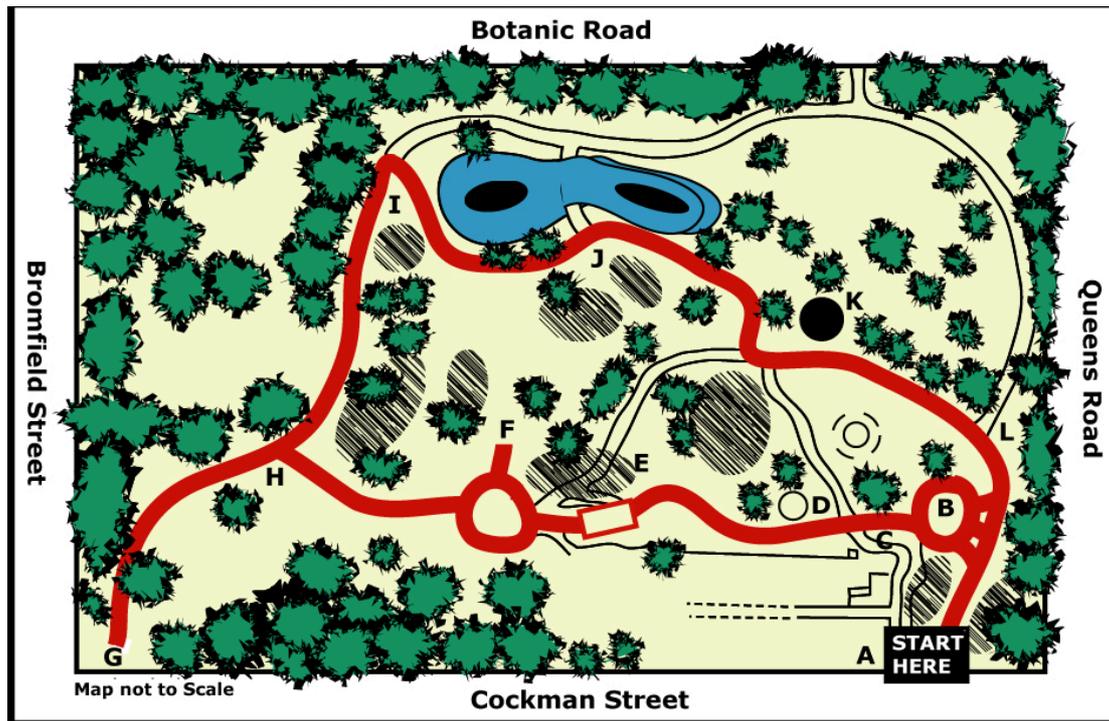


## Warrnambool Garden Walks



### Warrnambool Botanic Gardens

- A. Rockeries welcome the visitor at the entrance gates erected 1936 -1939. Note the grouping of 3 Norfolk Island Pines outside the main entrance designed to give scale and impact.
- B. The fountain precinct is in focus from the entrance – one can linger and enjoy all the senses, the sound of water, the scent of blossoms, the contrasts of rough local stone and smooth fountain basin, the textures of various plants ( fountain restored by friends 1991 ). The 2 small urns here are believed to date from 1906 – 1920 and are missing their upper portions and are yet to be restored.
- C. Going westward along the high path ( narrow paths were designed By the first Curator Charles Scoborio ) a cypress arch frames the view, wide sweeping lawns dotted with palms ( Guilfoyle liked to plant in pairs ). The original Curator's cottage built in 1870 is on the left.
- D. The large garden urn c. 1906 – 1920 at the centre of the parterre is believed to be one of the largest garden urns in Victoria. The rare sundial was presented by Mayor Hickford ( 1895 – 1897 ); it has a slate face and bronze gnomon.
- E. The Fernery was built in 1888, collapsed in 1937 and rebuilt in 1985 as part of the Provincial Botanic Gardens Rejuvenation Program. ( 5km of lattice used ). The Fernery contains palms and ferns, an ongoing project with an Otway Forest theme. The large circular bed outside the fernery is planted with Giant Bamboo used for building purposes in Asia. ( Warrnambool Botanic Gardens has a unique collection of Bamboo species ). This was originally the site of the menagerie.

