



SALE BOTANIC GARDEN MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020 - 2025



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Heart of Gippsland

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Wellington Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Land upon which the Sale Botanic Gardens sit, the Gunaikurnai, and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

INTRODUCTION

“The community in 2025 will view the Sale Botanic Gardens as integral to the liveability of Sale and greater Gippsland. The Gardens will be a resilient landscape that showcases excellence in horticulture in the 21st Century while recognising and celebrating our rich cultural and social heritage” - vision of the Sale Botanic Gardens.

Sale Botanic Gardens is Gippsland’s preeminent public garden and is situated on the eastern edge of Lake Guthridge. The Lake Guthridge Parklands, which incorporates the Sale Botanic Gardens, provides a range of community health and well-being, tourism, and entertainment opportunities. The precinct also has a strong cultural connection, through the Gunaikurnai whose land the garden now sits upon.

The Sale Botanic Gardens provide residents and visitors opportunity for quiet informal relaxation, pleasant walks along the formal paths through new and established garden beds, to active recreation within the adventure playspace precinct and newly opened Garden for Life.

The active Friends group, along with a dedicated senior Horticulturalist and Council’s Parks Services team, facilitate a variety of regular and well attended seasonal events and activities. The onsite team is well supported by Council’s Natural Environment and Parks Team in delivering high quality management and development of the Gardens for the enjoyment of the community.



Figure 1. Former bunker from when the Gardens were used for the Sale Golf Club 1920-1955

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sale Botanic Gardens has a long and chequered history having dealt with several opposing land uses over its 160 years. As a botanic garden managed by Wellington Shire Council, the Garden has seen a reawakening over the past 20 years to develop into a well recognised, and highly valued community asset.

The vision for the Sale Botanic Gardens is to be recognised as a leader in horticulture in the 21st century while celebrating our rich cultural and social heritage. To achieve this, Sale Botanic Gardens will create a resilient landscape that can mitigate the impacts of a changing climate. The community will be engaged and inspired through educational programs that connect our past with our future.

The focus for the staff and volunteers of the Sale Botanic Gardens will be:

THEME 1 –Manage and maintain the resilient landscapes

Outcomes:

- 1.1 – Effective management of the living collections at a high horticultural standard
- 1.2 – Successful management of the trees from a conservation, succession, heritage and public safety perspective
- 1.3 – Management and maintenance of the landscape amenity of the Gardens
- 1.4 – Gardens that are sustainably managed

THEME 2 – Create a Garden that inspires the community

Outcomes:

- 2.1 – Promotion of the Sale Botanic Gardens as a living classroom
- 2.2 – Provision of accurate and relevant information about the flora in the Botanic Gardens
- 2.3 - Living Collections developed that highlight the principles of sustainability and resilience
- 2.4 - New developments encourage greater community exploration of the Gardens

THEME 3 – Recognise and celebrate our cultural and social heritage

- 3.1 - Celebrate the past, inspire the future
- 3.2 - Embrace the long standing Gunaikurnai cultural connection to the site
- 3.3 - Celebrate and recognise past botanists and their contribution to the industry
- 3.4 - Living Collections to be developed and maintained that highlight the significant flora from within Wellington Shire and broader Gippsland

THEME 4 - Engaging the community in the Gardens

Outcomes:

- 4.1 - Develop an active online presence for the Sale Botanic Gardens
- 4.2 - Support the Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens to engage with the community
- 4.3 - Promote Sale Botanic Gardens as a destination for events and activities that are enjoyed by a wide range of people
- 4.4 - Collaborate with training providers to delivery industry led outcomes and opportunities for employment

THEME 5 – The Gardens are a healthy, happy workplace

Outcomes:

- 5.1 - Workplace safety in the Gardens is of paramount importance
- 5.2 - Assets are well maintained
- 5.3 - Gardens are sustainably managed
- 5.4 - The Sale Botanic Gardens are a place of learning for the general public, students, volunteers and staff

PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This is the second iteration of the Sale Botanic Gardens Management Plan. The first plan was developed to provide a reference document for those who had a vested interest in the management of the Botanic Gardens.

Following extensive consultation with key stakeholders the Sale Botanic Garden Management Plan 2020-2025 will focus on strong leadership in horticulture and sustainability, as well as improving community education and engagement in the Gardens.

The Sale Botanic Gardens Management Plan 2020-2025 will be a guiding document for the Gardens and will be reviewed and updated annually.

HOW THIS PLAN RELATES TO OTHER DOCUMENTS

WELLINGTON 2030

In 2016, Council undertook a review of the communities' vision for Wellington Shire. Wellington 2030 which provides Council direction in five key areas – Communities, Services & Infrastructure, Natural Environment, Lifelong Learning and Economy.

Over 3,000 responses were received as part of the community consultation around the review of Wellington 2030. These responses influence the Gardens as follows:-

- *COMMUNITY* - provide infrastructure that enables and encourages healthy and active lifestyles
- *SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE* – varied leisure and entertainment options and a range of cultural pursuits that make Wellington attractive for people of all ages visit, work and or live.
- *NATURAL ENVIRONMENT* – maintain and enhance access to the natural environment for a wide range of outdoor pursuits at our beaches, high country, open spaces and waterways. This access to the natural environment is balanced with the need to conserve and protect.
- *NATURAL ENVIRONMENT* – keep Wellington clean so residents and visitors can enjoy our scenic environment.
- *NATURAL ENVIRONMENT* – manage natural environment assets recognising their impact on health and well-being.
- *LIFELONG LEARNING* – provide formal and informal lifelong learning opportunities for personal development and well-being.
- *ECONOMY* – develop the visitor economy through innovative marketing programs and product development to attract people to the region to live, work and play.

COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2021

Council recognises the significant impact open spaces play on the health, well-being and economy of the community. The Council Plan 2017-2021 identifies key strategies that lead the management of the Sale Botanic Gardens.

Key strategic objectives from the Council Plan 2017-2021 include:

- 1.1 – Maintain friendly, safe communities provide opportunities for residents to lead healthy and active lifestyles
- 2.1 – Councils services and infrastructure are responsive to identified current and future community needs within budgeted parameters.
- 2.2 – Council assets are responsibly, socially, economically and sustainably managed.
- 3.1 – Conserve and protect our natural environment through responsible and sustainable management practices
- 3.3 – Build resilience in our communities and landscapes to mitigate risks from a changing climate
- 4.1 – Improve people’s access to opportunities to challenge and extend their thinking, promote independence, stimulate ideas, further develop leadership skills and lead meaningful lives.
- 5.3 – Grow Wellington Shire’s visitor economy.

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE PLAN 2014-2024

Wellington Shire’s Public Open Space Plan 2014-2024 recognises that the Sale Botanic Gardens are a regionally significant and important public garden. It recognises the important role the community play in activating and valuing the Gardens, and accordingly places a high importance on engaging with the community to fully realise the health and well-being benefits that the Gardens can provide.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Sale Botanic Gardens Management Plan 2020-2025 has been prepared by Wellington Shire Council with significant consultation from key stakeholders. A draft plan was prepared following a review of the previous Management Plan, including feedback from the members of the Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens via a workshop and feedback period.

The draft plan was reviewed between February 2020 and May 2020. The draft plan received considerable support and minor amendments were made in direct response to comments received during this period.

HISTORY OF THE SITE

The Sale Botanic Gardens now occupies a 5 hectare area on the eastern periphery of Lake Guthridge. Prior to European settlement, the precinct in which the Sale Botanic Gardens are, was well visited by the Gunaikurnai, the Traditional Owners of the land. For thousands of years the Gunaikurnai moved throughout what is now known as Gippsland. Canoes, used to assist travel through the waterways, lakes and oceans were made from River Redgum bark. This is evident today on the fringe of Lake Guthridge.

