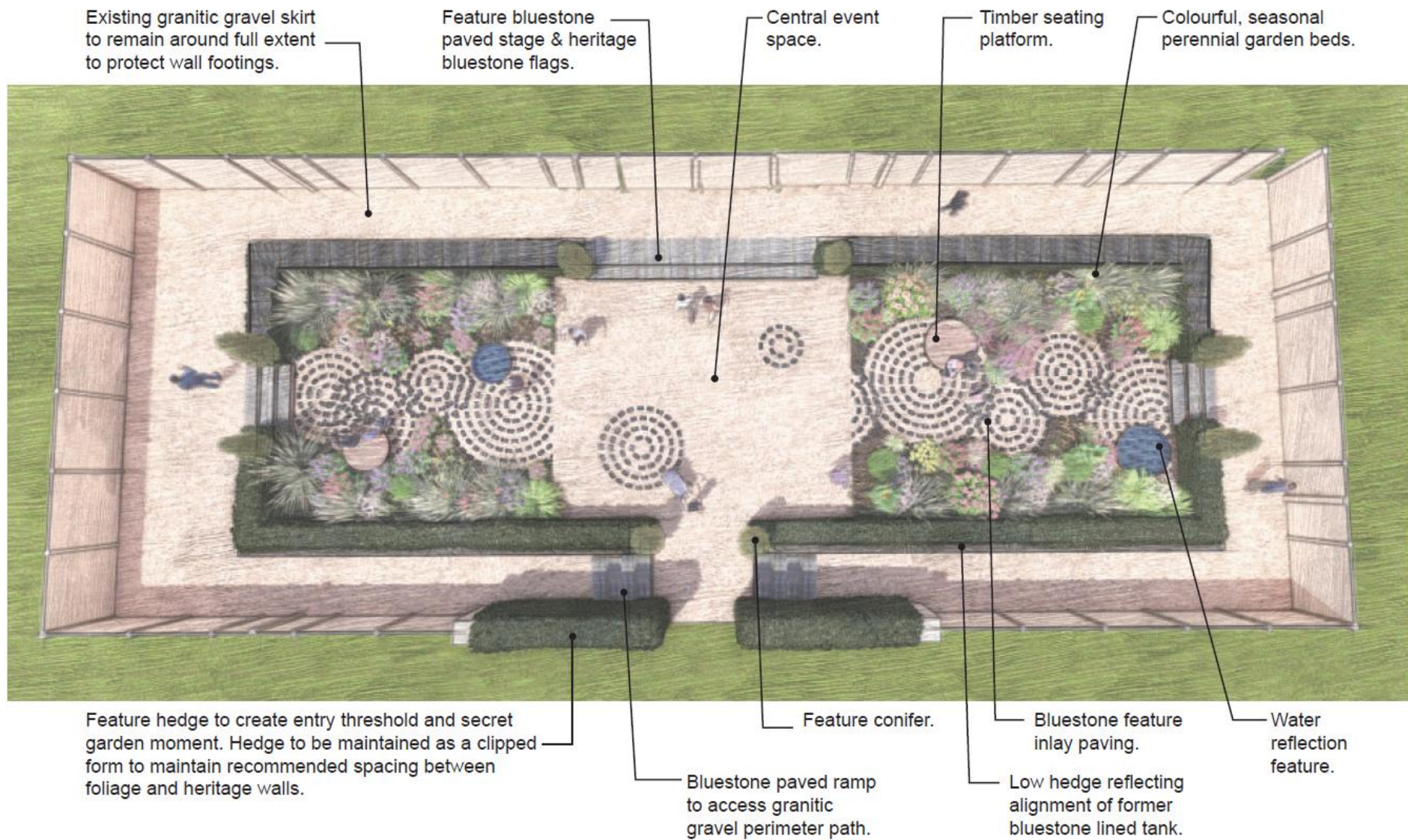




Climber Screens

- Frames located on eastern stage area will grow climbing flowers or foliage to add height.
- Frame the stage with green 'wings' either side.
- Interpret the concrete changerooms that existed on the site until 1993.





