

# Growing Victoria's Botanic Gardens Grants Program

## Successful Projects: Round One 2019

A dedicated bush food walk, plant collection management and labelling, visitor precinct designs and improved water supply are among 17 significant botanic gardens projects from across the state receiving a grant through the first contested round of the Growing Victoria's Botanic Gardens grants program. Round One of the grants program will provide \$1.48 million for works and projects at 17 botanic gardens, old and new, across Victoria.

The Growing Victoria's Botanic Gardens grants program is an initiative of the Victorian Government to enhance the botanic gardens across Victoria with grants to rejuvenate the gardens and grow their important role in conservation, education and community wellbeing.

There will be a second funding round in 2020.

Botanic Garden	Project
Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	A grant of \$251,640 has been awarded to Shepparton Greater City for the supply of potable and raw water to the garden. Improved supply of water will enhance the garden in many ways, supporting sustainable irrigation of plants and providing amenity for visitors. Currently, watering of plants is dependent on rainfall and hand watering. Established in 2011, the Australian Botanic Gardens features thematic gardens on a large terraced mound, wetlands and thematic landscaping and gardens in the surrounding forest and woodland area. Upgraded water supply will support further development of the garden.
Benalla Botanical Gardens	A grant of \$22,400 has been awarded to Benalla Rural City, to upgrade the garden's amenity and support improved accessibility and use by visitors and the local community. Improved lighting will encourage more community use, along with upgraded entrance, signage and visitor information. Benalla Botanic Gardens, established in the 1880s, has retained much of its valuable heritage while developing and integrating new features and attractions over the years. With this funding, the garden will continue offering enhanced visitor amenity and information and promote wider local, indigenous and culturally diverse visitor use.
Bendigo Botanic Gardens, White Hills	A grant of \$255,000 has been awarded to Greater Bendigo City for design of a visitor centre precinct. The precinct will be an important link between the early formal botanic garden and a new botanic garden area (2018), landscaped to provide learnings in botany, ecology, conservation and sustainability, as well as new recreation space. Designs for the visitor precinct are expected to include a new visitor building, botanic garden area (1 ha), central plaza, ponds and wetlands, pergola, bridge across Bendigo Creek and stormwater harvesting system.

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## Castlemaine Botanical Gardens

A grant of \$77,050 has been awarded to Mount Alexander Shire, to develop a collections policy and support planning and interpretation for the gardens. This strategic and forward-looking project will develop a policy for landscape and plant succession, an important innovation for the garden especially in view of climate change. Castlemaine Botanic Gardens dates back to 1860 and has a large and important collection of significant trees. The collections project will strengthen the garden for the future and improve community understanding of its valuable plants.

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## Colac Botanic Gardens

A grant of \$95,000 has been awarded to Colac Otway Shire for improvements to the supply of water required to irrigate the garden's significant tree collection and respond to drought and anticipated climate change impacts. Colac Botanic Gardens is a heritage listed garden established in 1865, with garden elements typical of its design by William Guilfoyle, including an avenue of trees, many specimen trees and clumped shrubberies. Enhanced water supply will conserve these valued plantings and assist future-proofing the garden.

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## Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden, Olinda

A grant of \$120,000 has been awarded to Parks Victoria to support the development of a North Queensland Mountain Top Garden. The project involves the design, construction and planting of garden beds which will accommodate a significant collection that has a high conservation status. In 2017, the former National Rhododendron Garden was renamed the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden, with a new role of conserving and displaying cool climate plants. The garden is managed by Parks Victoria, as a delegated committee of management for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The grant will enable undeveloped land to be developed as a new botanic garden area, contributing to plant conservation and opportunities for the community to visit and learn about botanic gardens.

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## Euroa Arboretum

A grant of \$40,864 has been awarded to the Euroa Arboretum Committee of Management to create a dedicated walk to showcase the various bush foods and medicine plants of local Traditional Owners. Taungurung Traditional Owners will partner with the Committee of Management to develop interpretation that will allow information to be heard in Taungurung language. Euroa Arboretum was established in 1994 and specialises in growing, researching and displaying plants representing local Ecological Vegetation Classes. The project will upgrade visitor facilities and create new education resources for visitors, local community and Traditional Owners.

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## Hamilton Botanical Gardens

A grant of \$86,000 has been awarded to Southern Grampians Shire for completion of design and heritage planning/scoping for a community precinct within the botanic garden, which was established in 1851. Planning will support the reactivation of a redundant area that was originally devoted to animal enclosures. The plan will contribute to developing a children's garden and educational area that incorporates new landscaping features to encourage nature-based play and learning.