- 1860 – 34 acres were reserved for the Gardens on the eastern banks of what was then known as Eastern Swamp
- 1860 – seeds were obtained from Ferdinand von Mueller, Director Melbourne Botanic Gardens
- 1867 – the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria offered the Sale Gardens a small number of Sambar deer
- 1870 – Council appointed the Gardens first curator, George Braithwaite
- 1872 – to celebrate Queen Victoria’s birthday, the community came together to plant a large number of trees and shrubs
- 1875 – *Eucalyptus globulus* (Blue Gums) were planted en masse as it was suggested that the species were able to absorb the ‘swamp vapours’ believed to be linked to outbreaks of fever in the Sale population – there are potentially a couple remaining in the area of the Children’s Playspace.
- 1881 – William Guilfoyle, Director of Melbourne Botanic Gardens, visited the site and expressed high praise for the site, the soil and the vistas over the newly created Lake Guthridge
- 1881 – 400 trees and shrubs planted by Councillors John English and Robert Topping in accordance with Guilfoyle’s suggestions.
- 1890’s – Depression forced the halving of government grants which resulted in the neglect of the Gardens

- 1909 – The rise of Victoria Park, named in honour of the late monarch, saw the focus of Council shift away from the Botanic Gardens
- 1922 – Sale Botanic Gardens was converted to a Golf Course and was home of the Sale Golf Club
- 1950 – Sale Golf Club vacated the Gardens and sheep grazing leases were granted
- 1959 – Rockley Tennis Club granted use to construct tennis courts in the Gardens
- 1965 – Sale Bowls Club relocates clubhouse to the new home on the corner of Foster Street and Guthridge Parade
- 1967 – Council flirted with the idea of re-developing the site into a Botanic Gardens
- 1968 – Council decide to construct the Lex Glover Swimming Complex rather than re-develop the Botanic Gardens
- 1972 – Fauna enclosure was relocated from Victoria Park to the Sale Botanic Gardens
- 1986 – Construction of the adventure playground
- 2000 – Friends of the Sale Botanic Gardens, with assistance of the Federal Government ‘Work for the Dole’ program constructed the Catherine Drew Sensory Garden. This was the kickstart of the re-awakening the Gardens
- 2002 – Council undertook the Sale Botanic Gardens Conservation Analysis and Conservation Policy
- 2003 – Council engaged John Patrick and Associates to deliver the Masterplan – the guiding document still informing development of the Gardens nearly 20 years on.
- 2009 – Designed by Andrew Laidlaw, RBG Victoria Landscape Architect, Council constructed the Summer Walk along the eastern bank of Lake Guthridge
- 2010 – 150th Anniversary Celebrations of the Sale Botanic Gardens saw a range of community events to mark the occasion
- 2015 – Council complete the initial Sale Botanic Gardens Management Plan to aide in the management and maintenance of this highly valued community asset.
- 2016 – Council undertook a review of the Masterplan with key outcomes including the Garden for Life to replace the fauna enclosure
- 2018 – Fauna enclosure is closed. The single macropod remaining is rehomed to an appropriate facility.
- 2019 – Council completes the Andrew Laidlaw designed Garden for Life.

DESCRIPTION OF THE GARDENS

The Sale Botanic Gardens has several distinct features across the 5 Ha site that influence the visitor experience.



Figure 2. Council in 2016 reviewed the original Masterplan to determine the future direction of the Gardens. Consultation included a community listening post at the inaugural Botanic Gardens Day.

Elm Forest

A unique and special feature of the Gardens is the magical Elm Forest. The Elm Forest, which can be dated back to the original planting of *Ulmus procera* (English Elm) in 1881 has come about from years of being part of a fauna enclosure. Grazing by the kangaroos, and not being maintained by staff, resulted in elm suckers developing into trees and the area becoming a 'forest'.

The Elm Forest is bordered by the recently developed Garden for Life, the soon to be redeveloped Care for the Rare Collection, and Montgomery Street. The gravel paths allow for visitors to meander through the Elm Forest, which provides year round seasonal interest.



Figure 3. The Elm Forest - a unique feature in the Gardens caused by suckering from the original *Ulmus* planted the late 1800's.

Garden for Life

The Garden for Life is the most recent development within the Gardens. Designed by Andrew Laidlaw, the Garden for Life showcases the vital role plants have in supporting human life. The 13 garden beds that make up the Garden for Life, are based around the themes – food and produce, medicinal/herbal, cosmetic and construction.

Since the opening of Stage 1 of the Garden for Life in December 2019, the area has become a focal point for families of all ages. The area is bounded by Guthridge Parade and Montgomery Street, which provides passive surveillance from passing pedestrians and motorists. The manicured lawn within the Garden for Life, will one day be shaded by a copse of newly planted *Ginkgo biloba*.



Figure 4. The Garden for Life – designed by Andrew Laidlaw (2019) and the newest and popular feature in the Gardens

Maple Grove

Once part of the Rockley Tennis Club, the stand of *Acer x freemanii* (Autumn Blaze Maple) is a well-established highlight for visitors throughout autumn. The space around the Maple Grove is very active, with many visitors to the Gardens using the adjacent Picnic Pavilion, existing tennis courts and children's playspace. The current demand on existing picnic facilities, and to cater for further visitation growth, Council in consultation with key stakeholders, intend to construct a further picnic pavilion in this area.

Bordered by the busy activity precinct around the Children's Playspace, the newly constructed Garden for Life, and public tennis courts, the Maple Grove provides great vistas across the Gardens and over Lake Guthridge. Since the opening of the Garden for Life, the area has grown in popularity and provides a connection between the Children's Playspace, Picnic Pavilion and Garden for Life.



Figure 5. The Maple Grove – *Acer x freemanii* (Autumn Blaze October Glory) are a spectacular feature during Autumn.

Sensory Garden

Constructed in 2000 as part of the 'Work for the Dole' scheme, the Sensory Garden is a focal point for the Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens and was the beginning of the re-awakening of the Gardens. Designed by Catherine Drew, the five garden beds are focused on horticultural therapy and have been utilised for many years by students from Sale and District Specialist School, as well as a number of local aged care facilities.

The character of the space is five separate and distinct garden beds that are designed to stimulate the five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste and touch). The gravel paths and raised garden beds allow for accessible interaction from a wide variety of ages. With assistance from The Friends of the Sale Botanic Gardens, the Sensory Garden is well maintained and provides a prominent and attractive feature in the Sale Botanic Gardens.



Figure 6. The Sensory Garden – Council's Senior Horticulturalist tending to the Lavender in the prominent Sensory Garden.

Summer Walk

Meandering along the edge of Lake Guthridge, the Summer Walk is a popular path for physical recreation activities such as walking and running. The 13 separate garden beds were designed by Andrew Laidlaw and constructed in 2009. It is a contemporary replica of the original Bachelors Walk that was once a popular location in the late 1800's.

The almost 500 metres of gravel path is bordered with expanses of lawn and vistas across Lake Guthridge. The 13 garden beds have been designed to showcase a range of exotic and indigenous plants that are well suited to a reduced watering regime and can be easily replicated in the home gardens.



Figure 7. The Summer Walk – a popular feature of the Sale Botanic Gardens display a wide range of plants that can be suited to the home gardener.

Significant Trees

Trees throughout the Sale Botanic Gardens can tell the history of the precinct.

Beginning with *Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. Mediana* (Gippsland River Red Gum) which, unique to the area, were here well before European settlement of the area through to the *Wollemia nobilis* (Wollemi Pine) which was planted by David de Krester, AC and Governor of Victoria at the



Figure 8. The African Olive (*Olea europaea subsp. Africana*) is a distinctive feature in the Sale Botanic Gardens.

time, time has provided many significant species of trees.

There are a number of existing trees that are believed to be part of the early plantings in the Sale Botanic Gardens. These include:

- *Olea europaea subsp Africana* (African Olive) – suspected to be part of the 1870's planting
- *Agathis sp.* (Kauri Pine) – believed to be remnant of the 1881 plantings
- *Pinus pinea* (Stone Pine) – believed to be planted in the 1930's

Work is being undertaken to identify and appropriately display information on the significant trees of the Sale Botanic Gardens to further explain the history of the site to visitors

Public Art

The Gardens are home to a growing number of public art pieces by renowned artists. Welcoming visitors to the main entrance, the Annemieke Mein Gumnut sculpture. The twisted brick pillars, a replica of the Curators Cottage enhance the entrance and unique fence along Guthridge Parade.

The Kurrajong Pod, designed by Viktor Cebergs in 2003, is striking as it rises out of the sea of *Poa*. This is located almost in the centre of the Gardens and is situated overlooking the amphitheatre of the Lakeside Entertainment and Arts Facility (LEAF).

Local sculpture, John Brady, was engaged to create a feature of a dead oak tree within the Elm Forest. Renowned for his chainsaw carvings, John was able to create the Swagman in 2005, which is a popular feature in the Gardens.

As part of the LEAF, and following on with the leaf motifs, the Reflective Walk is a mirrored artwork created by Ziggy and Lucy Pawlikoski in 2013 attract children to the space.

A new addition to the collection of art in the Gardens includes the Paul Gennings designed Pod Sculpture and the tile mosaic designed by Kathy Luxford. This project, commissioned by the Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens, compliments the Sensory Garden and is a striking feature visible from the main entrance.