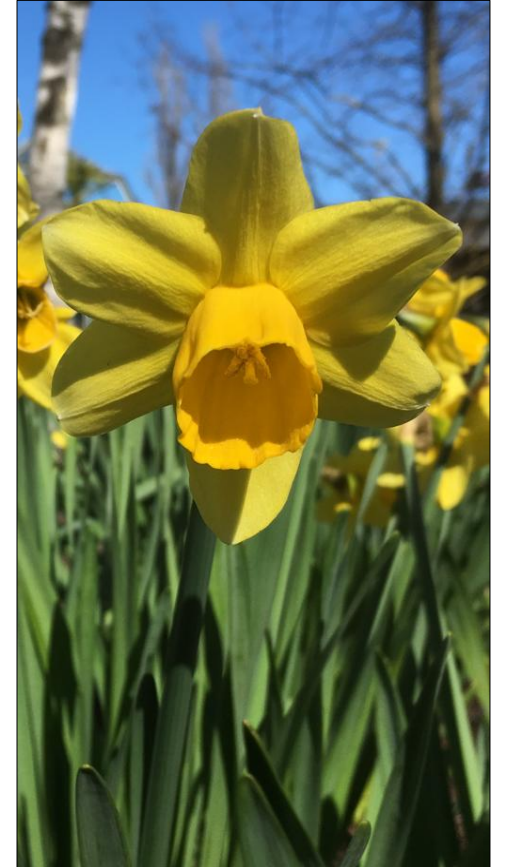






Plant Selections in the Walled Garden

Herbaceous perennial plants with feature annuals and seasonal bulbs.



Plant Selections in the Walled Garden

Incorporate some of the original plant species grown in the wider gardens by the early garden curators.



Plant Selections outside the Walled Garden

Existing external plantings will be interplanted with lush-looking foliage. This will contribute to the 'serene-green', allow the concrete walls to blend in with the surrounds & replace the need for climbers on the walls.

Viburnum Collection



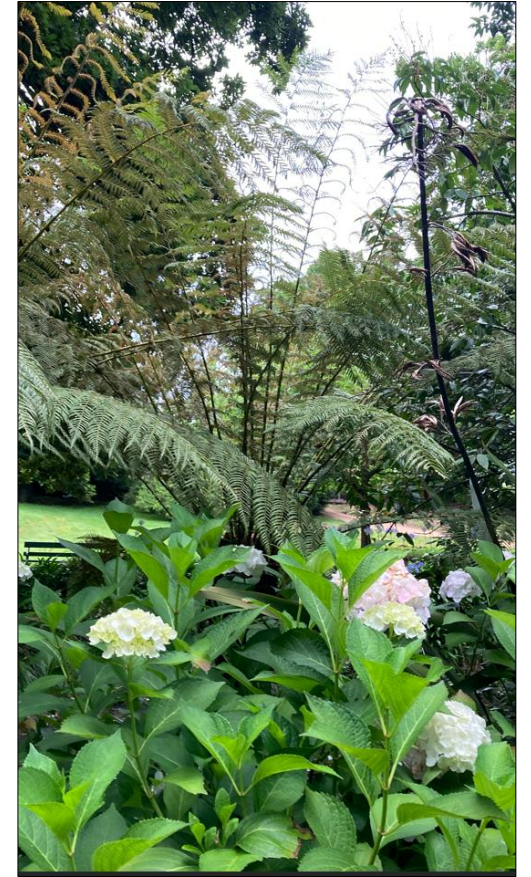
Lush Understory Plants



Ferns



Tie in with Island



Education – Garden Explorer

We can create self-guided tours -and use these to tell the story of our exciting new plant collections, our botanic themes and the Baths history.

BUNINYONG BOTANIC GARDENS
GARDEN EXPLORER

SEARCH MAP BROWSE FEATURE

SELECT TOUR
Tree-mendous stories to tell (#3)
Meet some of our tree-mendous favourites with cool stories to tell.

Araucaria bidwillii • 1 • Bunya Bunya Pine
This very spikey tree looks very much like it's relatives that existed at the time of the dinosaurs! I wonder if the dinosaurs could eat them? These are Australian trees, that come from Queensland & have massive cones like footballs up to 8kg in weight! Inside them are large 3cm pine nuts, which are an important aboriginal food.

