



THE ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY

The Acclimatisation Society of Victoria was established in 1861. Its aim was to introduce plants and animals into the colony that were considered useful to mankind. It had several branches throughout the colony, including Bendigo, where it occupied the land across the Bendigo Creek that is now the White Hills Recreation Reserve. Today this organisation is associated in people's minds with the release of species that all too quickly became acclimatised weeds, however it should be remembered that many plants such as varieties of citrus and grapes were also introduced by them. Many of the old trees which are still growing in the gardens today were selected as much for their potential 'usefulness' as their visual appeal.

SAMUEL GADD

Samuel Gadd was an early curator of the gardens (from 1875 - 1903). He was very influential in the design and selection of plants for not only the White Hills Botanic Gardens but also the Rosalind Park Gardens in the centre of Bendigo. Alas his design for the White Hills Botanic Gardens has been greatly altered, and today we have only the position of the very old trees such as the western boundary pines that give clues to what it would have looked like. Fortunately Rosalind Park and the Fernery are still largely as he planned them and it is these gardens that give us a clearer idea of Gadd's garden designs.



Friends Archives (copy only)

HOW TO GET TO WHITE HILLS BOTANIC GARDENS



The Bendigo Creek Linear Park (a bike and walking path) connects the White Hills Botanic Gardens to Lake Weeroona and Rosalind Park.

Another historic public garden is Canterbury Park, at Eaglehawk.

For further information contact:
 Bendigo Visitor Centre
 51 – 67 Pall Mall, Bendigo
 Telephone: (03) 5434 6060
 Email: tourism@bendigo.vic.gov.au
www.bendigotourism.com

White Hills Botanic Gardens



Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens

Funded by the City of Greater Bendigo and Victoria's Heritage Grants.



child friendly city



Images left to right: Arch of Triumph, Picnic Pavilion, Monterey Cypress (Cupressus macrocarpa), Samuel Gadd Centre.

In 2005 the City of Greater Bendigo extensively altered this building, which was built in the 1980s as a caretaker's residence, to create offices and a large meeting room. It is now used by the garden staff and the Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens as a meeting room and administration centre.

SAMUEL GADD CENTRE

The White Hills Botanic Gardens has a large 'walk-through' aviary was built to replace the earlier small bird cages. It houses eleven species of seed and fruit eating Australian parrots. Of particular interest are the three 'long-tailed' parrot species, (the Regent, Superb and Princess Parrots), as they all have restricted home ranges and are now threatened in the wild. Keep a sharp eye out for the female Hooded Parrot. This species is found in tropical woodlands south of Darwin and is rare in the wild. There are also Golden Pheasants and a Guinea Fowl to be seen.

WALK THROUGH AVIARY



Top: Swamp Wallaby, Above: Regent Parrot.

are commonly found in the forests around Bendigo.

The White Hills Botanic Garden has always kept animals on display - Swamp Wallabies (*Wallabia bicolor*) and Eastern Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*) can be seen. These animals

ANIMAL ENCLOSURES

Water birds such as Black Duck, Wood Duck (or Maned Geese), Coot, Dusky Moorhen and White-faced Heron are commonly seen. The pavilion is now on the southern bank.

LAGOON

The Picnic Pavilion was built in the early 1900s on what was an original low island in the lagoon. It could be accessed via a wooden footbridge. The lagoon and island were once larger than they are today. However when the swimming pool was built in 1957, the island and lagoon were reduced in size and the pavilion is now on the southern bank.

PICNIC PAVILION

The Arch of Triumph was erected in 1925 as a memorial to local servicemen who served in World War 1.

