
Location

WALKER STREET CASTLEMAINE, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1679

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO669

VHR Registration

May 21, 1998

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 25, 1999

The Castlemaine Botanic Gardens were gazetted on 21 February 1860 and is believed to be laid out by the first curator Phillip Doran (1830-1913) who occupied this position for 47 years. Doran was previously an apprentice to Joseph Paxton at 'Chatsworth', Derbyshire, England. Ferdinand Mueller, Government Botanist provided many hundreds of plants for the gardens as did Daniel Bunce curator of the Geelong Botanic Gardens. The gardens are entered through an impressive set of cast iron gates erected in 1877-78 by local engineering firm Thompson & Co and completed by local monumental mason George Redfearn. At the same time a decorative fountain was erected near the gates, and a year later Lake Joanna with its naturalistic island was officially completed. Beautification works continued; in 1884 a second lake, Lake Augusta was constructed, and in the 1890s a rustic bridge, conservatory, fernery, shelter shed, rotunda (designed by Angus Cornish), and grotto were added, bringing the gardens to their peak of development. Doran remained curator until he died on 29 September 1913. After Doran a number of changes occurred to the gardens; the tearooms (1919) (now pipe band hall), and glasshouses (1920; replaced 1960) were added. However, Lake Augusta was drained and converted to an oval in the 1930s, the summerhouse, bridges, ferns and grotto disappeared by mid-century, and the rotunda by the 1970s. A portion of the gardens were set aside for a caravan park and swimming pool in the 1940s, and two further portions were annexed by the Alexander Hospital in the 1950s and 1960s.

The Castlemaine Botanic Gardens are of historical, scientific, social and aesthetic significance to Victoria.

The Gardens are historically important as one of Victoria's oldest regional botanic gardens. The scale of these major gardens and degree of plant specialisation reflect Castlemaine's gold rush prosperity and the local

community's desire to draw attention to their success and accomplishments. The gardens have further historical significance for their long association with inaugural curator Phillip Doran who enabled the gardens to develop under the continuity of his vision. An English Oak planted on the 26 May 1863 is of historic significance for being amongst a small number of similar plantings and the oldest commemorative plantings in Victoria.

The Gardens are of aesthetic importance as an outstanding example of a regional botanic garden created in colonial Victoria. Typical characteristics of a nineteenth century garden which are demonstrated at Castlemaine include; the formal entry having gates and monumental pillars, carriage drive, the informal park layout, Lake Joanna and other water features, such as the fountain and weir, decorative structures, especially the entrance gates, and areas of intense horticultural interest that contrast with open lawns planted with specimen trees. The gardens have further importance for their picturesque, nineteenth century design and layout, which continues to be reflected in the informal arboretum, the surviving path system, elm and oak avenues, and in the placement of major features.

The Gardens have scientific significance for their collection of plants, particularly trees and shrubs and the Buddleja collection. Many of these specimens are characteristic of late nineteenth century gardens and are representative of the more specialised scientific role of a botanic garden. The gardens have an outstanding collection of mature trees, including a preponderance of conifers, many of which are rare in cultivation and the finest of their species in Victoria. Such trees include, *Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii', *Ulmus minor* 'Sarniensis', *Quercus canariensis* x *Q. robur*, *Quercus macrocarpa* var. *oliviformis* (removed 2010), *Quercus robur*, *Tilia platyphyllos*, *Pinus ponderosa*, *Pinus sabiniana*, *Pinus torreyana*, *Platanus orientalis*, *Catalpa bignonioides*, *Eucalyptus longifolia*, *Schinus polygamus* var. *ovatus*, *Myrica faya* and *Pinus pinea*. The *Acacia farnesiana* and *Rhus undulata* are the only examples in Victoria and *Pittosporum sahnianum* is a new introduction.

