



Botanic Report and Management Plan

Kate Heffernan

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Wilson Botanic Park Berwick

Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Casey acknowledges being on the traditional land of the Bunurong and Wurundjeri People . This report pays respect to all elders past and present.

Wilson Botanic Park Berwick Botanic Report and Management Plan

Prepared at the request of City of Casey

By Kate Heffernan



ABN 845 577 17467

272 Marine Pde KINGSLIFF NSW 2487

0404 853 043

0266 745537

kate.heffernan6@bigpond.com

www.kateheffernan.com.au

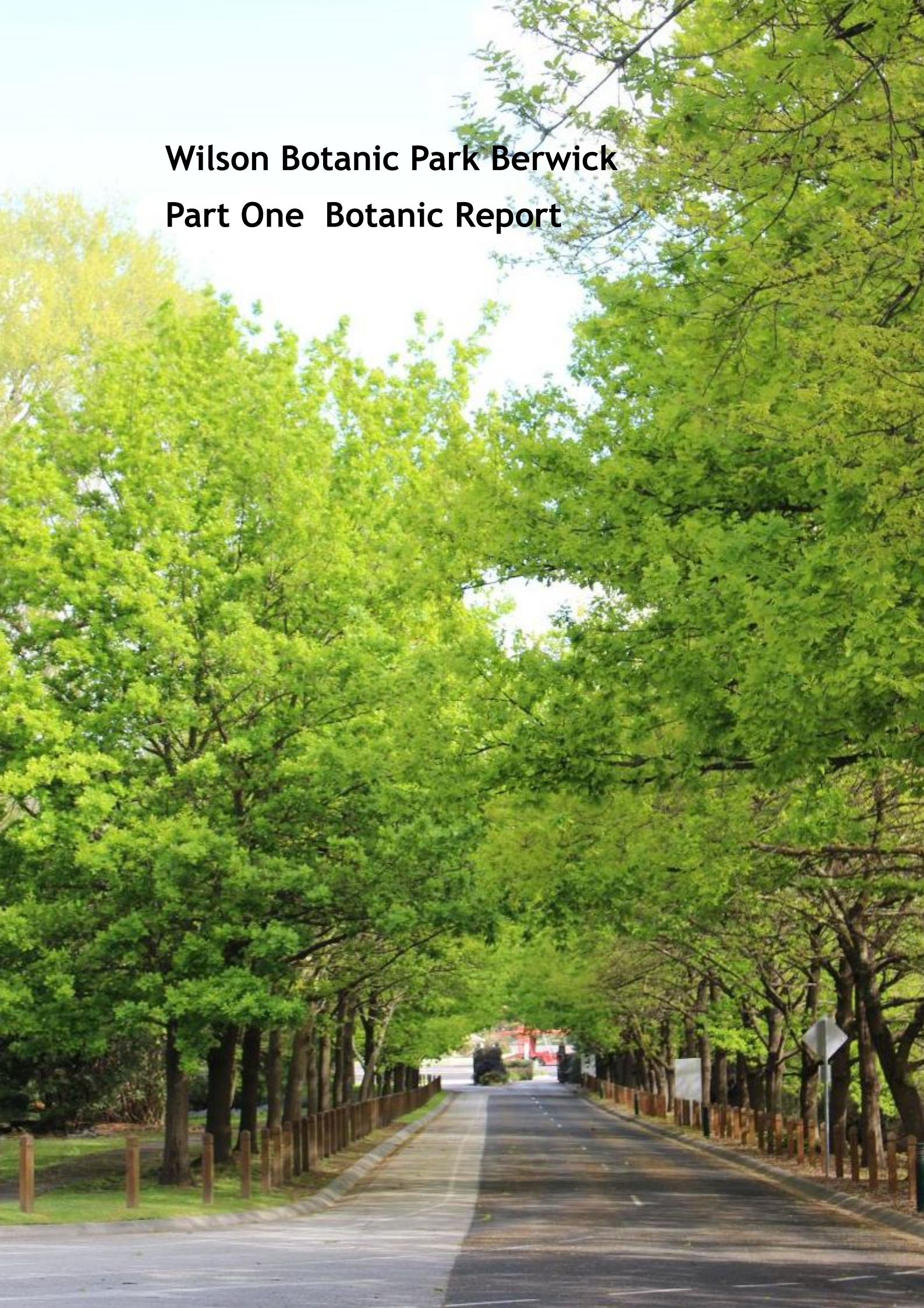
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Photographic Images : With thanks - Fig 4 Laura Ryan ; Fig 9 Elizabeth Gilfillan

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Wilson Botanic Park Berwick
Part One Botanic Report



This Botanic Report and Management Plan was initiated by City of Casey, Trees and Horticulture to assess the existing Plant Collection and develop a potential tool to guide Wilson Botanic Park Berwick through its transformation to a multi functional botanic garden.