Figure 9. The Jolly Swagman – *carved out of an old Oak Tree by John Brady in 2005, it is a popular feature for families.*

Picnic Pavilion

The Picnic Pavilion is ideally located adjacent to the Children's Playspace and houses one of the two sets of barbeques within the Gardens. Recently refurbished, it is heavily frequented by families visiting the Sale Botanic Gardens. Being the only pavilion in the Gardens, and to accommodate the demand placed on this facility from the ever-growing visitation to the Gardens an additional pavilion is planned to be constructed in mid-2021.

Bordered by paths and overlooking the popular Children's Playspace the pavilion blends in with the surrounds. The *Photina robusta* hedge provides an interesting screen, while the lawn areas are popular for picnickers.



Figure 10. The Pavilion is a destination for families to enjoy the Botanic Gardens.

Paths and Access

There are numerous access points to the Gardens and the meandering path network throughout the Gardens can take visitors to the various precincts within the Gardens. All day car-parking is available along Guthridge Parade and Brayakaloong Close. Within the Gardens precinct there are 2 permanent disabled parking bays, with a further four available in Brayakaloong Close to cater for major events.

The path network extends to the Lake Guthridge/Lake Guyatt Parklands and through active transport wayfinding signs, connections along shared paths are made to the central business district of Sale, and Central Gippsland Health (Sale Hospital).



Figure 11. The network of paths are well laid out and constructed allowing freedom of movement through the Sale Botanic Gardens.

Lakeside Entertainment and Arts Facility (LEAF)

Part funded by local philanthropist, John Leslie OBE, the Lakeside Entertainment and Arts Facility (LEAF) sits within a natural amphitheatre of the Gardens. Designed as an outdoor performing arts space, using a leaf motif that blends harmoniously into the surrounding environment, the LEAF has become a popular feature in the Gardens for a range of cultural and social community events.

Broad areas of lawn are peppered with trees that provide shade for the many spectators of the events held at the LEAF. Framing the amphitheatre is the Native Walk and the soon to be re-developed Care for the Rare garden beds.



Figure 12. The Lakeside Entertainment and Arts Facility (LEAF) – a picturesque venue for a range of cultural and social events throughout the year.

Children's Playspace

At the main entrance to the Gardens sits the very popular Children's Playspace. Constructed in 1988 as part of Australia's Bicentennial Program, additions to the space have seen a more inclusive and accessible space for the many families that use the area. Sitting adjacent to the Picnic Pavilion, it allows young people to explore physical boundaries and provides opportunity for social interaction and cognitive development.

The character of the area, expanses of lawn interspersed with shade trees encourages families to picnic. The boundaries of the area are bordered by paths and the Catalogue Living Collection. Popular within the space is the Flying Fox and the recently installed Birds Nest Swing. Recent additions to the playspace include the Viking Swing which can cater for a large number of children at one time.



Figure 13. Nestled amongst the towering Manna Gum and situated near the main entrance, the Children's Playspace is a popular destination for families visiting the Sale Botanic Gardens

OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

The Sale Botanic is part of Crown Land Reserve (Rs1321) of the Government of Victoria. It is managed under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978, administered by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). Day to day management is the responsibility of Wellington Shire Council.

The site was originally gazetted Botanic Garden, but was revoked to allow alternative recreation and agricultural uses. After recent investigations, and consultation with the Friends of the Sale Botanic Gardens, the desire to re-establish the gazettal has recently been put on hold.

In recent years Council have been successful in seeking funding for projects in the Gardens from State Government authorities, as well as local philanthropist, the late John Leslie OAM. Ongoing maintenance funding is modest with any increases in operational budgets reviewed on an annual basis.



Figure 14. Sale Botanic Gardens – 5 hectares situated on eastern bank of Lake Guthridge

LIVING COLLECTIONS

The single, most vital asset of any Botanic Garden is the plant material of the living collections. Managing plant collections is a key feature that distinguishes a Botanic Garden from other high-quality public parks or gardens and highlights their role as a valuable horticultural and cultural resource.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne defines a collection as a ‘managed group of plants demonstrating a particular theme(s). It serves one or more of the general goals of research, conservation, education or ornamental display’.

The Sale Botanic Gardens prides itself on the current collection of living specimens that visitors can experience and enjoy. Despite the chequered land use history of a range of recreational and agricultural pursuits, the current Gardens links directly with our rich cultural and social heritage and historically to the area and the beginnings of the Botanic Gardens.

Alongside the eight Living Collections within the Gardens, there are several other significant collections that, while not being recognised as a collection, deserve recognition for the local importance.

Ulmus Collection

Defining the Collection

Elms have been a part of the Sale Botanic Gardens since its inception, or shortly thereafter. The site has deep soils and has a secure water supply. Common pests and diseases that impact the genus tend to not be prevalent in the Gardens and proactive measures are in place to monitor and maintain the significant trees. Of the 20 known species of the *Ulmus* genus, eight are within the collection at the Gardens.

Objectives of the Collection

The *Ulmus* Collection retains the historical link to the original plantings of the Gardens. As a demonstration of a single genus the Collection should be increased using regionally significant species found as part of original street tree planting within the urban areas of Wellington Shire. This includes *Ulmus X hollandica* 'Purpurascens' which forms an avenue in Lyons Street, Rosedale.

Interpreting the Collection

The *Ulmus* Collection is difficult to interpret as it is spread across the Gardens. Effort has been made to provide interpretation of the Elm Forest, but other species in more prominent locations are not identified. A broader project of identifying and interpreting significant trees within the Gardens will encapsulate some further individual trees of the *Ulmus* Collection.



Figure 15. The Elm Forest – a favourite feature in the Sale Botanic Gardens.

Priorities of the Collection

Further work needs to be undertaken to locate and identify what species are in the collection. This will assist with management and proactive maintenance of the species, as well as providing the community information of the species present.

Planting of trees within the Gardens should include the addition of rare and threatened, or locally significant *Ulmus* species in line with the objectives of the Collection. This includes *Ulmus X hollandica* ‘*Purpurascens*’ and the cultivated *Ulmus parvifolia* ‘*Yarralumla*’.

For the long-term development and management of the *Ulmus* Collection, there needs to be a documented maintenance plan developed and implemented. This will incorporate the continued proactive approach to the management of pests and diseases.

Actions for the Collection

- 1.1 The Collection will be managed to a high arboricultural standard and developed to display a representation of the Ulmaceae family.
- 1.2 Define what species are currently in the Collection and determine their location within the Gardens
- 1.3 Undertake regular audits of the Collection
- 1.4 Develop the Collection to incorporate the range of species of *Ulmus* available in Australia
- 1.5 Develop and implement a Maintenance Plan
- 1.6 Develop and implement an Interpretation and Education Plan
- 1.7 Register the Collection within Council’s Significant Tree Register

Summer Walk Collection

Defining the Collection

The Summer Walk, designed by Andrew Laidlaw (Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria - Landscape Architect) in 2009, is a contemporary version of the original Bachelors Walk which was present in 1872. The 13 separate and distinct garden beds within the Living Collection display a wide range of exotic and indigenous species that are well suited to a reduced water regime and can be replicated in the home garden.

Objectives of the Collection

The Summer Walk has been designed to demonstrate a range of exotic and indigenous species that are well suited to a changing climate and can be easily introduced to a home garden. The species chosen within the palate of plants provides all round interest and have great amenity value.

Interpreting the Collection

Spread across 13 separate and distinct garden beds, the Summer Walk already has interpretive signage along the path that provides basic information on the reasoning behind the collection. At the time of the development of the Summer Walk, the Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens in partnership with Council undertook some plant identification works within the Summer Walk, although theft and vandalism see little evidence remaining.



Figure 16. The Summer Walk – provides year round interest to the visitors to the Gardens

Priorities for the Collection

Key to the Summer Walk is the ongoing selection of plants that are contained within the original design. Since 2009 and the establishment of the Summer Walk, species have been replaced within the collection. The integrity and purpose of the collection needs to be reviewed and species need to be selected on this basis.

Interpretation and education of the collection will add value to the visitor's experience within the Gardens. While labelling of plants would be of interest, Council is aware that alternative methods should be investigated to improve the interpretation.

Prior work within the collection has developed an established maintenance program. The Summer Walk Collection would benefit from a review of the Maintenance Plan to determine that the current best horticultural practices are being delivered.

Actions for the Collection

- 2.1 The Collection will be managed to a high horticultural standard and developed to display a representation of the design intent.
- 2.2 Define what species are within the Collection and ensure that they are suitable for the purpose of the Summer Walk and do not conflict with the design intent (function and amenity)
- 2.3 Undertake regular audits of the Collection
- 2.4 Review and update as required the existing Summer Walk Maintenance Plan to ensure that it is maintained to a high horticultural standard
- 2.5 Develop and implement an interpretation and education plan for the Collection.