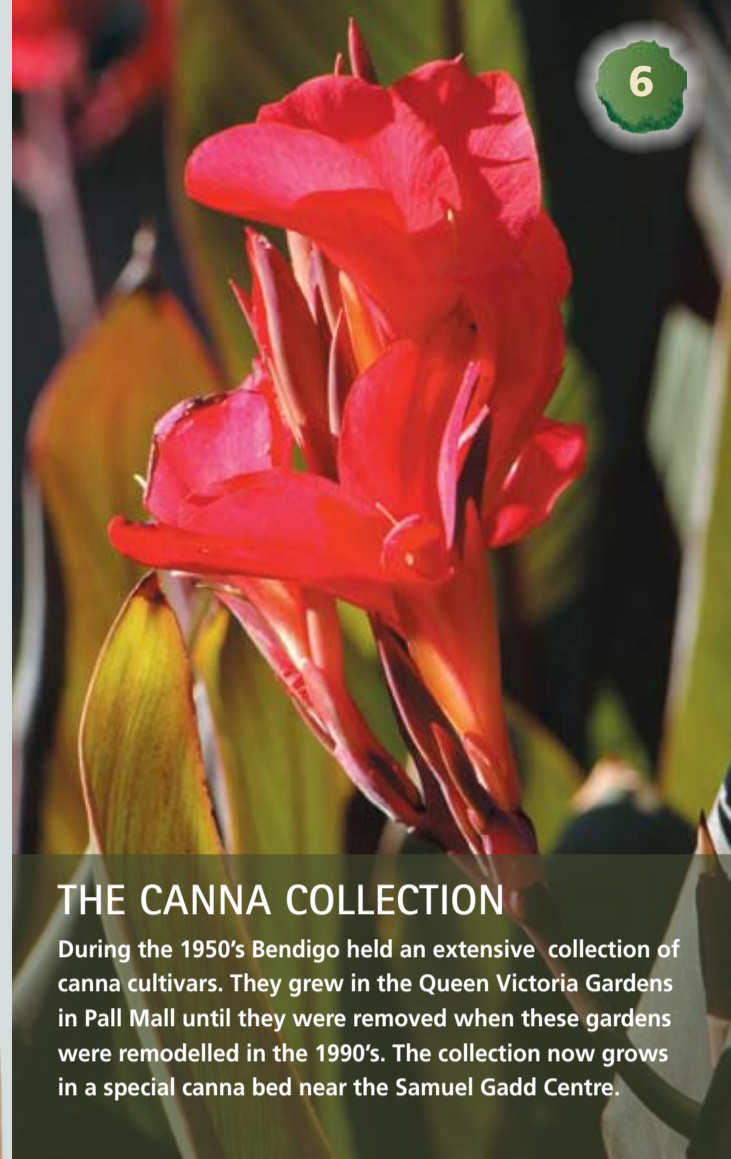
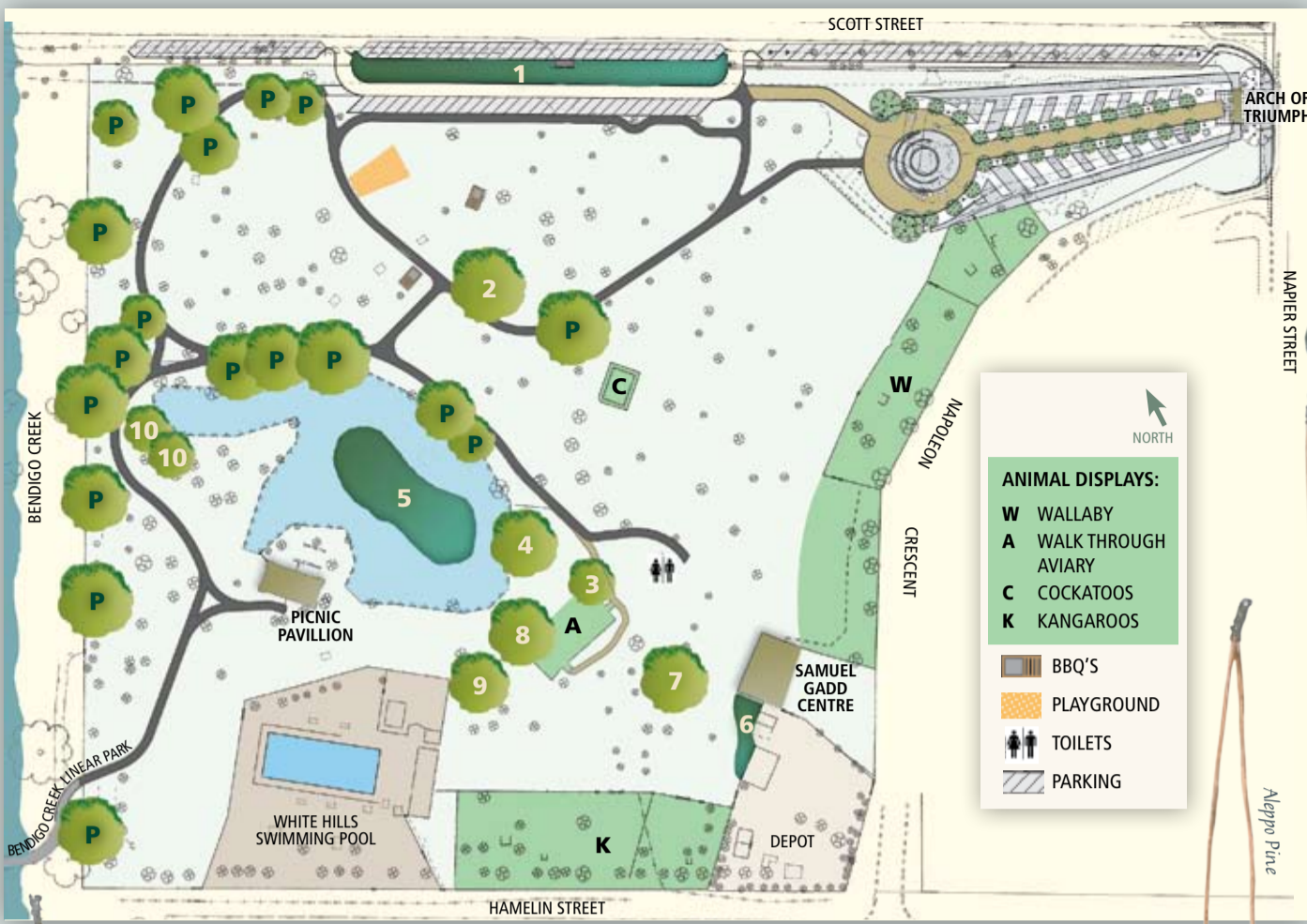
ARCH OF TRIUMPH

