



Bunya Pine

Araucaria bidwilli

fact sheet

The Araucariaceae family of trees has been described as both ancient and bizarre. This group is one of the most primitive of the world's trees. There are only three genera, Agathis, Araucaria and the newest addition Wollemia (the Wollemi pine). Australia is the only place with all three genera. Centennial Parklands has the three, as well as a number of species.

Araucarias

Araucarias are mainly used as large ornamental trees or as specimens in avenue planting. There are four species to be found in the Parklands, the Bunya pine, Cook pine, Hoop pine and Norfolk Island pine. As with other members of this family, Araucarias spp. are evergreen conifers.

Bunya pine

This pine is an outstanding ornamental tree. It is used in many parts of the world as a specimen tree in large gardens and parks. It is native to the coastal regions of Queensland. The tree has a broad uniformly pyramidal habit, which can grow to 50m in favourable climates. In the Parklands it is more likely to grow between 25 to 30m. The rich glossy green, prickly foliage is held in large bunches at the end of the branches. The fruit is a very large cone weighing up to 4.5g

In the Parklands

There is one semi-mature Bunya pine in Centennial Park. It is located north of Busbys Pond and the horse track. This tree was planted in the late 1940's or early 1950's and it is yet to set seed. Several young Bunya pines have been planted as part of the Tree Replacement Program over the last five years, including three in the Native Pine Grove.

Features

The large fruit is the most outstanding feature of the tree. You will have wait for some time yet till the oldest tree produces cones. In the meantime, stand back and enjoy the shape of this unusual tree, with glossy green, prickly foliage. The new growth in spring is bright green.