The Gardens is socially significant because of its long association with the citizens of Victoria, and its use for picnicking, family reunions, and social events. The community continue to use the Gardens and is a major venue for the Castlemaine Arts Festival, and music activities, including Thompson's Foundry Band. The Gardens are highly valued for their landscape and horticultural education.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Specific Exemptions:

EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS:

(Classes of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit under Part 4 of the Heritage Act 1995)

Statement of Permit Policy:

The objective of registering the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens is to ensure that those features identified as significant are protected and conserved, but recognize the ongoing development of the Gardens and botanical collections. This is supported by the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens Conservation Analysis and Policies (Vol. 1), and Management Plan and Masterplan (Vol. 2), 1991.

General Conditions:

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

Building Exterior

- * Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.
- * Installation or repair of damp-proofing by either injection method or grouted pocket method.
- * Painting of previously painted wall, posts, and roofing in the same colour.
- * Treatments to stabilize and protect timber structures.

Building Interior

- * Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of the original paint or other decorative scheme.
- * Removal of paint from originally unpainted or oiled joinery, doors, architraves, skirtings and decorative strapping.
- * Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.
- * Installation, removal or replacement of curtain track, rods, blinds and other window dressings.
- * Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted artworks.
- * Refurbishment of bathrooms, toilets and or en suites including removal, installation or replacement of sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings.
- * Installation, removal or replacement of kitchen benches and fixtures including sinks, stoves, ovens, refrigerators, dishwashers etc and associated plumbing and wiring.
- * Installation, removal or replacement of ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings and architraves and provided that the location of the heating unit is concealed from view.

- * Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cords, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ. Note: if wiring original to the place was carried in timber conduits then the conduits should remain in-situ.
- * Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.
- * Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors.

Landscape

- * The process of gardening, hedge clipping, removal of dead plants, emergency and safety works and landscaping in accordance with the original concept.
- * The replanting of plant species to conserve the landscape character, elm and oak avenues, Lombardy Poplar row and the development of plant collections.
- * Plant labelling and interpretive signage.
- * Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard, Pruning of amenity trees AS 4373
- * Removal of plants listed as State Prohibited and Regionally Controlled Weeds in the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
- * Repairs, conservation and maintenance to hard landscape elements, gravel paths and roadway, edging, fences and gates and gravel driveway.
- * Installation, removal or replacement of garden watering and drainage systems
- * Removal of Car Parks and treated pine barriers.

Construction dates	1860,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	CASTLEMAINE BOTANIC GARDENS,
Hermes Number	1791
Property Number	

History

Contextual History:History of Place:

Early Castlemaine

In September 1851 three shepherds and a bullock driver who were working on William Barker's run announced that they had discovered gold. By December some 20,000 people were looking for gold in the area, and by March 1852 the population was estimated to be 25,000.

A Government Camp was soon established near the junction of Barkers and Forest Creeks, the two main, and most heavily worked of the local creeks. The Camp, as it was called, was the administrative centre of the goldfield, overseeing licensing, law and order. Some, but by no means all of its duties were taken over by the Castlemaine Municipal Council on its inauguration in 1856.

There was much optimism about the future of the town which some even thought would become the second most important city in the colony. Many substantial public and private buildings were constructed, and a large botanic garden established

Botanical Gardens in the Colony

In Melbourne moves to establish a botanic garden were made in the early 1840s, with Batman's Hill earmarked for the purpose. A small committee headed by Superintendent La Trobe looked at alternative sites for a garden and in December 1845 La Trobe recommended the present site in the Domain and appointed the first Committee of Management. These gardens were the forerunner to a number of smaller botanic gardens that were set up over the next forty years. During the 1850s gardens based on those in Melbourne were established in several country areas including Geelong, Portland and Bendigo. Provincial botanic gardens were created in nearly every

country town and city of any consequence. These gardens ranged in size from 20 acres (8 hectares) to 150 acres (61 hectares). Land was usually set aside more as a result of public pressure rather than any official government policy. In recognition of the increased community demand for botanic gardens in the early 1850s, Government legislation was passed to provide for municipal and borough councils to make by-laws for the establishment of botanic gardens.