WITHIN THE GARDENS

The gardens once looked very different to what we see today. In the early 1900s there were many garden beds with flower displays and shrubbery and vine covered walkways all linked together with a network of paths. There were avenues of pines, oaks and elms that lined the botanical garden boundary. The gardens gradually changed during the last hundred years. The 19th century network of pathways and garden beds were removed and replaced with lawns that were easier to maintain. Recently, however there has been a renewed community interest in these Gardens and the City of Greater Bendigo has commenced planning for the garden's rejuvenation.

WHITE HILLS BOTANIC GARDENS HISTORY

Soon after the first discovery of gold in the Bendigo Creek in 1851, a larger gold deposit was discovered in white clay sediments in the area we now know as White Hills. It was thought that this area would become the town centre and a plan for the township of White Hills was drawn up in 1854. It included an area of land for a botanical garden and this was formally gazetted in 1857. Unlike many botanical gardens established at this time the White Hills Botanic Gardens still has its original boundaries.



THE CANNA COLLECTION

During the 1950's Bendigo held an extensive collection of canna cultivars. They grew in the Queen Victoria Gardens in Pall Mall until they were removed when these gardens were remodelled in the 1990's. The collection now grows in a special canna bed near the Samuel Gadd Centre.

P WESTERN BOUNDARY PINE AVENUE

There was once an extensive avenue of pines that was planted in the 1870s, to screen the western and northern boundaries of the gardens. Pines were very popular in the 19th century and species from all over the world were collected and planted in botanic gardens throughout Victoria. Each species of pine has its own individual cone and needle arrangement.

Look under the pines for the needles that best match the drawings on this page to discover their identity.

You will find Aleppo Pines (*Pinus halepensis*), Stone Pines (*Pinus pinea*), a Long-leaf India Pine (*Pinus roxburghii*), a Soledad Pine (*Pinus torreyana*) and a Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*). Note the number and length of needles per bundle and how they are joined together.