Part One - The Botanic Report is critical as a means of determining if Wilson Botanic Park Berwick has existing plant collections which warrant a long term commitment to a high level of maintenance and further development of the Plant Collection.

Part Two - Management Plan Plant Collection Part two will make recommendations for the effective use and management of existing plant features, future change and development consistent with the findings of the Botanic Report.

Part Three - Management Plan Part three will address education, interpretation, community engagement and partnerships.

The following City of Council Officers and Stakeholders are acknowledged for their contribution :

Ray Butler City of Casey Director of Infrastructure Services;
Trevor Griffin Manager Parks & Reserves
Ben Upston Principal Landscape Architect
Clare Hart Team Leader Trees & Horticulture
Lex Niebor Supervisor Wilson Botanic Park Berwick
Ryan Harris Horticulture Technician
Cathy Rees Acting Coordinator; Wilson BP
Terry Jenvey Team Leader Leisure Facilities
Paul Ridgeway Senior Arborist
Steve McInnes Horticulture Apprentice
Jesse Dawkins Horticulture Contractor
John Arnott Manager Horticulture, Royal Botanic Garden Vic (Cranbourne)
Ian Chisholm Australian Plants Society based at WBPB
Clem Thompson Friends of WBPB
Trevor Seppings Horticulture Technician Royal Botanic Gardens Vic (Cranbourne)
Bob O Neil Australian Plant Collector
Rodger Elliot Australian Plant Expert and Author

Alan Donaldson for taking minutes and notes from Stakeholder Meetings and for Images

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PART ONE BOTANIC REPORT

Contents

1.0 PLANT COLLECTIONS

1.1 Purpose

This section outlines the purpose of a Plant Collection in a Botanic Gardens

1.2 Conservation

This section outlines State, Federal and International Plant Protection Status

2.0 BOTANIC COLLECTION ANCESTRAL LINKS

This section describes the link between existing and future Plant Collections and the geological history of the site.

3.0 EXISTING PLANT COLLECTIONS

This section identifies and describes the existing plant collection.

3.1 GYMNOSPERMS - FOSSIL TREES

- FAMILY ARAUCARIACEAE
- FAMILY PODOCARPACEAE

3.2 OTHER GYMNOSPERMS

- FAMILY CUPRESSACEAE
- FAMILY PINACEAE
- FAMILY GINKOACEAE

3.3 CULTURALLY and HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT PLANTINGS OF GYMNOSPERMS

This section lists some specific significant plantings.

3.4 ANGIOSPERMS -

- FAMILY FAGACEAE
- EXOTIC TREES
- AUSTRALIAN TREES
- AUSTRALIAN NATIVE COLLECTION
- ORNAMENTAL PLANT COLLECTION

PART ONE BOTANIC REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The intent of Part One - Botanic Report is to place the existing Plant Collection in context with the objectives and roles of a Botanic Garden.

The Botanic Report identifies Wilson Botanic Park Berwick (WBPB) as part of a national community of Botanic Gardens under local government management. By virtue of its history WBPB is custodian of a unique fossil heritage, as well as a Plant Collection of developing significance. Both components are in context with education and interpretation on Climate Change and the ensuing future changes to flora distribution in Australia, thus providing a rare opportunity for WBPB.

The Berwick - Casey community currently value WBPB as a place of passive recreation and enjoyment. The Park is an aesthetic and nature based asset, currently with limited engagement in what are important and irreplaceable educational and scientific values. The site of WBPB was a gift to the community from the Wilson Family in 1973. The title 'Park', although inconsistent with the overall values of a botanic garden is retained as a condition of the Wilson gift. In 1980 Botanic was added to the title.

The Plant Collection has developed through goodwill and involvement from the community, with donations and actions from individuals as well as organisations and groups. The contribution of Supervisor Lex Nieboer in selecting, arranging and coordinating the plantings for over two decades is acknowledged as central to the current collection, in particular the arboreal collection. Friends of WBPB and external groups including Australian Plants Society have also played a major role.

The current Plant Collection displays -

- Distinctive taxa from Division Gymnosperm linked to ancestral plant groups and indicative of plant migration, and forming part of an important Australian Botanical history.
- A collection of Conifers from a range of FAMILIES including some listed as threatened with the International Union of Plant Conservation. Various trees with cultural importance planted as part of commemorative activities or by distinguished citizens and members of the local community are also included.
- An expanding and already important collection of European, Asian and American *Quercus species*.
- *Eucalyptus*, *Angophora* and *Corymbia species* with individual taxa of varying significance, but as a whole forming part of a potentially useful national collection.
- A collection of Exotic trees of interest for their horticultural, landscape and aesthetic value.
- Various plants including trees and shrubs of general horticultural and landscape interest.
- A collection of Australian Native Plants of ornamental and educational value.
- Ornamental Collections

This Botanic Report would ideally lead to development of a formal Plant Collection Policy, essential to formally define the direction of Wilson Botanic Park Berwick consistent with the values of a Botanic Garden.