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## Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden, Kalorama

A grant of \$22,150 has been awarded to Yarra Ranges Shire to develop a conservation plan that will support the garden's role in plant conservation, research and education. The plan will guide future collections and development of the garden and enhance educational opportunities and partnership with the Wurundjerri people. The garden was established in the late 1960s, reflecting a growing community interest in indigenous plants and conservation. A conservation plan will also assist in broadening the garden's resilience to climate change.

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Kyneton Botanic Gardens	A grant of \$30,000 to Macedon Ranges Shire will contribute towards the development of a revised conservation management plan for the gardens. This plan will document the gardens heritage and botanical significance and set out appropriate policies for heritage conservation, guiding future use and development of the garden. Kyneton Botanic Gardens, established in 1858, is recognised as one of Victoria's significant 19 <sup>th</sup> century gardens.
Melton Botanic Garden	A grant of \$35,000 has been awarded to Melton City towards lighting of the main path at the garden. This project will encourage increased use and accessibility of the garden by the community and visitors, extending the hours of use and range of experiences that can be offered. Established in 2008, the Melton Botanic Garden is being developed in strong partnership with the Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens with key features including a dryland Eucalyptus arboretum, thematic gardens, wetlands and amphitheatre. The new lighting will be environmentally friendly and sustainable, using solar lights with a proximity sensor.
Phillips Botanical Garden, Maryborough	A grant of \$20,000 has been awarded to Central Goldfields Shire for replacement of trees and botanical labelling. The replacement of tree species that have been lost due to drought will reinstate original landscaping, expand the botanical collection and restore valuable shade canopy for visitors, supporting and enhancing community use. Installation of botanical labelling will increase the educational value of plants exhibited within the garden and promote the botanic role of the garden, which was known originally as the Maryborough Botanical Gardens, after commencing in the 1870s.
Sale Botanic Gardens	A grant of \$99,440 has been awarded to Wellington Shire, to support the completion of a major 'Garden for Life' project within the garden. The Garden for Life addition has provided new features including thematic gardens and educational space for students and the community. The final stage will enhance the new space, improve visitor experience and extend use of the garden by providing necessary shelters. Sale Botanic Garden was established in 1860 and is the only 19 <sup>th</sup> century botanic garden in Gippsland. The grant supports visitor use and the valuable role of this botanic garden.
University of Melbourne System Garden, Parkville	A grant of \$99,082 has been awarded for redevelopment of the System Garden to the University of Melbourne, based on the 2018 Masterplan which guides reinstatement of the original layout of the system garden, increased diversity of planting and improved amenity for learning and recreation. The system garden was established in 1856 for the study of botany, providing a living display of different plant groups in the plant kingdom. The project will include reintroduction of the original 19 <sup>th</sup> century radial garden beds and collaboration between the System Garden, School of Botany and Graduate School for innovative Interpretative signage displays. This garden is open to the public and the project is expected to encourage wider community use and enhanced education opportunities.
WAMA Grampians/Gariwerd Endemic Flora Garden, Halls Gap	A grant of \$48,000 has been awarded to the WAMA Foundation for development of a new 2 ha botanic garden to display the unique biodiversity of Grampians/Gariwerd Flora. The garden is being developed for conservation and educational purposes and will exhibit more than 70 endemic native flora species found in the Grampians region. Many of these plants are endangered and can be difficult to access and observe in the wild. The garden is to be open to the public and will provide many opportunities for education, scientific study, recreation and community collaboration.
Warrnambool Botanic Gardens	A grant of \$129,132 has been awarded to Warrnambool City for repair of the eastern and western paths system, to improve access for all users and to protect valuable trees from damage. The garden, established in 1866, is significant for its gardenesque design, with expansive, sweeping lawns and curvilinear paths, along with a significant tree collection. Repair of the paths will reduce risk, restore and stabilise the heritage elements of the original path edging, and provide for the long-term protection of trees. The grant will also support preparation of a feasibility evaluation for a fernery board walk to improve access and protect valuable specimen trees.

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## Williamstown Botanic Gardens

A grant of \$53,592 has been awarded to Hobsons Bay City to deliver a plant collection labelling program and associated interpretation. Labelling, with scientific information, will support enhanced education and greater understanding of the historic and significant trees throughout gardens. Interpretation and labelling for a contemporary garden with drought tolerant plants along the main path/palm walk, will provide opportunities for learning about conservation, sustainability, climate change and drought tolerance. The project will enable this historic and heritage garden, established in 1856, to fulfil its botanic role and provide a model for education and learning about the role of botanic gardens into the future.

**For more information on the Growing Victoria's Botanic Gardens Grant Program, please call 03 9637 9228 or email [botanicgardens@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:botanicgardens@delwp.vic.gov.au)**

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