Of all the Australian states Victoria has the finest collection of provincial botanic gardens. This was largely a legacy of the optimism for growth and urbanisation instilled by the goldrushes. Many towns were surveyed during this period and few were not provided with a generous allotment for a botanic garden or public park. The work of Government Botanist, Ferdinand Mueller, in distributing and acclimatising plants, was another important stimulus to the development of these gardens. During the period 1857-58, no fewer than 39 public institutions and 206 private applicants had received supplies from Mueller's department. The number of plants supplied totalled 7,120, packets of seeds 22,438, and cuttings were sent to 57 gardeners. Few gardens with the possible exception of Geelong fulfilled all the objectives of a botanic garden. Most developed as landscaped gardens, although there was a marked contrast between these sites and various municipal parks and gardens, where an emphasis on floriculture and ornamentation tended to dominate. Botanic gardens differed from recreational reserves owing to their useful and educational role in acclimatising exotic species, and as sites of botanical research that served the Melbourne Botanic Gardens, as well as the public.

In combining scientific endeavour with a pleasing design and passive recreation, botanic gardens were seen to promote notions of 'civilisation' and moral improvement, and as such, were considered a great asset to Victoria's provincial towns in the 1850s. Hamilton and Geelong had reserved land for public gardens in 1850, and Portland had botanic gardens by 1851. An 1854 plan of White Hills (Bendigo) indicates a reserve for Botanic Gardens. Williamstown gardens were set aside 1856, Malmsbury gardens in 1857, and Ballarat and Kyneton followed in 1858, with Daylesford (Wombat Hill) in 1861. Castlemaine gardens were reserved in 1860.

History of Place:

First and Second Site Applications

The earliest reference to a botanic garden in Castlemaine was in 1854, when Frederick Hirschi, a resident of the town, wrote to the Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, Sir Charles Hotham, asking for :

A grant of Ten Acres on a part of the reserve land in Castlemaine adjoining the Hospital on Barkers Creek for the purpose of establishing a public botanical garden, which I am willing to enclose with a good fence at my own expense.

The request was not granted, but Hirschi went on to become a prominent nurseryman in the town. He later contributed to the development of Castlemaine's Botanical Gardens through his position as a Borough Councillor. Two years passed, and on 22 October Thomas Andrews, Chairman of the Castlemaine Council wrote to the colonial government asking for some land for a 'Botanical Garden and Park'. He nominated an area of 'about 60 acres, situated 20 chains [west] of Kennedy Street, opposite Bull Street and running north opposite Turner Street as marked on the accompanying plan'. The Surveyor-General noted that the land in question was 'occupied by parties largely engaged in brick making'. Correspondence on the matter ensued culminating in a letter from the Surveyor-General's Office in July 1856 stating that a pledge of land on Barker's Creek could not be given until the course of the rail line had been determined.

The matter was put on hold until March 1858 when the council requested a grant of the Camp lands for 'Public Gardens' in lieu of the original site. The land was where the government officials and soldiers had encamped while overseeing the administration of the goldfield. However it was not until May 1859 that the Council was officially informed that it could have the land, but only after it was no longer required for government purposes.

A Third and Final Site for the Gardens is Chosen

By October 1859 Council had a change of mind. It resolved to rescind the application to use the camp land for public gardens. Instead it decided that the land could yield revenue for the municipality if sold to private individuals. Another piece of land in the north-west corner of the township was fixed upon for the gardens. It was occupied by a number of people holding miners' rights. When they wrote to the Surveyor-General in February 1860 Council stated that it was willing to compensate the present occupants. A temporary reservation of the land for 'Botanic Gardens purposes' was gazetted on 21 February 1860 and comprised about 70 acres.