Catalogue Garden Collection

Defining the Collection

The Sale Botanic Gardens was established in a period when it represented status to have highly ornamental public gardens. The Catalogue Garden Collection draws on that era, with plants selected from the publication *Plants Listed in Nursery Catalogues in Victoria 1855-1889*.

The loss of old and less fashionable species reduces the range of plants available for people to use. Predications globally suggest up to two thirds of the worlds plants species will be lost by the end of the 21st century – highlighting the importance of the Catalogue Garden Collection in maintaining these species.

Objectives of the Collection

The objective of the Catalogue Garden Collection is to demonstrate to visitors to the Botanic Gardens a range of plant species that were on offer for households to plant or were in the nursery trade in the late 19th century. These plants were popular during this period requiring little irrigation and have survived many of Australia's harshest climatic conditions and are still proving to be very resilient.

Interpretation of the Collection

Work to provide information on the Catalogue Garden Collection has already commenced with an interpretive sign near the Children's Playspace. Further works need to be undertaken to ensure that the Collection has stayed true to the design intent and that visitors to the Gardens have the ability to be better educated to the values of the plants.



Figure 17. The Catalogue Garden – a focal piece at the entry to the Gardens.

Priorities of the Collection

The Catalogue Garden Collection is situated at the main entrance to the Gardens and beside the very popular Children's Playspace. As such the Collection should focus on continued development through the addition and maintenance of appropriate plant species that remain true to the design intent.

To ensure that the continuity of a high quality landscape, the Catalogue Garden Collection would benefit from the development of the Living Collections Record Management System. Through determining which species are planted, a Maintenance Plan can then be developed to guide the management of the collection into the future.

Actions for the Collection

- 3.1 The Collection will be managed to a high horticultural standard and developed to display a representation of the design intent.
- 3.2 Define which species are planted within the Collection to ensure that they are suitable for the purpose of the Catalogue Garden Collection and do not conflict with the design intent
- 3.3 Undertake regular audits of the Collection
- 3.4 Develop and implement a Maintenance Plan
- 3.5 Review and implement the current interpretation and education plan to improve the visitor experience

Sensory Garden Collection

Defining the Collection

The Sensory Garden Collection, designed in the year 2000, was and continues to be a focal point for the Friends of the Sale Botanic Gardens.

Constructed by Federal Government 'Work for the Dole' scheme, the Sensory Garden was designed to be a safe, tactile space to stimulate the five senses. The raised beds provide an opportunity for those with mobility challenges to actively participate in hands-on gardening.

Objectives of the Collection

The Sensory Garden Collection is a collection of plants focused on horticultural therapy, designed to stimulate the five senses – sight, sound, taste, touch and smell.

Interpretation of the Collection

While the Sensory Garden Collection is the longest established garden beds within the Gardens, interpretation and education is required to better understand the individual garden beds. Designed by Catherine Drew, who also designed a sensory garden at the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre in Kew, the garden beds are laid out in such a manner as to encourage members of the public to actively participate in the Gardens.



Figure 18. The Sensory Garden – constructed in 2000, it is the centerpiece of the Gardens and drove the re-awakening

Priorities of the Collection

Regular maintenance activities undertaken by the Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens and Council staff ensure that beds within the Collection are reasonably presented but have reached the end of their useful life. Council, through the regular maintenance audits, have identified this Collection is most in need of improvement, to bring it in line with recent developments through the Gardens.

Raised garden beds, constructed almost 20 years ago are in need of significant overhaul, along with path construction to improve access and egress to the garden beds. These garden beds are popular with the visitors to the Gardens. As such they should be renewed to reduce maintenance requirements, and to improve access and amenity.

To ensure that the continuity of a high-quality landscape, the Sensory Garden Collection would benefit from the development of the Collections Record Management System. Through determining which species are planted, a Maintenance Plan can then be developed to guide the management of the collection into the future.

Actions for the Collection

- 4.1 The Collection will be managed to a high horticultural standard and developed to display a representation of the design intent.
- 4.2 Review the original design, developed by Catherine Drew, and determine the appropriate species for the future of the Collection.
- 4.3 Seek funding to redevelop the infrastructure and plant design
- 4.4 Undertake regular audits of the Collection
- 4.5 Determine plant species within the Sensory Garden Collection and develop the Sensory Garden Living Collections Record Management System.
- 4.6 Develop and implement a Sensory Garden Maintenance Plan
- 4.7 Develop and implement an interpretation and education plan for the Living Collection

Care for the Rare Collection

Defining the Collection

The Care for the Rare Collection is in the early stages of planning and expand on the existing Rare or Threatened Species Collection. A project in partnership with Botanic Gardens Australia New Zealand (BGANZ) the Care for the Rare Collection houses a range of species that are found in a variety of Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC's) that are identified as rare or threatened throughout Wellington Shire Council.

The palate of plants selected for this expansion have been selected from an extensive list and are currently being grown on at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria – Australian Botanic Garden (Cranbourne). It is anticipated that the Collection will be planted around October 2020.

Objectives of the Collection

The objective of the Care for the Rare project is to “*create a multi-site conservation collection of rare and threatened plants of Victoria¹*”. The Care for the Rare Collection at the Sale Botanic Gardens will demonstrate a vibrant native garden using indigenous rare and threatened species from across the Gippsland region, with a strong focus on plants from within the Wellington Shire boundaries.



Figure 19. The Rare or Threatened Species Collection – with support from BGANZ Victoria these beds will be expanded to become the Care for the Rare Collection

¹ John Arnott, Care for the Rare Project Officer, BGANZ - Victoria

Interpretation of the Collection

The BGANZ's Care for the Rare project requires a level of interpretation and education around the plant species, and the conservation status. Being a new and exciting addition to the Gardens, it will be opportune to work with support from BGANZ – Victoria to develop and implement an interpretation plan.

Priorities of the Collection

Key to the Care for the Rare Collection is sound record keeping. This will not only meet a project outcome it also supports the interpretation of the collection. With support from BGANZ-Victoria a sound Maintenance Plan should be developed to ensure that Care for the Rare Collection remains a high quality landscape.

Educating the community on the intent of the collection will assist in promoting the importance of the palate of plants selected for this site. As such, interpretation of the collection will need to be well thought out and deliverable. It is recognised that this project would greatly benefit from the input of the Gunnaikurnai to further educate the community on local aboriginal heritage.

Actions for the Collection

- 5.1 The Collection will be managed to a high horticultural standard and developed to display a representation of the design intent.
- 5.2 Develop and maintain the Care for the Rare Living Collections Record Management System and determine, with support from BGANZ-Victoria, appropriate attributes required for reporting on the project
- 5.3 With support from BGANZ-Victoria, develop and implement a Care for the Rare Maintenance Plan to ensure high quality landscape is maintained
- 5.4 Undertake regular audits of the Collection
- 5.5 In consultation with the Gunnaikurnai and BGANZ-Victoria develop and implement an interpretation and education plan for the Care for the Rare Collection

Woody Meadow Collection

Defining the Collection

The Woody Meadow Collection is a project led by the University of Melbourne to research the effect of coppicing on Australian shrubs to create a low input, highly ornamental public landscape.

The plants selected for the Woody Meadow Collection have been chosen to provide a visually pleasing landscape that requires few resources to maintain them. Direction has been provided from the University of Melbourne for the on-going maintenance requirements of these plants.

Developed as part of the Garden for Life, the Woody Meadow Collection highlights the important role Botanic Gardens can play in the researching of new plants, or methods of maintaining. As part of the collaboration with University of Melbourne, Council will regularly audit the site and report back to the project managers the success of the project.

Objectives of the Collection

The Woody Meadow Collection is a partnership between University of Melbourne and Council to monitor the success of coppicing on the selected species. For visitors to the Gardens, the Woody Meadows Collection is an opportunity to view a display of highly ornamental species that regenerate after coppicing.



Figure 20. The Woody Meadow Collection – a small section within the Garden for Life will provide information back to the University of Melbourne to inform their research project.

Interpretation of the Collection

The Garden for Life project, where the Woody Meadow Collection is located, has created a vibrant, active and contemporary precinct in the Gardens. With an abundance of visitors to this area of the Gardens it is opportune to develop an interpretation and education program to further explain the design principles behind the Gardens.

Priorities of the Collection

Key to the Woody Meadow is the research being undertaken by University of Melbourne to assess the suitability of the selected species for coppicing and minimal resource requirements.