Ceratonia siliqua • 2 • Carob
This is the source of the carob used as a chocolate substitute. It's pods are used in icecream, soups, confectionery and bakery products.

Sequoiadendron giganteum • 3 • Giant Sequoia, Sierra Redwood
This tree is also known as the Giant Sequoia because of it's size. In the wild, in the USA, it can grow to 80 metres tall (that's a 20 storey building!), & the trunks are so huge that cars can drive through them, and if you were to run around the trunk - it would be 30metres (that's longer than the Buninyong swimming pool!). They can live for 3000 years, and they never stop growing!

Pinus ponderosa • 4 • Western Yellow Pine
The North American Indians used this tree for many things. Sap was used to stick arrowheads to the arrow shaft, and to waterproof moccasins. Bark was crushed up to make a vanilla flavouring, and to thicken soups. It's roots were used to make a blue dye! On a hot day, it's bark smells like buttered toast!



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Individual

TAXON

Pinus ponderosa
◀ Previous 3 / 7 Next ▶



Accession: N1000-1309

Common name: Western Yellow Pine
Family: Pinaceae (Pine)
Distribution: Canada, Mexico, USA
IUCN Red list: Least concern
Life form: Tree - Evergreen
Timber: One of the most important timber trees in the USA. Timber - posts, particle board & pulp. Window frames, doors, stairs, veneers, furniture.
Comments: Pinaceae, Pinus ponderosa, Western Yellow Pine, (SW, Canada to W. U.S.A.)
Links: POWO - Plants of the World Online • IUCN Red List

Eucalyptus globulus
1 / 6 Next ▶



Accession: B1875-0209

Common name: Tasmanian Blue Gum, 'GARRANG'
Family: Myrtaceae (Myrtle)
Synonym: *Eucalyptus globulus* subsp. *globulus*
Distribution: Australia - Tas, SE Vic
IUCN Red list: Least concern
National red list: Victoria: rare (r)
Life form: Tree - Evergreen
Flower Colour: Cream
Flower Season: Spring, Summer
Food: Honey and tea.
Timber: Pulp wood for paper, construction purposes.
Wildlife: grows atop of limestone

New Plant Collection - Evolution of Plants

The evolution of plants is a fascinating walk through time from the beginning of life on earth, to today. Using Garden Explorer, we can take you on a tour through time using plants.

350 million yr ago



200 million yr ago



70 million yr ago



40 million yr ago



Education - A Garden of Seasonal Change

To see a garden grow and change throughout the seasons brings a new understanding of nature.

Summer



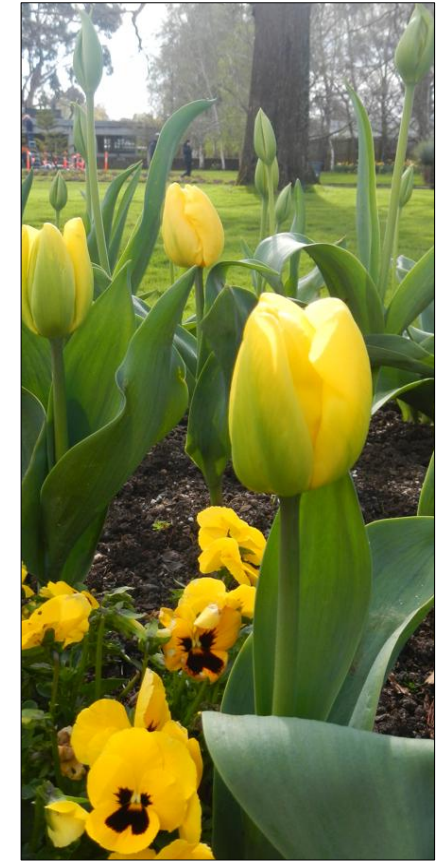
Autumn



Winter



Spring



Education - Pollinators

The addition of a flowering garden provides opportunity to attract pollinators and educate on their importance.
With Garden Explorer we can provide images of pollinators you may find in the garden.



Thank you.
We welcome your thoughts & questions.



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