By June 1860 Council received a letter from Ferdinand Mueller, the Government Botanist, offering to supply seeds and plants from the Royal Botanic Gardens. In response the Town Clerk went to Melbourne to make a selection, only it is not clear what specimens were obtained. At this stage it was noted that Chinese were still mining the Botanic Reserve but Council let them stay on the undertaking that they prepare the ground for planting when necessary. That year fencing was carried out after two grants of £150 and £100 were received from the Public Works Office. Apart from fencing little further work was undertaken. Seeds from Philadelphia, U.S. arrived, and an experimental tobacco crop was planted, but by 1863 the gardens had little else to boast. The editorial of local newspaper, Our Daily News, described the gardens 'as a miserable looking wilderness with most elaborate fencing'. Few plants were surviving except for 'a few plucky poplars ... [and] an exceedingly good crop of Havanna tobacco'.

In May 1863 two English oaks were planted in the gardens to commemorate the marriage of the Prince of Wales (later King Edward) to the Princess Alexandra of Denmark on 10 March 1863. This act echoed other commemorative oak plantings in Maldon and Taradale. One Castlemaine oak was planted by Councillor Kensal, the other by Councillor Gingell. One survives in the gardens today.

The first labour force employed in the gardens was provided by the local prison. A Mr Whitlam, superintendent of prison labourers was given the charge of the grounds, and occupied a cottage on the reserve. Beginning in November 1863, the labourers were mostly employed on rehabilitating ground that had been disturbed by brick-making and mining. The following year the gardens were landscaped with a carriageway, and a large number of trees, flowers and shrubs introduced. By May 1865 it was resolved to open the gardens to the public on Sundays from 1-5pm.

The First Curator - Phillip Doran (1830-1913), Curator for 47 Years

In June 1866 the Castlemaine Borough Council advertised for a gardener. Six applications were received, with the successful candidate being Phillip Doran. Born in 1830 at Beverley, Yorkshire, Doran came to Australia in 1855 to join the gold rushes. After little success he decided to apply gardening talents. He had served part of his apprenticeship under Sir Joseph Paxton, at Chatsworth, and had assisted in the layout of the Crystal Palace grounds, London.

In January 1867 a shelter shed for plants was erected to house the large number of plants that were being received by the Council. In May, Council applied to Ferdinand Mueller for 1200 trees. Daniel Bunce, Curator of the Geelong Botanic Gardens also provided various trees and plants. Late that year Prince Alfred, Duke Of Edinburgh visited the gardens and planted a Sierra redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*). Unfortunately the tree no longer survives. The following year Council appointed a committee to manage the gardens and one of their first actions was to recommend their extension on the southern side. In the meantime Cr Hirschi visited the Geelong Gardens with Bunce the curator undertaking to supply Castlemaine with 'any such plants as he could spare'. He also visited the nurseries at the Melbourne Botanic Gardens where the Mueller 'personally selected specimens of very choice plants' and also offered 400 pines. Later that year on 27 November the extension to the gardens was officially gazetted.

In May 1869 Doran visited Bunce and Mueller to acquire more plants. Mueller gave him 300 plants in pots and promised seeds of herbaceous perennials. Bunce gave him about 1000 plants. From Ballarat nurseryman, Thomas Lang he ordered a list of bulbs, tuberous-rooted plants and dahlias, as well as 1000 eight-inch plant labels. More plants were received from Mueller in 1870, and in return Doran was to provide a truckload of white quartz stones for walk edgings. Doran was responsible for plantings throughout the township so not all these plants were destined for the Castlemaine Gardens. The issue of expenditure prevented Doran from visiting the Royal Botanic Gardens and Geelong again, although he continued to receive plants and seeds from Mueller for at least another 10 years.

In 1872 Doran recommended that more seats be provided, that a footbridge be erected over the creek, and a shelter constructed. Council specified that the bridge be rustic in style and that the shelter be an octagonal summer house. Photographs support that these items were in fact built. At this time Doran also completed some plans for the gardens. Although they were not formally adopted, it is likely that they directed Doran's work in the gardens for the next 40 years of his service with the Council.

Doran reported in March 1873 that he had received from C. Moore, Director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens. By now the gardens were being well patronised by the townspeople, with the most popular area being near the Royal Oaks planted in 1863. In April 1873 when the first Moonlight Festival was held the gardens were lit with Chinese lanterns and the Borough Band played on a pavilion especially built for the occasion.