Educating the community of the intent behind the Woody Meadows Collection is important. With assistance from the University of Melbourne and BGANZ, a targeted interpretation and education plan should be developed and implemented. This will also help to explain the reasoning behind the coppicing of plants at certain times of year.

As there is an element of research required around this bed, and to ensure plant health is a priority, in partnership with University of Melbourne staff a Collections Maintenance Plan should be developed. This vital piece of work should also identify when audits of the landscape is required and the information that should be assessed and reported back to the research team.

Actions for the Collection

- 6.1 The Collection will be managed to a high horticultural standard and developed to display a representation of the design intent.
- 6.2 Develop and maintain the Woody Meadow Living Collections Record Management System and determine, with support from University of Melbourne, appropriate attributes required for reporting on the project
- 6.3 With support from University of Melbourne, develop and implement a Woody Meadow Maintenance Plan to ensure maintenance tasks are undertaken at the required time.
- 6.4 Undertake regular audits of the Collection
- 6.5 In consultation with the University of Melbourne develop and implement an interpretation and Education Plan for the Woody Meadow Collection

Garden for Life Collection

Defining the Collection

Recently constructed with assistance from the Victorian Government and the John Leslie Foundation, the Garden for Life aims to raise the profile of plants and the integral role they have on our lives and well-being.

Designed in 2019 by Andrew Laidlaw, the Garden for Life displays a range of species that provide food, shelter, fabric, medicinal and building properties that are critical to life on earth.

Situated where the fauna enclosure once stood, the Garden for Life has become a new focal point for the community and visitors to the Gardens. Integral to the design, and as a drawcard to the Gardens, a zero-depth water play area has been created.

Objectives of the Collection

The Garden for Life aims to raise the profile of the plants around us and help the community understand our unbreakable reliance on plants for our very survival.



Figure 21. Representatives from (left to right) John Leslie Trust Fund (Helene Booth), Latrobe Valley Authority (Laurie Patton), Wellington Shire Council (Mayor Alan Hall), Friends of the Sale Botanic Gardens (Heather Harrington, Helen Jewell, Evelyn McAdam, Helen Farley) and Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (Chris Russell) at the opening of the Garden for Life.

Interpretation of the Collection

The Garden for Life project has created a vibrant and active precinct in the Gardens. For children and families, it is opportune to focus a targeted interpretation and education plan to provide relevant information about the Gardens in general and the Garden for Life Collection in particular.

Some work has already commenced, with plans to deliver information signage around the Garden for Life Collection and Woody Meadow Collection.

Priorities of the Collection

As of July 2020, the Garden for Life is yet to be fully completed. Funding through the Victorian Government has been received to complete the second stage of the project, with the aim to deliver shade structures to improve the experiences for visitors to the Garden for Life precinct.

Further works around the interpretation of the Collection is needed. Defining and explaining the intent of the collection will require further consideration to determine the most suitable method.

As the Garden for Life is a focal point for the community, and an important collection, it is important that the landscape is maintained to a high level. As such the development and implementation of the Garden for Life Collection Maintenance Plan should be a priority for this collection.

Actions for the Collection

- 7.1 The Collection will be managed to a high horticultural standard and developed to display a representation of the design intent.
- 7.2 Develop and maintain the Garden for Life Living Collection Record Management System
- 7.3 Undertake regular audits of the Collection
- 7.4 Develop and implement the Garden for Life Collection Maintenance Plan
- 7.5 Develop and implement an interpretation and education plan for the Garden for Life Collection

Conifer Collection

Defining the Collection

The early 1870's was a boom time for the Sale Botanic Gardens, with paths laid out, mass plantings by the community and the beginning of the Conifer Collection.

While records are not detailed, it is believed that there are a number of species, particularly *Cupressus torulosa* (Bhutan Cypress) that were planted by the community as part of the celebration of Queen Victoria's birthday in 1872.

Objectives of the Collection

The Conifer Collection provides an historical link to the original plantings of the Gardens.



Figure 22. *Cupressus torulosa* (Bhutan Cypress) in the foreground with other species of Conifers planted between the late 1800's to recent times

Interpreting the Collection

Much like the Ulmus Collection, the Conifer Collection is difficult to interpret as it is spread across the Gardens. A broader project of identifying and interpreting significant trees within the Gardens has already identified some individual trees within this Collection.

Priorities of the Collection

Further work needs to be undertaken to locate and identify what species are in the collection. This will assist with management and proactive maintenance of the species, as well as providing the community information of the species present.

For the long-term development and management of the Conifer Collection, there needs to be a documented maintenance plan developed and implemented. This will incorporate the continued proactive approach to the management of pests and diseases.

Actions for the Collection

- 8.1 Define what species are currently in the Collection and determine their location within the Gardens
- 8.2 Undertake regular audits of the Collection
- 8.3 Develop and implement a Maintenance Plan
- 8.4 Develop and implement an Interpretation and Education Plan
- 8.5 Register the Collection within Council's Significant Tree Register

MANAGEMENT OF THE SALE BOTANIC GARDENS

The following section outlines the key actions required to successfully manage the Gardens to a high standard. The actions recognise and respond to the issues facing the Gardens, now and into the future.

“The community in 2025 will view the Sale Botanic Gardens as integral to the liveability of Sale and greater Gippsland. The Gardens will be a resilient landscape that showcases excellence in horticulture in the 21st Century while recognising and celebrating our rich cultural and social heritage” - vision of the Sale Botanic Gardens.

To achieve the vision of the Sale Botanic Gardens, the Management Plan aims to:

- Recognise and celebrate the connection the Gunaikurnai have with the site
- Enhance the various features within the Gardens
- Develop and maintain the diverse living plant collection
- To further reinforce the importance of the living heritage of the Sale Botanic Gardens
- To engage the community and raise the profile of the Sale Botanic Gardens
- Develop and implement Interpretation and Education plans to further enhance the visitor experience
- Implement sound sustainable gardening practices that effectively and efficiently manage the living taxa

The identified themes and outcomes have defined actions and key performance indicators for Council staff and also for the Friends of the Sale Botanic Gardens. These measurable indicators are outlined in the *Sale Botanic Gardens Management Plan Actions 2020-2025* (Appendix 1.)

THEME 1 – Manage and Maintain a resilient landscape

Objectives

Developments in the Botanic Gardens over the past 20 years demonstrate the focus on creating resilient landscapes that can demonstrate to the home gardener a high level of amenity. The design intent of the living collections has a strong focus on appropriate plants that can accommodate a reduced watering regime, while still offering year-round interest.

There is a recognised understanding of the need to provide supplementary irrigation to a plant, or plantings. Lake Guthridge provides the opportunity to sustainably source storm water to irrigate, rather than potable drinking water, or drawing down of the aquifer.



Figure 23. *Miscanthus sinensis zebrinus* in the Summer Walk provides all round interest

Outcomes

To continue to manage and maintain the landscapes of the Sale Botanic Gardens the staff, contractors and volunteers will focus on:

1.1 Effective management of the Living Collections to high horticultural standards	
1.1.1	Determine plant species within each Collection and assess the suitability against the design intent
1.1.2	Develop and implement Living Collections Maintenance Plans
1.1.3	Implement and maintain Living Collections Record Management System
1.1.4	Undertake regular audits of the Collections

1.2 Trees successfully managed from a conservation, succession, heritage and public safety perspective	
1.2.1	Undertake regular audits of the trees within the Sale Botanic Gardens
1.2.2	Develop and implement a Maintenance Plan for the significant Trees within the Sale Botanic Gardens

1.3 Landscape amenity values of the Sale Botanic Gardens is maintained	
1.3.1	Continue to deliver a high level of horticulture in line with current best practices
1.3.2	Manage the Collections within the Sale Botanic Gardens in accordance with the Living Collections Maintenance Plans
1.3.3	Manage and maintain all turf areas within the Sale Botanic Gardens
1.3.4	Undertake regular audits of the Sale Botanic Gardens

1.4 Gardens sustainably managed	
1.4.1	Regularly audit and carry out maintenance of irrigation system
1.4.2	Investigate the viability of alternative energy methods to power the facilities within the Sale Botanic Gardens
1.4.3	Investigate the viability of recycling facilities within the Sale Botanic Gardens
1.4.4	Develop and implement an education program around recycling options for visitors to the Sale Botanic Gardens

THEME 2 – Create a Garden that inspires

Objectives

As the only publicly recognised Botanic Garden in Gippsland, the Sale Botanic Gardens represent a premier public garden and provide examples of a range of plants suitable for the home garden. The Gardens play an integral role in educating and inspiring the community and can provide a focus as a training space in developing future horticulturalists and keen gardeners,

From this there is a recognised need to collaborate with training providers and other stakeholders to develop and deliver programs and training packages.