3 PENCIL CEDAR (*Juniperus virginiana*)

A native of North America, this tree produces fine timber used in cabinet making and for pencils. Junipers produce berry-like fruit.

4 RIVER RED GUM (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*)

There are many River Red Gums in the gardens. The largest trees mark the original course of the creek before it was straightened. This species is found along water courses throughout mainland Australia. It can be identified by its distinctive 'fishing float' shaped buds.



7 RED IRONBARK (*Eucalyptus tricarpa*)

This tree is the local ironbark that grows in the forests throughout the central goldfields region. Its buds and gum nuts are always arranged in groups of three hence its scientific name: *tri* meaning three *carpus* meaning fruit.



8 MUGGA IRONBARK (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*)

This species is native to north-east Victoria and inland NSW. It was extensively planted as a street tree in Bendigo during the 19th century. This specimen probably dates from this period. It can be identified by its distinctive dark grey-brown, deeply furrowed bark and its clusters of buds.

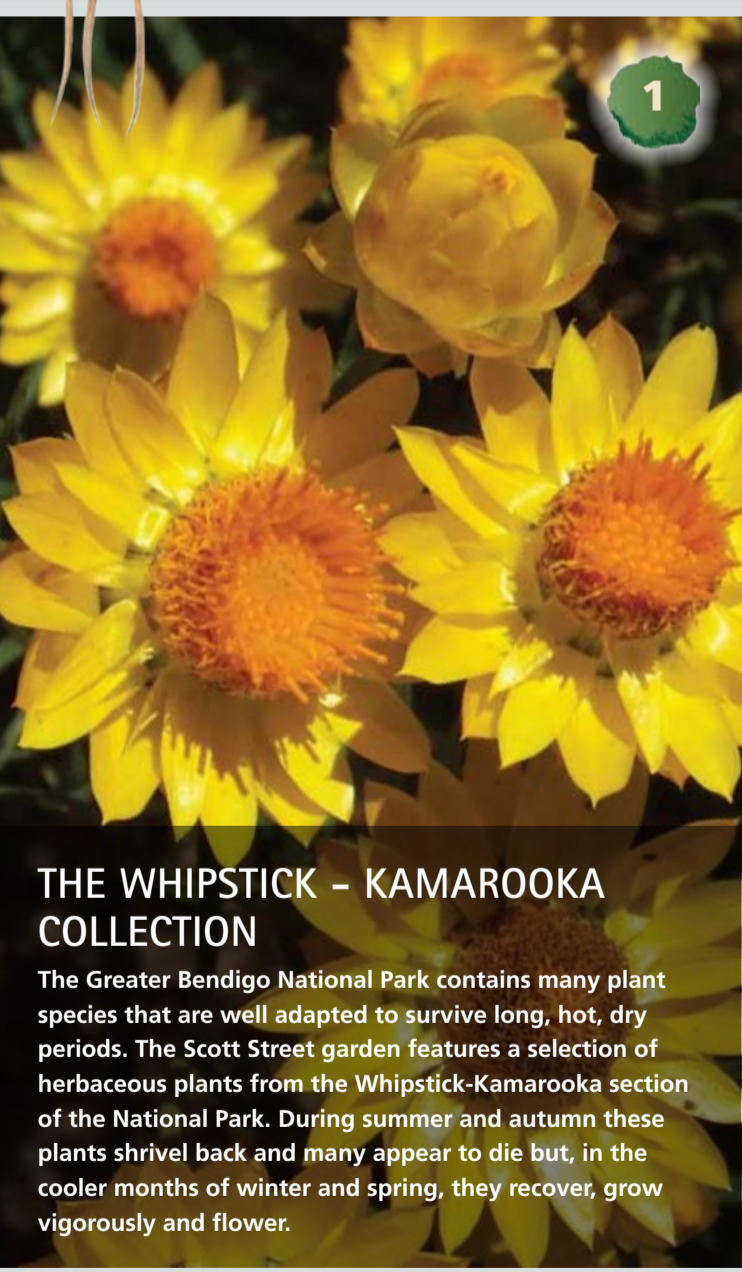


9 BRAZILIAN PEPPER (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)

This tree is a native of tropical America. The larger plant is quite old and showing signs of decline. However, the Friends of the Bendigo Botanic Gardens propagated the small Brazilian Pepper that is growing nearby from a cutting from the old tree. Rub one of its leaves and you will discover why it is in the same genus as the well known Peppercorn Tree (*Schinus molle*).