In 1874 five species of new plants from New Guinea. That year Mueller honoured Doran and his work by naming a plant after him. This appears to be the highest accolade given by Mueller to a provincial curator.

Plans and drawings for entrance gates and palisading for the south-east corner were drawn up in February 1877. Estimated to cost £200, the gates were tendered to the Thompson Brothers Foundry, a local engineering firm who established their works on the same site as their flour mill opposite the gardens on the corner of Kennedy and Parker Streets. The pillars were constructed of bluestone and completed by local monumental mason George Redfean, who had also completed his apprenticeship at Chatsworth, England. The gates were completed by 8 February 1878, and were officially opened on 29 March 1878.

Along with the gates other improvements were mooted in 1877, with Doran lodging a report offering plans, and suggestions which included a lake with island, a weir constructed back from the bridge, and a public swimming baths incorporated into a corner of the grounds. Council also decided to erect a fountain near the new entrance gates. Labourers from the local prison were employed on the works which also included constructing a new creek channel, and laying 594 feet of earthenware pipes to conduct the water to the lake. On 28 August 1879, the lake was named 'Lake Joanna' after the wife of the Mayor, William Adams.

In the tradition of other public gardens, a small 'zoological' collection was established, starting with the donation of a kangaroo. Other animals followed, notably some young black swans, two emus, a mountain duck, a pelican and a female kangaroo. After attacks by dogs the idea of maintaining a zoo waned.

Mueller continued to supply specimens to the gardens, and in January 1880 sent a packet of seeds of shrubs and trees from Western Australia, as well as some species of bamboo. The following year he sent 41 species of Japanese seeds of trees and flowering plants. Even after Guillfoyle succeeded Mueller plants continued to arrive, notably seeds of *Pinus australis* (Yellow Pine/Long-leafed Pine, now *Pinus palustris*) which were specially obtained from one of the British Consuls in the United States. No examples survive today. In 1882 Doran received 82 tree ferns which were planted by October in the western part of the gardens. Their location caused much controversy amongst councillors and soon they were transplanted to the east side of the creek. These also no longer survive.

More beautification works began in February 1884 with the construction of a second lake with island, on the west side of the creek. It was completed by May that year and named 'Augusta' after the wife of Mayor, Joseph James. A four-rink bowling green was constructed not far from the Royal Oaks in 1886 and despite another green operating from 1892, it remained open until 1898. Two cannons donated by the Minister of Defence arrived in early 1889 and were placed near the curator's residence. In the 1960s they were sold by the council for scrap metal, and a local enthusiast now owns them.

With improvements estimated at £3000 Council applied to the Government to change the status of the gardens from being 'permanently reserved' (1869) to being held under a 'crown grant'. Status was duly amended on 6 January 1894, with the grant covering an area of 79 acres and 11 perches.

Further improvements were undertaken in 1898 which included 3 seats around trees, 3 seats near the shrubbery, 12 near the fernery, 3 swings, a shed (designed by Angus Cornish), landscaping mounds, removal of the weir, (another) rustic bridge to be built over the creek, and a water pipe to be laid to the fernery from Kennedy Street. On 25 November that same year a rotunda (also designed by Cornish) was built just north of Lake Joanna. Other new works mentioned in the Mount Alexander Mail of 29 October 1898 include a conservatory, nursery, fernery, shelter shed (as well as the rotunda) and grotto. It is believed that a row of poplars were planted at this time just east of Barkers Creek. These late nineteenth century works culminated in providing the gardens with their peak of development. In 1900 Doran turned 70 and remained at the gardens until he died on 29 September 1913 after serving the gardens for 47 years, although no further major works were undertaken. The only major event to effect the gardens during this period was a fierce storm which uprooted 12 trees and caused substantial overall damage.

