

Shrub Beds: Weeds have been controlled in all shrub beds. Shrubs in the Heathland bed have been pruned and also some of the hebes around the Gardens. Shrubs in bed L, *Salvia Africana* in bed Y and *Agapanthus* flowers have had flowers removed.

Annuals: These have been weeded and edged & will soon be replaced with a spring display of *Ranunculus*, Tulips, Pansy, Poppy, Snapdragon, Cineraria, Alyssum, Stock, Foxglove & Primula.

Mulching: Horse manure mulch has been put on beds K, J & I.

Tree

Maintenance: Dead fronds have been removed from the bent date palm in lawn k. *Acacia cognata* on bank d had to be removed after the main trunk split.

Rose Bed: The roses have been dead headed and the beds edged & weeded.


Lawns: Fertiliser has been applied.


Foreshore: The mosaic area has been tidied up, the grasses cut and the seats repaired & varnished.



Things of Interest:

Pyrus ussuriensis, commonly known as Manchurian Pear is a medium, size tree which flowers early in spring with white flowers which are pink when in bud. Its foliage is dark green, rounded glossy leaves and the autumn colour can now be seen on our tree in lawn O. The leaves turn to varying autumn tones of plum red, scarlet and gold and remain on the tree well into late autumn. The fruit is inedible, 3cm globose pomes which are greenish yellow. It has a dense, rounded habit which is a pyramid shape when young and the young branches are purplish brown. It belongs to the family Rosaceae. It has been widely misnamed in Australia and all trees in Australia before 1999 were a clone of *Pyrus callergana* which had poor limb attachment & a tendency to split when about 8ms tall. True *Pyrus ussuriensis* have been propagated from a single tree found in Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens, South Australia. The original seeds are of the *oveidea* variety collected by Dr. David Symon on a trip to Manchuria. These trees grow larger. To 12metres, and have better branch attachment, larger foliage and excellent bronze to burgundy autumn colour





Leonotis leonurus is commonly known as Lions Tail, Lions Ear and Wild Dagga belongs to the Lamiaceae (mint) family. The dark green leaves are aromatic when crushed. It has tubular orange flowers in tiered whorls, typical of the mint family, which encircle the square stems. It can presently be found flowering in bed F where a white variety known as Alba is also flowering. This is an excellent plant for attracting wildlife to your gardens. The flower's profuse, copious nectar attracts birds, bees & butterflies. It is also widely used as a traditional medicine to treat fevers, headaches, coughs, dysentery and many other conditions. It is also used as a remedy for snake bite and a charm to keep snakes away.

Eucalyptus steedmanii commonly known as Steedmans Gum & Steedmans Mallet is native to Western Australia where it is listed as declared rare flora under the wildlife conservation act. It is a small erect, smooth barked tree. The bark ranges from grey to red brown to bright coppery colour and often has strips of older bark adhering to the short trunk. You can see the colours in the bark now on bank I along the carriageway opposite bed EE. It is distinctive in that it produces ascending branches from low on its trunk, forming a dense crown. The leaves are olive green and glossy in appearance and crowded with oil veins. It has three flowers on a stem which are usually cream or yellow. Its buds are an elongated diamond shape with a pyramidal cap. It belongs to the family Myrtaceae. This tree's main threat is fire as it kills adult plants, but, regeneration by seed has been observed after fire.

Laurence Towers, Certificated Gardener.

Colac Botanic Gardens
April 2013