



# Victorian Tree of the Year

## Media Kit

April 2021



# Media Release

## Have your say for the 2021 Victorian Tree of the Year

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) has today announced that voting will officially commence this Sunday 18 April for the 2021 Victorian Tree of the Year.

This year, nine significant trees have been shortlisted for this coveted award, with six of the finalists hailing from metro Melbourne and three from regional Victoria, all providing their local communities with serenity and respite.

Simon Ambrose, CEO of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), said the Victorian Tree of the Year is a fantastic opportunity for us to slow down and appreciate the natural wonders that surround us.

“The Victorian Tree of the Year contest aims to raise awareness of the conservation of the state’s natural heritage and promote the benefits that trees provide to our culture and way of life,” said Mr Ambrose.

“After an incredibly challenging 2020, I’m sure many Victorians can relate to having a renewed sense of appreciation for our gorgeous trees, as for many they were welcome companions on our countless lockdown walks.

“We encourage all Victorians to get behind this competition to recognise the beautiful green leafy members of our community,” Mr Ambrose added.

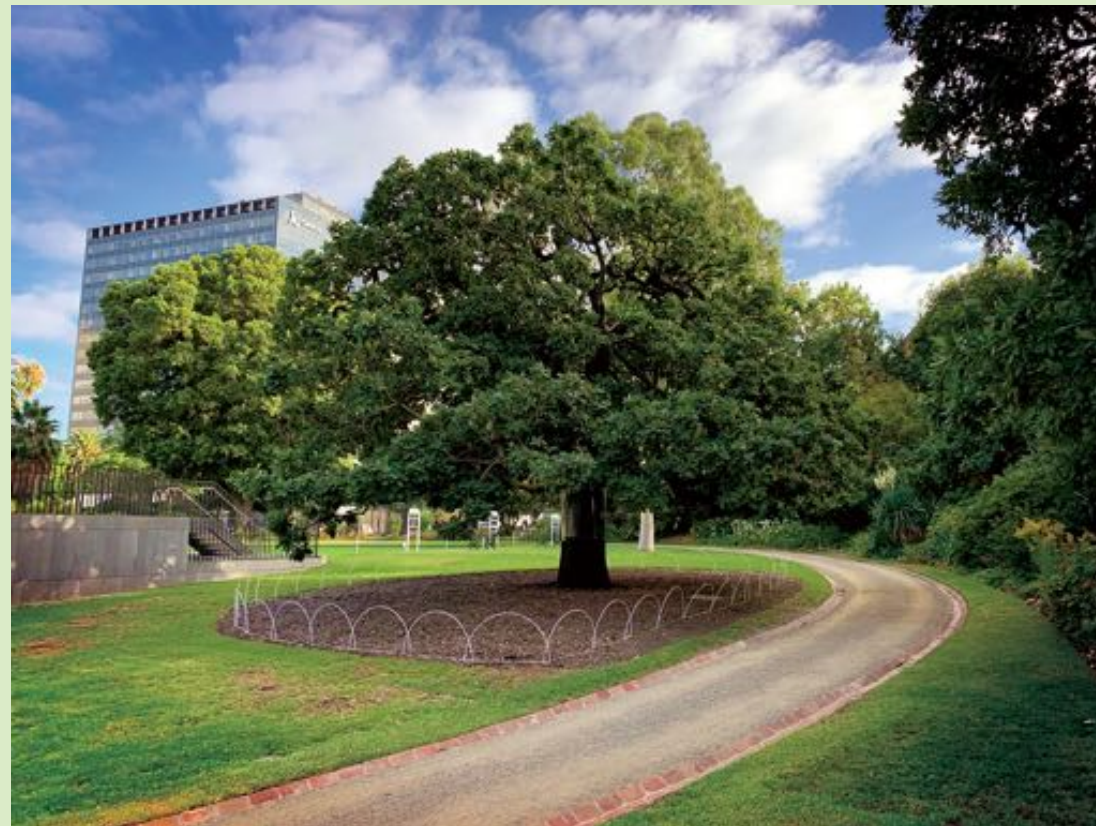
Victorians can view the finalists via the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) website <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/treeoftheyear/> and cast their vote via the [Facebook page](#).