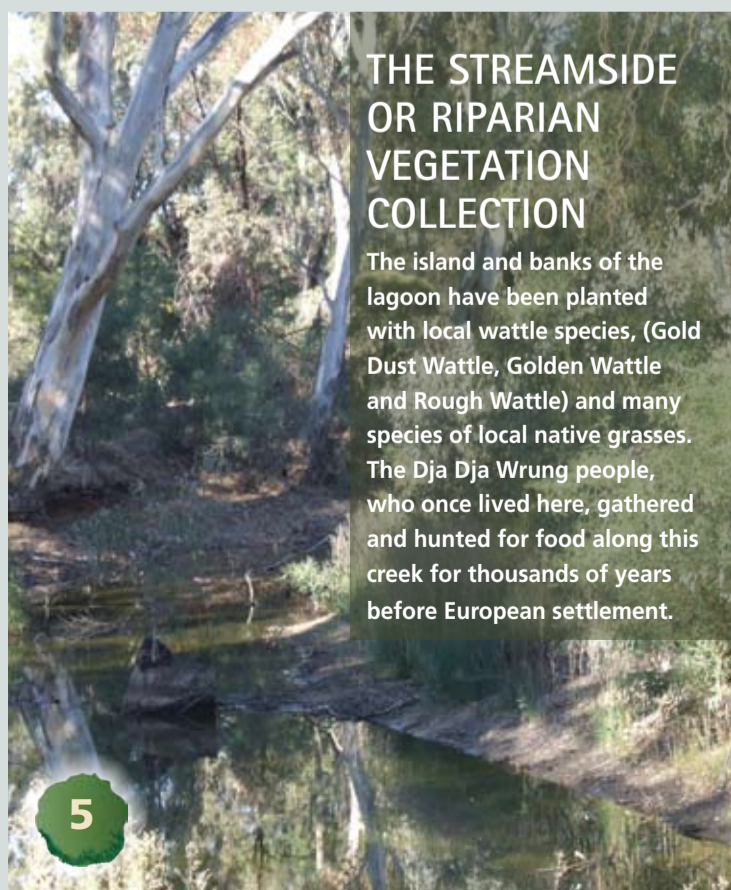
10 WOLLEMI PINE (*Wollemia nobilis*)

The discovery of this species, growing in a deep ravine in the Blue Mountains in NSW in September 1994 excited botanists around the world. Within ten years of its discovery, plant growers had propagated Wollemi Pines for cultivation. This sequence of events is similar to what occurred in the 19th century when plant collectors explored the world looking for new plants that could be grown in the parks and botanic gardens. The two Wollemi Pines were planted on November 18, 2007, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Gardens.



THE WHIPSTICK - KAMAROOKA COLLECTION

The Greater Bendigo National Park contains many plant species that are well adapted to survive long, hot, dry periods. The Scott Street garden features a selection of herbaceous plants from the Whipstick-Kamarooka section of the National Park. During summer and autumn these plants shrivel back and many appear to die but, in the cooler months of winter and spring, they recover, grow vigorously and flower.



THE STREAMSIDE OR RIPARIAN VEGETATION COLLECTION

The island and banks of the lagoon have been planted with local wattle species, (Gold Dust Wattle, Golden Wattle and Rough Wattle) and many species of local native grasses. The Dja Dja Wrung people, who once lived here, gathered and hunted for food along this creek for thousands of years before European settlement.

2 KEI APPLE (*Dovyalis caffra*)

The Kei Apple gets its common name from the Kei River in south-eastern South Africa. It produces edible fruit that can be used for jams and preserves. The Kei Apple is rare in Victoria. This very robust specimen was planted in the late 19th century.

5

Monterey Pine

Stone Pine

Soledad Pine

Aleppo Pine

Long-leaf India Pine