

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BURNLEY GARDENS

1860 - the Horticultural Society of Victoria (later Royal) was granted a portion of the Richmond Survey Paddock “to promote botanical and horticultural science” (of fruit, vegetables and ornamentals) on the condition that a separate portion be open to the public.

1861 - Alfred Lynch’s prize winning design for the new Richmond Park began to be implemented.

1863 - Gardens officially opened on 1 January.

1891 - Royal Horticultural Society handed over Richmond Park to the Dept of Agriculture, who established Australia’s first School of Horticulture.

1897 - Charles Bogue Luffmann appointed as the first principal and began a ten year complete garden design transformation of Lynch’s formal design.

1917 - name changed to The School of Primary Agriculture and Horticulture, reflecting the agricultural expansion into poultry, cropping, dairy and research.

1958 - renamed the Burnley College of Horticulture

1997 - Burnley Gardens formally became part of the University of Melbourne.

2003 - The 9.25 hectare Burnley Gardens, seven of its trees and three of its buildings were added to the Heritage Register of Victoria.



VISITING BURNLEY GARDENS

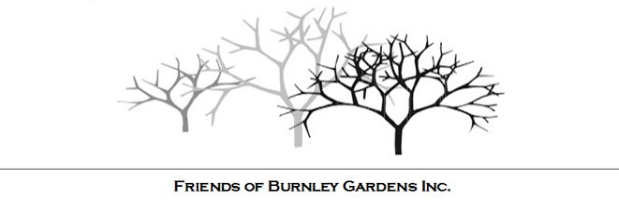
Eating and drinking - Picnic on the lawns or use our free BBQ facilities and splendid Sugar Gum outdoor table (see # 6 on map)

Functions - Burnley Gardens may be booked for weddings or other functions. See *Contact*.

Access - The main paths and the ground floor of all buildings are wheel-chair friendly. The Shady Walk and paths in the Wild Garden are difficult to access without assistance.

Toilets - Toilets are in the Student Amenity Building (# B on map) during University hours. After hours, toilets are available at Leonda car-park (over the Swan Street bridge in Wallen Rd).

Contact - For all enquires call Reception on 9035 6800 during office hours.



THE FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS

The Friends of Burnley Gardens are a not-for-profit group who support and foster public awareness of the Burnley Gardens. FOBG financially assist with special projects for the Gardens by conducting guided tours, selling plants and presenting regular talks, workshops and excursions. See www.fobg.org.au

- ### In the Gardens
1. Summer House
 2. Lily Ponds
 3. Rock Point & Bergenia Walk
 4. Grey Garden
 5. *Ficus macrophylla* Bed
 6. BBQ & Sugar Gum Table
 7. Pine Bed
 8. Sunken Garden & Wisteria Walk
 9. Herb Garden
 10. Shady Walk
 11. Orchard Gates
 12. Orchard Border
 13. *Ficus obliqua* Bed
 14. Old Cypress Bed
 15. Azalea Lawn
 16. Fern Garden
 17. Bog Garden
 18. Wild Garden
 19. Rose Garden
 20. Native Rainforest Garden
 21. Perennial Border
 22. Oak Lawn
 23. Island Beds
 24. Native Shrub Garden
 25. Native Garden Ponds
 26. Mud-brick Hut
 27. Native Grasslands
 28. Citriondora Courtyard
 29. Ellis Stones Garden
 30. Rockery
 31. Bull Paddock
 32. Roof Garden
- ### Buildings
- A. Reception / Main Admin Building
 - B. Student Amenity Building (FBOG meetings)
 - C. MB10 (FBOG meetings)
 - D. Centenary Centre
 - E. Library
 - F. Nursery
 - G. Classrooms / Laboratories



Burnley Gardens self-guided walk

WELCOME TO BURNLEY GARDENS



The Victorian Heritage-listed Burnley Gardens are a treasured botanical wonderland that have continuously evolved since 1860 as a garden for research, experimentation and teaching in horticulture and agriculture.



Burnley Gardens self-guided tour notes, numbers as per map overleaf.

1. Summer House

The Federation-period, Heritage listed garden shelter, circa 1911, is one of the oldest buildings in the Gardens. It is perfectly situated to take in the best view of the Gardens - the sweeping lawns, Luffmann’s beautiful lily ponds (# 2 on map) and the majestic backdrop of Burnley’s trees.



3. Rock Point & Bergenia Walk

The picturesque Rock Point has had creative inputs from numerous designers and discredits the phrase “too many cooks spoil the broth.” The bed looks its best in spring, when the blue *Tritelia* ‘Queen Fabiola’, yellow phlomis and orange strelitzia make a marvellous display. The Bergenia Walk is a major pathway of the



original Gardens; the shade from the large trees has provided an ideal environment for the shade-loving bergenias, plectranthus, camellias and bartlettina that line the path.

4. Grey Garden

The Grey Garden is one of the few areas in the Gardens where the prized Burnley soil has been removed and replaced with a sandy loam. This occurred in the late 1970s after the removal of a 1940s classroom (later the gardeners’ staffroom). This hydrophobic soil, and root competition from the nearby trees, made the site best suited to the silver/grey foliated plants that have adaptations to cope with low water conditions.



6. Sugar Gum Table



This grand table setting, donated by the Friends of Burnley Gardens, was made from the timber of the

Heritage-listed Sugar Gum, removed in 2008 due to persistent limb drop. The table was built by Ben Sibley and was opened in 2013 as part of the 150th Garden Opening celebrations.

