EXPLORE
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
BURNLEY CAMPUS

STORIES

SECRETS

DISCOVER
MELBOURNE’S SECRET HERITAGE–LISTED BOTANICAL WONDERLAND
WELCOME!

Welcome to the University of Melbourne’s Burnley Campus, a heritage-listed botanical wonderland, known for its century-old gardens, and leadership in teaching and research in environmental and ornamental horticulture.

The gardens are a peaceful oasis on the banks of the Yarra in the heart of Melbourne’s Inner Eastern Suburbs. The nine-hectares on Wurundjeri land are home to many native Australian and exotic plants and are open for the public to explore and enjoy.

GETTING AROUND

Explore
Download the Burnley Gardens Walk app, a self-guided audio tour through the gardens – it’s free from the App Store or Google Play.

Getting to Burnley
Burnley is located east of Melbourne CBD, approximately 5km from the city centre.

Bicycle
The Capital City Trail runs along the Yarra River next to campus, and bike parking is available behind the Student Amenities Building.

Tram
Take the route 70 tram from Flinders Street to stop number 18 on Swan Street.

Train
Nearest stations are Burnley (and then tram or walk along Swan Street) or Hawthorn on the Alamein, Belgrave and Lilydale lines.

Car
Entry from Yarra Boulevard or Swan Street. Parking is available on Yarra Boulevard every day and additional parking is available off F.R. Smith Drive on weekends.

Facilities

Bring a picnic, use our free BBQ facilities, and dine at the beautiful Sugar Gum outdoor table. Please take your rubbish home with you! Alternatively, cafes are open weekdays in the nearby Botanicca business park.

Toilet facilities are located in Student Amenities Building during University hours. After hours, toilets are available over Swan Street bridge in the Wallan Road Reserve car park.

For event and garden hire, contact burnley-reception@unimelb.edu.au

Access

The main paths are wheelchair friendly. Minor garden paths may be difficult for those in wheelchairs to access without assistance.
The Burnley Gardens were established by the Horticultural Society of Victoria in 1861. The aim was to introduce new plants to the colonies, and promote botanical and horticultural science. Land was granted to the society on the basis that a part of the gardens remain open to the public – and this continues today. The University now manages the gardens which are principally used by the School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences. The School also has a campus at Creswick.

BURNLEY CAMPUS

Burnley is home to modern urban horticulture research. Researchers at our Burnley campus investigate how we use plants in the urban environment, how we better design and manage the vegetation in cities, and understand what services the vegetation provides. Burnley is also home to globally recognised research groups in ecohydrology and forest science.

CRESWICK CAMPUS

Situated in the heart of the central Victorian goldfields, the Creswick campus is Australia’s only dedicated forest ecosystem science campus. With over 100 years history in education, the campus has a significant collection of trees in its arboretum as well as a 610 hectare demonstration forest nearby.

Southbank Campus

Situated in the heart of Melbourne’s arts district at Southbank is the University’s Victorian College of the Arts.

Visit the Margaret Lawrence Gallery to see work by some of Melbourne’s leading emerging artists, or visit www.vca-mcm.unimelb.edu.au/events to see what’s on show at the Grant Street Theatre or Federation Hall.

PARKVILLE CAMPUS

The University of Melbourne is an internationally recognised research-intensive university with a tradition of excellence in teaching and learning, research and research training, and community engagement. The Parkville campus is located just north of the CBD. You’re welcome to visit and explore our inspiring campus.

SOUTHBANK CAMPUS

The University of Melbourne is an internationally recognised research-intensive university with a tradition of excellence in teaching and learning, research and research training, and community engagement. The Parkville campus is located just north of the CBD. You’re welcome to visit and explore our inspiring campus.
IT HAPPENED HERE!
(SECRETS+STORIES FROM AROUND THE CAMPUS)

BLAST FROM THE PAST
FOR APPROXIMATELY 400 YEARS THE OLDEST TREE IN THE GARDENS HAS STOOD ON THE COUNTRY OF THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE, TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THIS LAND. MANY OF THE OLDEST TREES IN THE GARDEN PRE-DATE EUROPEAN COLONISATION.

FAMOUS FRUIT
Back in the 1800s, wax models of apples grown in Burnley Gardens and nearby orchards were made in order to showcase the many varieties able to be grown in the colonies. These wax fruits travelled overseas and were used to tout the fantastic growing abilities of the Victorian climate! These incredibly realistic models are now kept by Museum Victoria.

ORCHARD GATES
The former orchard (field station) gates were opened in 2013 as part of the 150th anniversary of the official gardens opening. The ornamental gates were custom made for the gardens and were a gift of the Friends of Burnley Gardens.

AMONG THE ANIMALS
In the early 1900s, agriculture was taught alongside horticulture and there was a dairy herd, bull, horses and poultry on campus. Students learnt how to drive draught horses and plough fields as part of their studies.

A LIVING ROOF
THERE ARE THREE LIVING ROOFS IN BURNEY GARDENS, THE LARGEST OF WHICH IS THE DEMONSTRATION GREEN ROOF ON THE SOUTHERN END OF THE MAIN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. THE ROOF IS MADE UP OF OVER 200 TYPES OF PLANTS, NUMBERING OVER 3000 INDIVIDUAL PLANTS IN TOTAL! 95 PER CENT OF THE PLANTS WERE GROWN ONSITE IN THE NURSERY.

WARTIME GROWING
During the Second World War, the Gardens ran a vegetable growing campaign, and even temporarily produced opium poppies when normal morphine supplies were cut.

FRUIT BOWL OF VICTORIA
The gardens were the birthplace of the fruit industry in Victoria and had 2235 varieties of fruits and vines by 1888.

SUGAR GUM TABLE
The grand Sugar Gum Table was donated by the Friends of Burnley Gardens and is made from the timber of a heritage-listed Sugar Gum. The tree had to be removed from the gardens in 2008 due to persistent limb drop and its wood was returned five years later in the form of the table.

FLOOD OF 1934
The flooding of the Yarra River in 1934 took over the campus for a week. Trees were uprooted leaving big holes behind – even furniture, a cart and a piano were seen floating down the river!

YARRA RIVER PUNT
Before the Swan Street Bridge was constructed, a punt was the only way to cross the river at this spot. The two heritage-listed Elm trees mark the access point of the former crossing.
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Numbers 1 – 22 correspond to the stops on the Burnley Gardens Walk app.

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**FIND THE FLAMINGOES**

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND ALL SIX OF OUR CAMPUS FLAMINGOES ON THE MAP!

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**CONTACT DETAILS**

**VISIT US**
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VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

**CONTACT**

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**FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS**

THE FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY GROUP WHICH RAISES FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE BURNLEY GARDENS.

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