Figure 24. New chairs in the Garden for Life lets visitors to the Gardens immerse themselves in nature to reflect on the connection plants have on life.

Outcomes

To create a garden that inspires the staff, contractors and volunteers will focus on:

2.1 Gardens recognised as a living classroom	
2.1.1	Liaise with TAFE Gippsland to incorporate the Gardens into session planning for students
2.1.2	Partner with external agencies/organisations to deliver education programs in the Gardens
2.1.3	Engage with the School community to encourage lessons/activities within the Sale Botanic Gardens

2.2 Accurate and relevant information about the flora in the Botanic Gardens is provided	
2.2.1	Implement and maintain the Living Collections Record Management System
2.2.2	Develop and implement an Interpretation and Education Plan for each Collection
2.2.3	Investigate an appropriate Plant ID application for visitors to the Sale Botanic Gardens
2.2.4	Implement a range of temporary “pop-up” signs
2.2.5	Develop and deliver regular tours of the Sale Botanic Gardens

2.3 Living Collections that highlight the principles of sustainability and resilience	
2.3.1	New Collections are designed with consideration to climate change
2.3.2	Develop and implement the Living Collections Maintenance Plans
2.3.3	Demonstrate sound horticultural practices that minimise, if not exclude the use of chemicals to manage weeds
2.3.4	Implement sustainable horticultural practices that encourage strong and healthy plant growth without the overuse of chemicals

2.4 New developments have encouraged greater community exploration and understanding of the Gardens	
2.4.1	Construction of infrastructure that supports increased visitation to the Gardens
2.4.2	New garden beds to be constructed with existing path network considered
2.4.3	Develop and implement an Interpretation and Education Plan for the Living Collections and significant trees
2.4.4	Future collections are focused on the local flora within Wellington Shire and the greater Gippsland area

THEME 3 – Recognise and celebrate our cultural and social heritage

Objectives

Home of the Brayakooloong people, the Sale Wetlands and Lake Guthridge precinct, provided a valuable food source as well as other important raw materials. For thousands of years, the area of the Sale Botanic Gardens was visited by the Gunaikurnai as they moved throughout Gippsland.

The Gardens are home to remnant vegetation that is recognised as culturally and socially significant. Through education programs and events, visitors to the Gardens are able to learn of and celebrate the rich heritage of the Gardens.

There is a recognised opportunity to partner with key stakeholders to ensure that visitors are well informed and that all messaging is culturally aware and socially responsible.



Figure 25. The Gardens highlight the endemic remnant *Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. mediana* believed to be over 200 years old

Outcomes

To recognise and celebrate the cultural and social heritage of the Sale Botanic Gardens the staff, contractors and volunteers will focus on:

3.1 The past is celebrated inspiring the future	
3.1.1	Develop and implement an Interpretation and Education Plan that recognises the heritage of the Sale Botanic Gardens
3.1.2	Develop the Bill Cane Living Collection
3.1.3	Liaise with TAFE Gippsland to incorporate the Gardens into session planning for students
3.1.4	Develop and deliver regular tours of the Sale Botanic Gardens

3.2 Gunaikurnai connection to the land is recognised and celebrated	
3.2.1	Develop and implement an Interpretation and Education Plan that recognises the connection the Gunaikurnai have with the site
3.2.2	Deliver an event that celebrates the Gunaikurnai connection to the site
3.2.3	Support the Gunaikurnai to deliver an education program that celebrates their connection to the site

3.3 Past botanists and their contribution to the Gardens recognised	
3.3.1	Develop and implement an Interpretation and Education Plan
3.3.2	Develop and deliver regular tours of the Sale Botanic Gardens
3.3.3	Develop the Bill Cane Living Collection

3.4 Significant flora from within Wellington Shire and broader Gippsland is developed and maintained	
3.4.1	Develop and Implement the Living Collections Maintenance Plans
3.4.2	Develop the Bill Cane Collection
3.4.3	Develop the Care for the Rare Collection
3.4.4	Develop and implement an Interpretation and Education Plan
3.4.5	Develop and deliver regular tours of the Sale Botanic Gardens

THEME 4 – Engaging the community in the Gardens

Objectives

Engagement of the community in the Gardens will nurture a greater understanding of the importance of the role plants play in sustaining our life. Healthy, sustainable and connected communities improve the livability of Sale and Wellington Shire Council

There is an identified need to broaden the engagement with the community and other key stakeholders, including the newly formed SEED Community Garden. This will include the development of a range of interpretation, education and promotion tools that will be engaging to the community and visitors to the Gardens.



Figure 26. The Gardens are a popular place for a wide range of community events. It should be promoted as a place to connect the community to the Gardens.

Outcomes

To engage the community in the Sale Botanic Gardens the staff, contractors and volunteers will focus on:

4.1 An active online presence for the Sale Botanic Gardens	
4.1.1	Investigate and develop a range of tools/platforms to promote the Sale Botanic Gardens
4.1.2	Develop an Interpretation and Education Plan (including the promotion on social media)
4.1.3	Increase the Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens social presence
4.1.4	Promotion of social media platforms that visitors can post photos of their experiences in the Gardens

4.2 Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens are supported to engage with the community	
4.2.1	Council to liaise with the Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens
4.2.2	Encourage and assist the Friends to be actively engaged with the broader community
4.2.3	Support the Friends to attend seminars/conferences
4.2.4	Develop and deliver regular tours of the Sale Botanic Gardens

4.3 Promote Sale Botanic Gardens is recognised as a destination for events and activities that are enjoyed by a wide range of people	
4.3.1	Develop and deliver new range of brochures and promotional material
4.3.2	Work with the Visitor Information Centre etc. to promote the Gardens
4.3.3	Deliver a range of events in the Gardens
4.3.4	Support the community to host a range of appropriate public and private events

4.4 Collaboration with training providers to deliver industry led outcomes and opportunities	
4.4.1	Liaise with TAFE Gippsland to incorporate the Gardens into session planning for students
4.4.2	Deliver a range of educational opportunities targeted at the home gardener as well as the general public
4.4.3	Partner with external agencies/organisations to deliver educational programs in the Sale Botanic Gardens

THEME 5 – The Gardens are a healthy, happy workplace

Objectives

The safety, health and wellbeing of staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors to the Botanic Gardens are paramount. Frequent and thorough inspections are conducted of the infrastructure, maintenance standards, Living Collections and Trees. Council have adopted a range of Safe Work Practices that ensure that the health, safety and wellbeing of staff, volunteers and contractors.

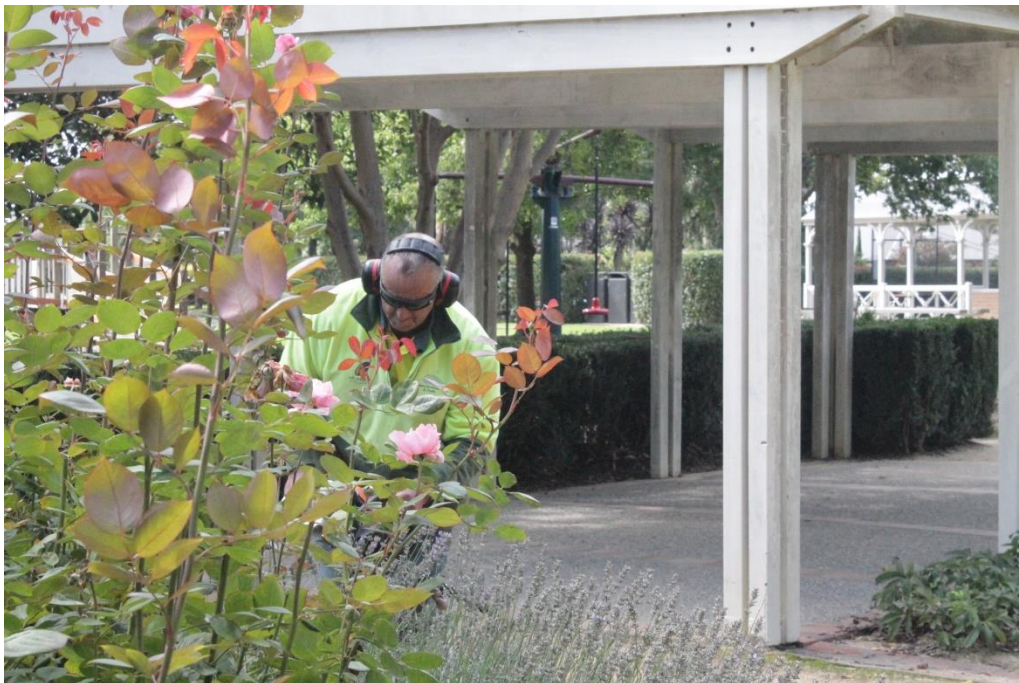


Figure 27. Workplace health and safety is of paramount importance when working in the Sale Botanic Gardens and being very prominent in public.