Upham & Williams

James H. Upham replaced Doran in early 1914. He was replaced by W. J. Williams early in 1918 whose main contribution was upgrading the front of the gardens. These works may have involved altering the ground level around the fountain, removing the hedging and pillars, and creating additional flower beds. A rustic arbour, 'a rustic bower which formed an arch over the path' was also erected during this period, and which is still in place. The garden tearooms were officially opened by the mayor on 21 December 1919. It was built at the instigation of the Four C's, a local charitable organisation also known as the Castlemaine Citizen's Charity Club. Located to the

north of Lake Joanna, it served as a tearoom in the holiday season and a storeroom at other times. The building is now home to the Castlemaine Highland Pipe Band. A glasshouse (different to the earlier conservatory) was built in 1920 near the curator's residence.

Gaulton, Curator For 33 Years, and Changes to the Gardens

Gaulton, a local person, became curator in 1923 and lived in the curator's residence for the term of his service. In 1929 the Town Clerk requested that a portion of the gardens be reserved for the purposes of a caravan park, or 'motor camping place'. The Department of Crown Lands and Survey declined the request stating that the land had been set aside under a Crown Grant for 'Botanic gardens and no other purpose'. Ignoring the advice of the Department a camping ground was illegally created in 1946, about the same time that a swimming pool was also installed in the gardens. The matter was not resolved until 31 March 1954 when the gardens were re-gazetted as being reserved for 'Public Recreation, Tourist Camping and Public Park Purposes' with the local council appointed the committee of management.

Other changes had also occurred in the meantime; in the 1930s Lake Augusta (known derogatively as Lake Disgusta) was drained. The works which involved removing the island and levelling and replanting the ground, began in 1938 to a plan by Hugh Linaker, curator with the Public Works Department. It became a sports oval. More changes took place under Gaulton; the summerhouse, the bridges, the ferns and the grotto had disappeared by mid-century. The rotunda was moved to south of Lake Joanna and the nursery was relocated to the grounds of the curator's cottage. kiosk, which now serves as a garden building, was constructed in 1948 in the southern part of the gardens by the Four C's club.. The existing toilets were probably built during this time. Overall, the northern part of the gardens became neglected during this time.

1956-1991

Gaulton retired in 1956 and was replaced by Stan Wickham previously from the gardens of Government House, Melbourne. The size of the gardens has been reduced during this period; The Alexander Hospital asked for a grant of 2 acres 2 roods and 30 perches of the gardens land in 1955. Another request made by the hospital in the mid-1960s resulted in a further 6 acres 3 roods and 30 perches being excised and gazetted in 1968. The glasshouse was demolished, and replaced by a new conservatory built in 1960 beside the curator's residence. It became known for its displays of begonias which came from Ballarat Botanic Garden's stock. It is not known when the rose garden on the eastern edge was created, but some of the hybrids were only released in the 1960s.

The large tin shelter shed built in 1898 was demolished in the 1960s and was replaced with the existing barbecue facility. In 1965 the Castlemaine Angling Club was allowed to build a fish hatchery near the creek. It is now no longer used and is badly vandalised. On his retirement in 1976 or 1977 Wickham was replaced by Robert Bentley and the position of curator was downgraded to foreman, with the residence given over to the manager of the caravan park. The 1889 rotunda was demolished after it fell into disrepair. Electric barbecues were introduced in 1976. Roads within the gardens were realigned in 1979 when it is likely that the carpark was introduced. Ivor Ship succeeded Bentley, and he in turn was followed by Martin O'Connor in 1981. The fountain was made operational again in 1983 with funding from the Rotary Club. During the next couple of years tree surgery works were undertaken and all extant plantings were identified and listed. Larry Davis held the job of garden foreman from 1986 to 1988. During this time the rare Eltham Butterfly was discovered in the gardens. John Hutton commenced duties in 1990. That year Lake Joanna was re-excavated, and new barbecues were built just south of the tearooms.

COMPARISON:

Castlemaine Botanic Gardens, can be compared to Victoria's prototype botanical garden, the Royal Botanical Gardens, Melbourne, as well as with the state's provincial gardens at Hamilton, Geelong, Portland, White Hills (Bendigo), Ballarat, Malmsbury, Kyneton, Williamstown, Koroit and Port Fairy.

