



Grand Drive Inner Circle - tree project

FACT SHEET

The Inner Circle project aims to minimise the effects of inevitable tree loss across Centennial Parklands by planting 102 new semi-mature trees inside one of Australia's grandest avenues, Centennial Park's Grand Drive. A mix of native and exotic tree species have been carefully selected to add diversity and will thrive where they are to be planted.

Tree species

Eastern Cotton Wood (Populus deltoides)

- A large tall tree reaching 20 m with a trunk of up to 1.8 m diameter, making it one of the largest North American hardwood trees.
- The bark is silvery-white, smooth or lightly fissured when young, becoming a darker gray and more deeply fissured with age.
- The twigs are stout and grayish-yellow, bearing large triangular leaf scars.
- The leaves are large and triangular in shape. The winter buds are slim and pointed, 1–2 cm long, yellowish brown, and resinous.

Lemon Scented Gum (Corymbia citriodora)

- A tall fast growing tree reaching 25 m with a smooth straight white trunk and an open crown.
- The leaves are narrow and lance shaped emitting a strong citronella aroma which is most noticeable after rain.
- The pale green buds open in winter to reveal creamy white flowers.
- Though the lemon scented gum is found naturally in Northern Queensland from Atherton to Maryborough it can also be grown in wider ranging more temperate areas.

Holm Oak (Quercus ilex)

- A large evergreen oak reaching 20 m. It is native to the Mediterranean region and takes its name from holm, an ancient name for holly.
- The leaf shape varies with the adult leaves being 4–8 cm long and 1–3 cm wide, while those on the lower branches of young trees are often larger, up to 10 cm long, and are toothed or somewhat spiny.
- The bark is dark grey to black and rough on the trunk while the upper and younger branches are a lighter grey and smoother.

Japanese Black Pine (Pinus thunbergii)

- A large tree of up to 30 m with an open irregular structure.
- The bark is gray on young trees, changing to black and plated on larger branches and the trunk and becoming particularly thick on older trunks.
- The stiff dark green needles are in pairs with a white sheath at the base, 7-12 cm long and the female cones are 4-7 cm in length.
- Though native to North Eastern China, Korea and Japan its ornamental popularity has seen it planted widely across temperate zones.

American Elm (Ulmus Americana)

- A large tree reaching up to 30 m. It is tolerant of tough urban environments.
- The leaves are dark green until autumn when they turn a superb yellow before falling, alternate, 7-20cm long with double serrated edges and an oblique base.
- The crown is high and arching with open space beneath.
- Though a native of Eastern North America it can be grown more widely and was used in the avenues of honour at Ballarat and Bacchus marsh here in Australia.

White Fig (Ficus virens)

- A medium sized tree of up to 20 m belonging to a group of trees known as strangler figs, due to the ability of its seeds to germinate on other trees and grow to strangle and eventually kill the host tree.
- The new leaves are particularly noticeable being a shade of reddish pink and very pleasing to the eye. In some cases the width of the crown can grow to exceed the height of the tree.
- The trees habitat ranges from India, Southeast Asia, through Malaysia and into Northern Australia.

Deciduous Fig (Ficus superba var. henneana)

- A large tree reaching 30 m belonging to a group of trees known as strangler figs, due to the ability of its seeds to germinate on other trees and grow to strangle and eventually kill the host tree.
- The bark is grey or reddish brown, rough and scaly with cracks and vertical bumps.
- The base of the tree is buttressed. The leaves grow only on new branchlets and are alternate, 8 to 12 cm long and 2 to 5 cm wide. Oval or elliptically shaped with a short blunt tip and either rounded at the base or heart shaped.
- This variety only occurs in Australia. It is a variety of *Ficus superba* which occurs in China, Japan and parts of South East Asia.

Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum)

- A large tree, reaching 20–40 m tall with a trunk diameter of up to 2–3 m.
- The bark is gray-brown to red-brown, shallowly vertically fissured, with a stringy texture.
- The leaves are borne on deciduous branchlets that are spirally arranged on the stem but twisted at their base so as to lie in two horizontal ranks.
- This tree differs from most other species in the family Cupressaceae as it is deciduous, hence the name 'bald'. It is native to Southeastern USA.

Sickle – Leaved Yellow Wood (Afrocarpus falcatus)

- A medium-sized to large tree, reaching heights of 20 m, though when in its natural habitat it has been known to reach heights of up to 60m and live for hundreds of years.
- Mature trees exhibit a rougher more scaly bark than that of younger trees.
- The leaves which are arranged spirally are lanceolate or falcate (sickle-shaped) with a very sharp point, 2-4 cm long and 2-4 mm wide.
- This species of *Afrocarpus* is native to the montane forests of South Africa.

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