- F. This area of open space is a favourite with children and families. A ship's cannon originally from the fort at Cannon Hill, c. 1813 overlooks the gardens lake.
- G. The original wooden gates at SW entrance were found at Flagstaff Hill and restored in 1987. Pine and cypress windbreaks are planted here.
- H. The shady pinetum comprises many original plantings of Monterey Pine, Bunya Pine and the Soledad Pine which is listed on the Register of Significant Trees of Victoria. New plantings to replace the old were donated by Flora for Victoria.
- I. The Oak Walk contains many different oak trees – across the lawn you pass the “Royal Oak” and reach the “Lone Pine” a tree which grew from seed brought from Gallipoli and raised locally, listed on the Register of Significant Trees of Victoria.
- J. The lake completed in 1885 has two islands and a fine stone bridge built in 1942 to replace the original rustic bridge. Many ducks and waterbirds make the lake their home.
- K. The Rotunda was built in 1913 during the heyday of music in the gardens. It originally had a speaker's platform and outside staircase and is in the process of restoration. It is still used by bands and teas are served during special events by the Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens.
- L. Gaslights – there are 2 original c.1900 gas – operated lamps, one has been restored. A pair of lights originally stood at the main entrance.

## **Warrnambool Botanic Gardens**

### **"A walk in time"**

Warrnambool was founded in 1847 and within a few years there were plans to establish a Botanic Garden. By the 1860's there were many regional botanic gardens due to the nostalgia for the vegetation and birdlife of Europe and enormous interest in all forms of plant and animal life. Plant collecting became a popular and fashionable pastime.

The first site of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens was a Crown Grant of 10 acres near the mouth of the Hopkins River, however poor soil and strong winds forced its abandonment.

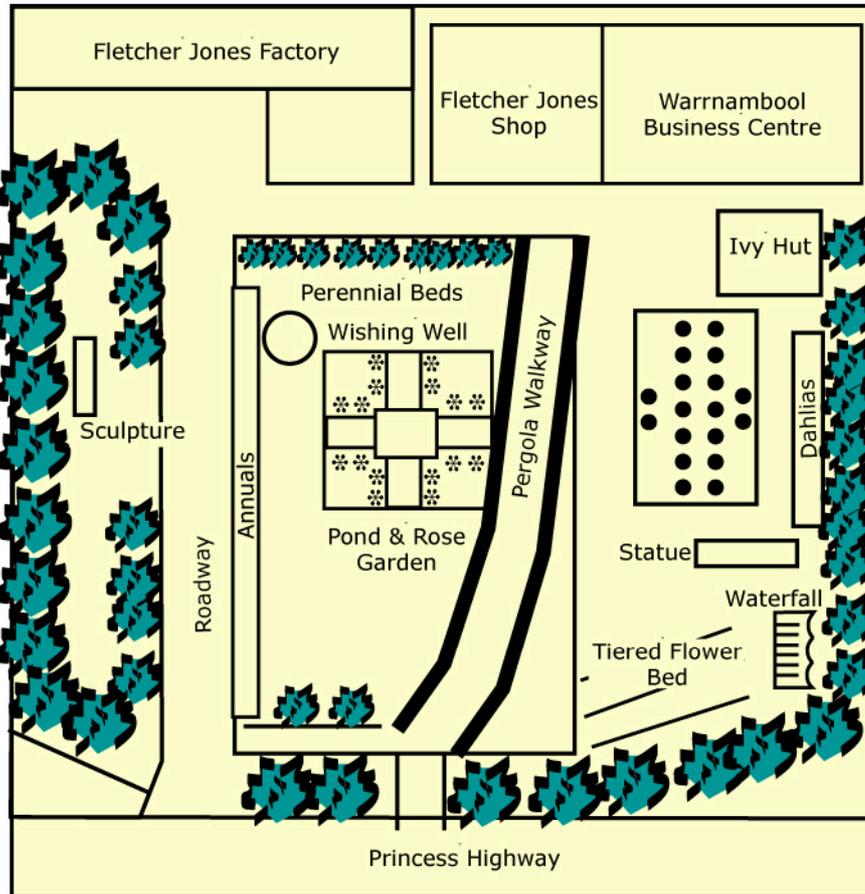
Charles Scoborio as the first curator and Scoborio Reserve today bears his name. The new location of 20 acres was selected in 1866 for its undulating terrain and good soil. At the time it was heavily timbered with dense undergrowth of scrub, ferns and tussocky grass. It was fenced to keep out kangaroos and cattle.

Baron von Mueller, Director of Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne 1857 – 1873 supplied many seeds and plants to country botanic gardens including Warrnambool.

William Guilfoyle who succeeded von Mueller in 1873 was commissioned by Council to design an appropriate layout which today is still shown by wide curving paths, large sweeping lawns dotted with specimen trees, glimpses of water and dense shrubberies with a variety of plants such as palms, yucca and Bamboo.

In 1891 attractions in the gardens included a fountain, fernery, aviaries, a menagerie and a lake with island and a bridge. Warrnambool Botanic Garden is a remarkable garden as its Guilfoyle design element is still intact while many provincial botanic gardens have not survived modern times.