8. Sunken Garden and Wisteria Walk

This is the site of the first building constructed in the Gardens. Originally a gate house and curator’s residence, it was extended in 1897 to become the principal’s residence. Despite students’ efforts to save it, the old house was demolished in 1980. Lecturer Geoff Olive re-designed the site as a sunken garden. The ramped entrance and raised beds were highly innovative for the time and showed an awareness of the need for disabled access and therapeutic gardening.

9. Herb Garden

The former back yard of the principal’s residence was re-designed in the early 1980s by Geoff Olive as a herb garden. Like many of Geoff’s designs, its primary focus was on student learning. The herbs have been segregated into culinary, medicinal and infusion-themed beds.



10. Shady Walk

This magical space contains the oldest of the Gardens’ original 1861 plantings, most notably the *Sequoia sempervirens* (Coast Redwood) and the towering *Agathis robusta* (Queensland Kauri). The sawdust pathway, lined with clivias was installed by Geoff Olive in the early 1980s and replicates Luffmann’s design principle of curved paths. It entices you into the forest interior.



11. Orchard Gates

Burnley’s history is reflected in the splendid gates that separate the ornamental garden from the former orchard. This fenced, segregated area was the Horticultural Society’s proving ground for fruit, vegetables and ornamentals for the new colony of Victoria. The gates were made by David Dawson from Michèle Adler’s design concept and were donated by the Friends of Burnley Gardens in 2013 for the 150th Garden Opening celebrations.



12. Orchard Border

This pathway and the central roadway into the former orchard area are all that visibly remain of the original 1860s design by Alfred Lynch. The narrow garden beds either side of the gates are divided into borders of colour themed mixed plantings.

14. Old Cypress Bed

This bed takes its name from a huge *Cupressus macrocarpa*, (Monterey Cypress), removed in 1982, that once dominated the bed. With the tree gone, the water table rose and the dry understorey became damp, creating an opportunity to plant species, such as rhododendrons, hydrangeas and dogwoods, that are suited to these conditions.



15. Azalea Lawn

Although few azaleas remain, this lawn took its name from the once extensive bank of azaleas on its western side. In March, the evenings are filled with the sweet fragrance of the white flowering *Gardenia thunbergia*.



18. Wild Garden

This corner is one of the wildest and most secluded parts of the Luffmann Gardens. It has remained relatively untouched from its beginnings in the mid to late 1800s. The winding, mossy paths lead you to trees from many parts of the globe. *Magnolia grandiflora* from southern USA, *Combretum caffrum* from South Africa and *Grevillea robusta* from Australia reflect the cosmopolitan garden interests of the Victorian era.



19. Rose Garden

Formerly a lawn area, this 1985 rose garden illustrates the development of the rose through the ages. The outer beds contain species roses and older European cultivars that only flower once in spring. The inner beds contain recurrent flowering roses developed from Chinese species. The Garden is also home to a *Sequoiadendron giganteum* (Giant Sequoia), which suffers from an aerial fungal disease (*Diplodia* sp.).



20. Native Rainforest Garden

This enchanting space is the 1990s design of Phil Tulk (Garden Manager), who cleverly connects the European Garden to the north with the Australian Garden to the south by using lush Australian rainforest species.

The colourful rainforest fruit provide eye-catching and mouth watering appeal, from the native citrus finger limes that open to reveal pearls of citrus to the bright purple poisonous berries of *Dianella*.

21. Perennial Border

Formerly the site of the Rose Garden, this collection of perennials was originally designed by James Hitchmough (Lecturer) in 1985. The site was selected for its ideal northerly aspect and provides a wonderful focal point from many angles. The lush green lawn in front and the dark green climbing *Akebia quinata* behind provide a perfect foil to the riot of colour and foliage textures that fill the southern horizon of the Oak Lawn (# 22 on map) from September to June.



23. Island Beds

In 1949, Emily Gibson (Lecturer) designed these beds to screen the rather stark, newly finished Main Admin Building (# A on map) from the ornamental gardens beyond. She also designed the original plantings around the building.



24. Native Shrub Garden

This section of the Native Garden (previously the area for the incinerator and septic tank), was the creation of Kath Deery in the mid 1980s. At this time, very few Australian shrubs were included in the Gardens. John Patrick (Lecturer) invited her to design the garden, expanding the range of plants for student learning. Deery used mounded beds to avoid water-logging problems, a technique that was common in native garden designs of the 1970s and ‘80s. Colourful flowering plants were chosen from many regions of Australia.

25. Native Garden Ponds

These flowing ponds were designed and constructed by Rob Boyle, Burnley graduate and acclaimed landscape designer, as part of the Centenary re-development in 1991. This oasis is home to native quail, red-rumped parrots and several species of frog. Visitors are surprised to discover that the ponds are man-made.

27. Native Grasslands



The western section of the Native Garden was planted for the centenary of teaching at Burnley in 1991. James Hitchmough who came to Burnley from the UK in the early 1980s, was inspired by the flora of Victoria’s Western Plains when selecting the plants for this area. Grasses and colourful wildflowers are at their peak in spring, but the area also looks good in summer when the grass stems dry to a silvery hue.

30. Rockery

Hilda Kirkhope (Lecturer) created this rockery in the early 1930s to screen the Bull paddock (# 31 on map) beyond. It looks its best in spring when blue bells, Weeping Cherry and *Viburnum* provide a beautiful panorama.



32. Roof Garden

This garden opened in 2013 demonstrates different types of green roof, substrates and plants suited to rooftop conditions. **Only open by prior arrangement** Call Reception on 90356800