Outcomes

To ensure the Gardens are a healthy, happy workplace the staff, contractors and volunteers will focus on:

5.1 Workplace safety in the Gardens is of paramount importance	
5.1.1	Ensure staff, contractors and volunteers adhere to Safe Work Practices
5.1.2	Implement sustainable horticultural practices that minimise, if not exclude the use of chemicals
5.1.3	Annually review and update Safe Work Practices ensuring that they are in line with current best practices

5.2 Assets are well maintained	
5.2.1	Undertake regular inspections and carry out required maintenance on assets within the Gardens
5.2.2	Carry out regular inspections of the play equipment in the Gardens and carry out subsequent maintenance
5.2.3	Regularly audit the Collections to ensure staff are adhering to the Living Collections Maintenance Plan
5.2.4	Undertake regular audits of the trees within the Sale Botanic Gardens

5.3 Gardens are sustainably managed	
5.3.1	Implement sustainable horticultural practices that minimise, if not exclude the use of chemicals
5.3.2	Regularly audit and carry out required maintenance of the irrigation system within the Gardens
5.3.3	Manage all turf areas within the Sale Botanic Gardens
5.3.4	Regularly undertake audits of the Gardens to ensure that the staff are adhering the Living Collections Maintenance Plan and Horticulture and Turf Standards

5.4 The Gardens are a place of learning for the general public, students, volunteers and staff	
5.4.1	Develop and implement an Interpretation and Education Plan for each Collection
5.4.2	Liaise with TAFE Gippsland to incorporate the Gardens into session planning for TAFE students
5.4.3	Engage with the school community to encourage activities and lessons in the Gardens
5.4.4	Partner with external agencies/organisations to deliver education programs
5.4.5	Develop and deliver regular tours of the Gardens

INTERPRETATION

Communication is an important tool to showcase the many attractions in the Gardens and broader lake precinct. As such, on-site Interpretation is critical in achieving the stated vision of the Sale Botanic Gardens to *‘showcase excellence in horticulture in the 21st Century while recognising and celebrating our rich cultural and social heritage’*

From a site map centered in the popular activity precinct of the gardens, through to tree labels, the range of interpretive signage throughout the Gardens will encourage visitors to explore, learn and extend a visit.

Over the past five years, interpretation and education of visitors to the Gardens has been constantly improved. A hierarchy of signage has been adopted and will be progressively implemented. This hierarchy will ensure a consistent approach to interpretive signage is maintained throughout the precinct. This hierarchy of signage includes –

Living Collections Sign – designed to display information around the plant collection

Information Sign – designed to provide greater detail on the purpose of the garden bed, or Living Collection

Significant Tree Sign – designed to capture the information from the Sale Botanic Garden Tree Walk document

Tree Label Sign – designed to provide tree species name (Family, Genus, Species, Common Name) and attached the tree.

Temporary Signs – designed to provide facts of interest about a plant, or group of plants.

Collections Interpretation Sign

Objective

The objective of a Living Collection Interpretation Sign is to explain the purpose of the collection, display landscape plans, and to highlight key features of the design.

The dimensions of the sign are 630 mm x 720 mm and will be constructed out of corten steel.

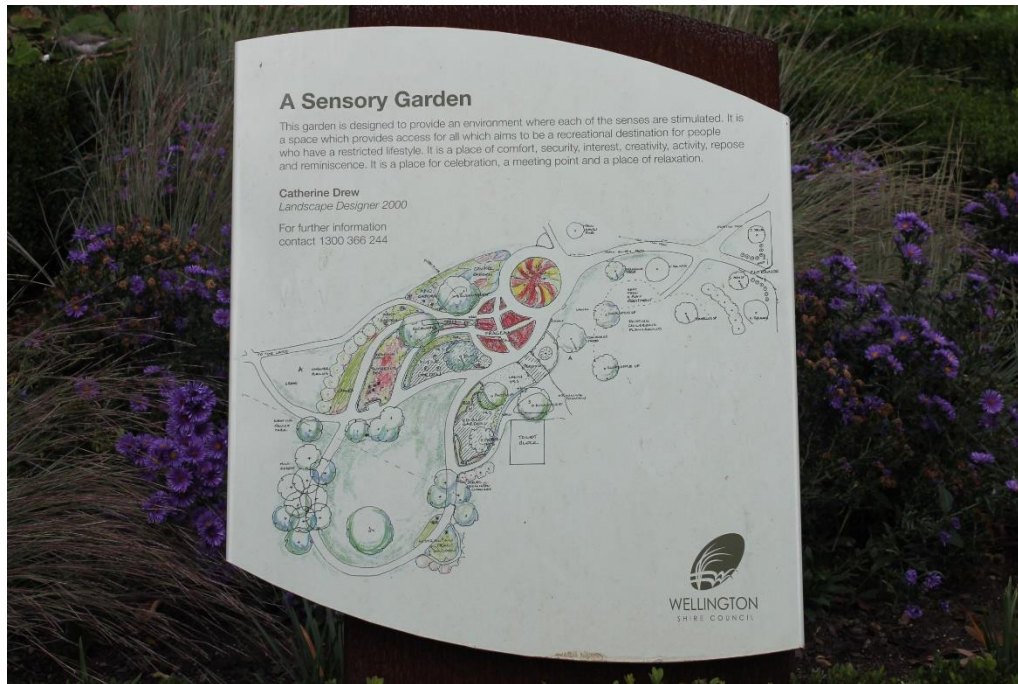


Figure 28. Collection Interpretation Signage

Information Sign

Objective

The objective of an Information Sign is to further detail the purpose behind a garden bed, or a Living Collection. Unlike the Living Collection Interpretation Sign, these signs are generally in text.

The dimensions of the sign are 310 mm x 295 mm and will be constructed out of corten steel.



Figure 29. Information Interpretation Signage

Significant Tree Interpretation Sign

Objective

The Significant Tree Interpretation Sign is to be used to highlight a key feature tree in the Gardens and to explain to the visitors the provenance of the tree, whether it was part of a significant planting, and a brief description of the trees uses. These signs also contain a locality of where these trees originated from to assist in explaining the provenance.

The dimensions of the sign are 235 mm x 225 mm and will be constructed out of corten steel.



Figure 30. Significant Tree Interpretation Signage

Tree Label Sign

Objective

The purpose of the Botanic Gardens is to educate visitors. The addition of tree signage enables the visitors to gain a greater understanding of selected tree species planted in the Gardens. The signs will contain the family, genus and species, along with the common name and provenance. These signs will be attached to the tree at a height that will not encourage vandalism. They will be easy to read and their placement will not impact the health of the tree.

The dimensions of the sign are 100 mm x 150 mm and will be constructed out of aluminum.



Figure 31. Tree Label Signage

Temporary Interpretive Signs

Objective

Quirky, fun facts about various features in the Gardens can encourage visitors to explore and should be seen as an opportunity to promote the Gardens. The *Temporary Interpretive Signs* are short term installations around the gardens and can display facts of a plant, a garden bed, or a feature of the Garden. Being temporary, these signs are laminated A3 pages attached to bamboo or timber stakes and are in situ for a period of no greater than a month. They can also be used as a promotion on social media platforms.



Bamboo

Bamboos are evergreen perennial flowering plants of the grass family Poaceae. Bamboos include some of the fastest-growing plants in the world.

Certain species of bamboo can grow 910 mm within a 24-hour period, at a rate of almost 40 mm an hour (a growth around 1 mm every 90 seconds). Bamboos are of notable economic and cultural significance in South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia, being used for building materials, as a food source, and as a versatile raw product. Bamboo, like wood, is a natural composite material with a high strength-to-weight ratio useful for structures. Bamboo's strength-to-weight ratio is similar to timber, and its strength is generally similar to a strong softwood or hardwood timber.

Bamboo is also used in foods, textiles and for making musical instruments. Can you think of any other uses for bamboo?



Search for Wellington Shire Council
Tag #WanderingWellington to be featured

Figure 32. Temporary Interpretation Signage

MARKETING OF THE SALE BOTANIC GARDENS

Visitation to the Sale Botanic Gardens has grown, and continues to grow, since Council, supported by the Friends Group, commenced work to re-awaken the precinct over 20 years ago.