Voting is open until Sunday 2 May 2021 and the winner will be announced shortly after.

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) is the state's leading advocate for the protection of trees. Since 1982, the Trust has classified over 1,400 trees across Victoria on the [National Trust Significant Tree Register](#).



# Finalists



Algerian Oak, Parliament Gardens

The 'Federal Oak' was planted on 27 March 1890 by Sir Henry Parkes to commemorate the 1890 Australasian Federation Conference, held at Parliament House in Melbourne. It is situated in the Parliamentary Gardens, designed in part by William Guilfoyle, landscape architect of the Royal Botanic Gardens. It is a focal point of the formal garden.



Flooded Gum, Carlton North

This Flooded Gum is an exceptional example of the species in an urban area, towering over a quiet intersection in the grounds of a kindergarten. It has an unusual canopy expression and branching for the species, which in a forest setting is typically single-stemmed and straight.



River Red Gum, Alphington Station

This River Red Gum is approximately 200-300 years old and contributes greatly to the urban Alphington station landscape. Thanks to passionate community members, this tree was saved from being removed as part of proposed carpark development in 2013 and holds significant importance for the local community. The area has undergone restoration and there are a number of younger River Red Gums around it, creating a beautiful natural setting around the station.



Port Jackson Fig, RMIT/Old Melbourne Gaol

This Port Jackson Fig has a highly unusual form, straddling the bluestone walls of Old Melbourne Gaol and RMIT. It is the only known example in Melbourne of a fig growing atop a wall with aerial roots anchoring it in place. It is a stunning specimen, greatly contributing to the reflective atmosphere of the shaded Fig Tree Courtyard.



Blush Tulip Oak, Royal Botanic Gardens

A large and striking example of a species uncommonly planted in Victoria. Despite the name, this tree is not an Oak! It is native to the rainforest regions of Queensland and New South Wales, and often used as a decorative timber. This specimen is a focal point upon entering the gates of the Royal Botanic Gardens.



# Finalists



[Moreton Bay Fig, Meerlieu](#)

This Moreton Bay Fig is amongst the oldest cultivated trees in Victoria, and the second largest measured in Victoria. It is a dominant feature of the landscape and a remnant of the courtyard garden surrounding "Roseneath", an 1840s homestead that sat on the hill overlooking Lake Wellington. The tree was likely planted by the Dawson family in the 1850s.



[English Oak, Castlemaine Botanical Gardens](#)

This tree is one of the largest and oldest known English Oaks in Victoria, and the oldest tree in the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens. It was planted in 1863 to celebrate the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales. A landmark within the gardens, this tree shades the BBQ and playground area and is well loved by the community.



[Lemon-scented Gum, Rosanna](#)

This Lemon-scented gum exhibits a very unusual growth form. The species typically has a smooth trunk, but this specimen is deeply wrinkled. The cause of this growth form is not known – it may be a genetic variation, or a plant response to external stimuli during the initial growth phase. You can see why we gave it the nickname “the Shar Pei tree!”



[Ponderosa Pine, Ballarat Botanical Gardens](#)

This Ponderosa Pine is an imposing specimen and the tallest tree in the Ballarat Botanic Gardens. It is located near the 'Statue of Summer'. The species is known for its patterned, sweet smelling bark - on a warm day, a butterscotch or vanilla scent exudes from the cracks between the bark slabs.



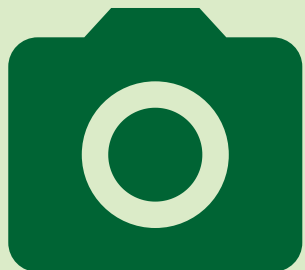
# Assets



[Shortlist](#)



[Voting](#)



[Photos](#)

#VictorianTreeOfTheYear #NationalTrustVic

# Contacts

Ruby Loosli  
Wrights PR

E: [rloosli@wrights.com.au](mailto:rloosli@wrights.com.au)  
M: 0423 506 714



Bulleen Red River Gum, 2019 Victorian Tree of the Year)