Different botanic gardens focus on different aspects; some on taxonomy, others on geography or ecology, and still others on botanical education or teaching. Whatever the emphasis, their aim is the advancement of botany as distinguished from horticulture. A botanic garden can combine botanical, horticultural, educational, recreational and aesthetic attributes and opportunities in a well-planned and designed setting. Botanic gardens in Victoria such as the Royal Botanic Gardens and the provincial gardens are clearly of the category that combines scientific pursuits with aesthetic and recreational objectives. At Castlemaine the plantings which date from the major planting period of 1860-1913 and the more recent plantings of the 1980s continues the scientific tradition by acting as indicators of hardiness or garden merit within the local region.

Typical characteristics and elements of significance of provincial botanic gardens found at Castlemaine include a formal entry and entrance gates, carriage drive, informal park layout, fountain, lake, areas of intensive horticultural interest, contrast between open lawns planted with specimen trees, and areas of more intensive horticulture. Castlemaine's collection of plants are characteristic of late nineteenth century gardens and representative of more specialised plant groups befitting the scientific role of a botanic garden, and evidence of seed and plant exchanges between other botanic gardens in Victoria and interstate.

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1679 in the category described as a Heritage place:

Castlemaine Botanical Gardens, Walker Street and Downes Road, Castlemaine, Mt Alexander Shire Council.

EXTENT

1. All of the land known as Crown Reserve Rs 177 permanently reserved for Botanical Gardens Reserve, Crown Allotment 22A (P128489), and part of the Public Recreation and Camping Reserve, Crown Allotment 22B (P133282) of Section 112 in the Township of Castlemaine, marked L-1 on Diagram Number 600880 held by the Executive Director.

2. All of the buildings and structures marked as follows on Diagram Number 600880 held by the Executive Director:

- B-1 Entrance Gate
- B-2 Cast Iron Fountain and Granite Bowl
- B-3 Timber Pergola
- B-4 Kiosk
- B-5 Weir
- B-6 Timber Bridge and Stone Abutments
- B-7 Curator's Residence
- B-8 Glasshouse
- B-9 Quartz Stone Drinking Fountain (X3)
- B-10 Tea Rooms (Castlemaine Highland Pipe Band)
- B-11 Summerhouse (Asphalt Floor)
- B-12 Bridge Pole
- B-13 Bridge Stone Abutments
- B-14 Rotunda (1995 reconstruction)

3. All of the paths and roadways marked P-1, P-2, P-3 and P-4 on Diagram Number 600880 held by the Executive Director.

4. The Trees and Shrubs marked as follows on Diagram Number 600880 held by the Executive Director:

- T-1 *Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii' (Weeping Elm) X4
- T-2 *Catalpa bignonioides* (Indian Bean Tree)
- T-3 *Platanus orientalis* (Oriental Plane) X2
- T-4 *Tilia platyphyllos* (Large-leaved Lime)
- T-5 *Pinus sabiniana* (Digger Pine)
- T-6 *Eucalyptus longifolia* (Woollybutt)
- T-7 *Pinus torreyana* (Soledad Pine)
- T-8 *Ulmus minor* 'Sarniensis' (Jersey Elm)
- T-9 *Quercus robur* (English Oak)
- T-10 *Pinus ponderosa* (Western Yellow Pine)
- T-11 *Myrica faya* (Candleberry Myrtle)
- T-12 *Pinus pinea* (Stone Pine) X7
- T-13 *Rhus undulate*

T-14 *Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii' (Weeping Elm) X3
T-15 *Quercus canariensis* x *Q. robur*
T-16 *Quercus macrocarpa* var. *olivaeformis*
T-17 *Acacia farnesiana* (Sweet Acacia)
T-18 *Pittosporum sahnianum*
T-19 *Schinus polygamus* X2

Dated 7 May 1998
RAY TONKIN
Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G20 21 May 1998 pp.1132-1133]

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>