## Fletcher Jones Gardens



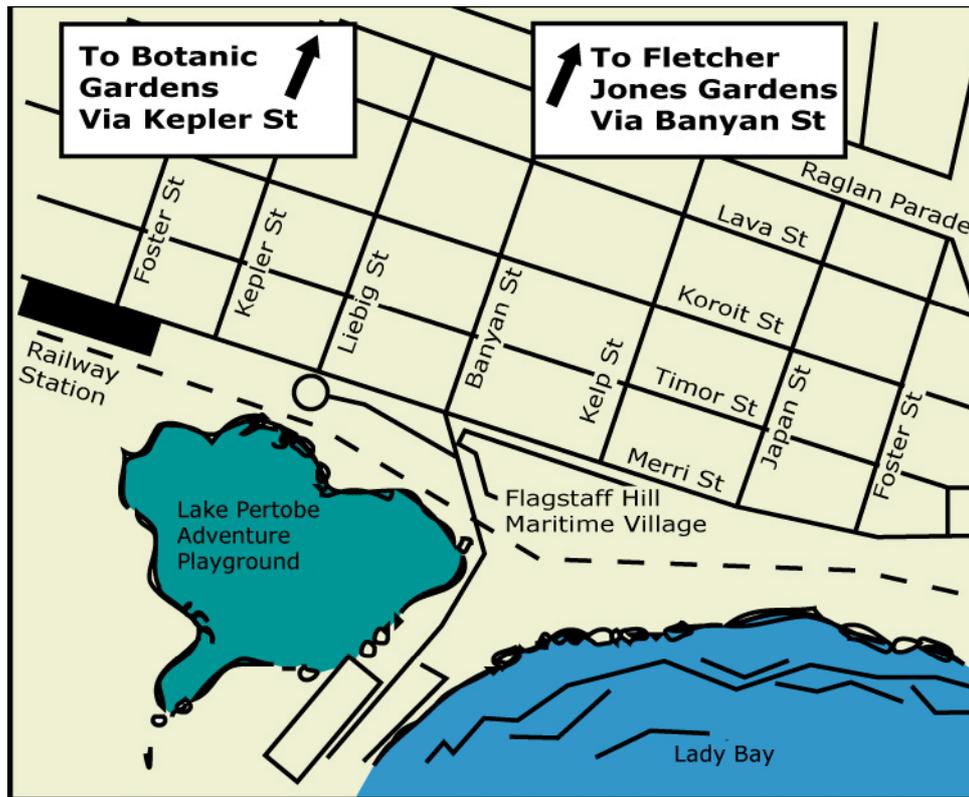
The Fletcher Jones Gardens are approximately half a hectare in size and made up of three sections containing annual and perennial beds. Native and ornamental trees and shrubs as well as 10,000 annuals are planted per year.

Section A. ( facing east ). An open lawn area, containing sculptures surrounded by garden beds featuring Prunus, Pittosporum, Oleanders, Agaves and Cordylines.

Section B. ( middle area ). This is a more formal area containing a sunken rose garden and fish pond, it has 110 hybrid Tea Standard Roses underplanted with seasonal annuals, as well as a wishing well, several annual and perennial beds and native and ornamental trees and shrubs. This section also contains a pergola which leads to the Fletcher Jones Shop and the new Warrnambool Business Centre.

Section C. Contains a rectangular annual bed display surrounded by perennial borders containing catnip and Dianthus. There is a three tier garden bed containing Privet, Photinia, Hydrangeas, Tamarix and many more varieties of plants. Also found in this section: waterfalls, Ivy hut, annual beds and Dahlia display. All three sections are grassed with beautifully manicured lawns.

## Lake Pertobe Adventure Playground



Lake Pertobe was the brainchild of E. (Johnny) Johnson and was well underway when he retired as City Engineer in 1978. As a tribute to his vision and engineering ability demonstrated over a quarter of a century, the adventure playground was named the E. Johnson Reserve in 1979.

The Lake Pertobe Reserve is adjacent to the main beach and camping area and comprises some 35 hectares, of which approximately 25 hectares is open water for the majority of the year. The lake is connected by a small open channel to the Merri River.

Lake Pertobe's lagoons and islands present a rich and varied habitat for birdlife in the heart of Warrnambool.

The natural area of Lake Pertobe with its shallow waters allow wading birds to feed freely. The award winning adventure playground is a favourite with children of all ages. The park features many attractions among them a maze, flying fox, giant slides and paddle boats. The nature lover is rewarded with walking tracks and bird hides. Covered picnic shelters and BBQs make it a favourite family spot with locals and visitors alike.