The Sale Botanic Gardens, being the only significant public gardens of its kind in Gippsland, has an opportunity to capture the growing domestic tourism market. To support this, work needs to be undertaken to develop a series of tourism and self-guided tour brochures that can be distributed throughout greater Gippsland and beyond. These brochures should highlight the attractions of the Gardens, including but not limited to, the Living Collections, the popular activity precinct, cultural values and the supporting Lake environs. These need to be both in printed and digital form and be highly accessible through Visitor Information Centres, accommodation providers and real estate agents (new residents to Sale) as well as Council's website and other social media platforms

As the world shifts to a more digital age, Council should investigate the opportunity to develop an app for brochures, self-guided tours, significant trees and landscapes, and other interesting features throughout the Gardens. This will encourage the promotion of the Gardens and may enable visitation data to be collected.

Social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and to a lesser extent Twitter continue to remain relevant tools in promoting the Botanic Gardens. In line with similar facilities, the Sale Botanic Gardens should have a method of reaching a broader demographic of local residents and visitors to the region. Through the use of hashtags, and locality information, data can be collated to determine visitation numbers, and can assist with messaging around upcoming events or scheduled works.

Whilst the new direction is clearly focused on digital marketing opportunities, the print and broadcast mediums will remain integral tools in promoting the many visitor attractions of the Gardens.

LIVING COLLECTIONS RECORD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A Botanic Garden is a living museum, providing opportunities for conservation and research of plant material, as well as education, experiences, and enjoyment through the various plant collections. The Gardens Living Collections Record Management System is a vital as the plants themselves and serves as a strategic framework for the preservation of information, the care of the collections, and the access of information about the individual plant and the collection on a whole.

To ensure the Living Collections within the Sale Botanic Gardens are managed and maintained to the desired standards set out within this Plan, it is essential that an accurate, up-to date and robust database is established. BGANZ Vic/Tas, the leading industry authority on Botanic Gardens, are currently undertaking a project to determine which database would be suitable to assist Botanic Gardens across Victoria to better maintain and manage the many collections held across state.

The outcomes of having a robust and proven record management system are:

- Maintain a high level of horticultural care and curation of the Living Collections
- Develop individual plans to guide the development and maintenance of each Living Collection
- Ensure the design intent of the Living Collection is maintained and that appropriate plant material is sourced when being replaced.
- Assist in the education and interpretation of the Living Collection to the visitors to the Gardens
- Enable consistent audits to be carried out of the Living Collections.

MAINTENANCE OF THE SALE BOTANIC GARDENS

Maintenance operations in the Botanic Gardens are currently undertaken by a full-time horticulturalist, assisted by other Council staff, contractors, or volunteers through the Friends of the Sale Botanic Gardens.

Currently the provision of human resources is considered adequate, although this may need to be reviewed to ensure that the high standard of horticulture is maintained. Consideration needs to be given to ensuring that Gardens staff continue to be appropriately qualified and experienced.

The Summer Walk Living Collection has a developed Maintenance Plan, specific to the plants within that Collection. The Maintenance Plan is a 12-month proactive program and includes a range of horticultural activities to ensure the sustainability of that collection. It is the recommendation of this plan that the same Maintenance Plan should be developed for each of the Living Collections.

To maintain the high level of amenity, staff, contractors, and volunteers are expected to adhere to the Horticulture and Turf Maintenance Standards, which have been implemented across Council's Parks Services Unit. Where the applied maintenance regime is not defined within the Parks Services Horticulture and Turf Standards, the staff, contractors and volunteers are to use industry best practices.



Figure 33. Maintaining the high quality of landscapes requires the dedication of the senior Horticulturalist and the support of the Parks Services Team, contractors and volunteers

FRIENDS OF THE SALE BOTANIC GARDENS

The Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens was established in 2000 to assist Wellington Shire in the re-awakening of the Sale Botanic Gardens.

The Friends of the Sale Botanic Gardens provide an active role in the in supporting Wellington Shire with the promotion and engagement of the community in the Botanic Gardens.

The objectives of the Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens is:-

- To foster health and well being through working with the community to develop an understanding of the beautiful environment of the Sale Botanic Gardens
- To work in partnership with Council's Parks Services team with garden maintenance on a regular basis
- To foster and generate public interest in the Sale Botanic Gardens
- To advocate for the continued development of the Sale Botanic Gardens
- To increase the presence and profile of the Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens



Figure 34. Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens working as part of the monthly Gardening Days

Council will work in partnership with the Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens to achieve the following actions:

1 To foster health and well being through working with the community to develop an understanding of the beautiful environment within the Sale Botanic Gardens	
1.1	Meeting others with similar interests in the Sale Botanic Gardens
1.2	Learning how to propagate plants

2 To work in partnership with Council's Parks Services team	
2.1	Assist in regular gardening days and scheduled maintenance activities as required
2.2	Maintain regular communication and participation in activities with Botanic Gardens Australia New Zealand (BGANZ) and Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AAFBG)

3 To foster and generate public interest in the Sale Botanic Gardens	
3.1	Develop and deliver regular guided tours of the Botanic Gardens
3.2	Celebrate and showcase the Botanic Gardens through media (newspaper, radio & television) including social media (Facebook, Instagram)
3.3	Provide information to visitors through regular updates on the community noticeboard in the Botanic Gardens (Guided Tours, activities and general information)
3.4	Develop additional brochures and posters in conjunction with Wellington Shire Council eg. Birds in our Botanical Gardens

4 To advocate for the continued development of the Sale Botanic Gardens	
4.1	Prioritize plant labeling projects
4.2	Assist with promotion of initiatives such as Care for the Rare (BGANZ Project)
4.3	Assist with establishing a new collection recognising Bill Cane and focusing on native cultivars and hybrids
4.4	Assist with renovating and revitalizing the Sensory Garden Collections

5 To increase the presence and profile of the Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens	
5.1	Establish a permanent home within the Gardens
5.2	Provide current information on the notice board within the Gardens
5.3	Promote Gardening Days and activities through increased presence of signage on gardening days (sandwich boards, posters, banners)
5.4	Maintain identification of members through nametags and uniforms
5.5	Establish a link via the Wellington Shire website
5.6	Provide and maintain information about the Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens at Wellington Shire's Port of Sale Cultural Hub (Visitor Information Centre/Library)



Figure 35. Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens working alongside Council staff in labeling plants in the Summer Walk in 2010.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SALE BOTANIC GARDENS

The fundamental purpose of the Sale Botanic Gardens Management Plan is to improve the long-term strategic management of the Gardens. Service standards reflect a balance between the community's desire and available financial and human resources.

Over the past 20 years the Gardens have been re-awakened and are now a very popular destination for tourists and the local community. They add to the quality of livability in Wellington. They are the legacy the founding townspeople had as a vision for Sale over 160 years ago.

There has been significant development over this time, with the focus now on the consolidation and renewal of assets, based on sound asset management practices. The table below is a guide for the future renewal of assets, the development of minor features that will further cement the Gardens as an integral community asset.

PROGRAM NAME	FINANCIAL YEAR				
	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2024-2025	2025-2026
Visitor Enhancement Project	\$ 183,000.00				
Decorative Fence - Completion	\$ 70,000.00				
LEAF Power Upgrade	\$ 80,000.00				
Gravel Path Upgrades	\$ 20,000.00				
Lighting Upgrade	\$ 25,000.00				
Bill Cane Living Collection - Development		\$ 15,000.00			
Ulmus Living Collection - Development			\$ 20,000.00		
Conifer Collection - Development					\$ 20,000.00
Interpretive Signage		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Irrigation Renewal Program		\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00	
Furniture Renewal Program			\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	
Succession Planning - Tree Renewal			\$ 10,000.00		
Succession Planning - Landscape Renewal			\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Shelter Renewal Program					
Path Lighting Upgrades					\$ 20,000.00
Plant (Machinery) Upgrade				\$ 10,000.00	
Communications Plan (Website, Marketing)		\$ 50,000.00			
Living Collections Record Management System			\$ 15,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGETED EXPENDITURE	\$ 378,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 60,000.00

REVIEW OF THE SALE BOTANIC GARDENS MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Management Plan covers a period of five years. During this time the plan will be reviewed, revised and updated to ensure that the actions agreed upon in this report continue to meet the expectations and industry best practice. This will include:

- Revise and update the Management Plan
- Operate according to the aims and objectives agreed to in this plan
- Monitor the operation of the Management Plan
- Revise and improve the Management Plan where necessary