

## The Last Dragon

*Perhaps you would like to sit on the steps under our Dragon's Blood Tree and hear the story of the last, lost dragon?*



Dragons used to roam the Canary Islands.

One-by-one they disappeared until there was only one left.

The last dragon couldn't find any of her friends.

Imagine how she felt – sad, scared, abandoned, angry, confused?

She climbed into a tree and cried.

The tree felt sorry for the lonely dragon and wrapped itself around her like a big hug.

Dragonflies flew out of the many tiny holes in the trunk and flew off.

They flew all around the world looking for other dragons.

They still haven't found one but they visit the last dragon, keeping her up-to-date with what's happening in the world.

When the trunk of the Dragon Tree is cut, red sap oozes out like drops of blood, Dragon tears.

Before modern varnishes were mass-produced in factories, people used this red sap to varnish furniture and violins.

It was considered extremely valuable and pirates would raid ships carrying 'dragon's blood'.

Some pirates even found the island sources and stole many trees.

The tree at Geelong Botanic Gardens is around 150 years old.

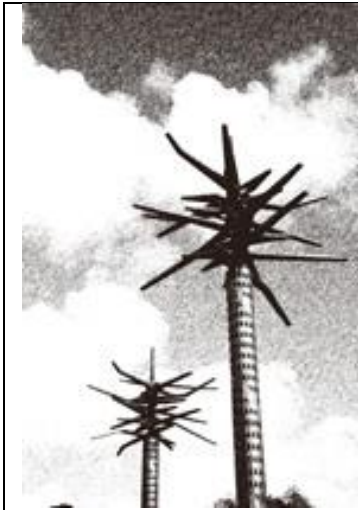
It was moved to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Garden because it fits the same low water needs profile of the other plants in this area.

It is top heavy with branches which split in two every time it flowers so you can work out how many times this tree has flowered by counting the forks in the branches.

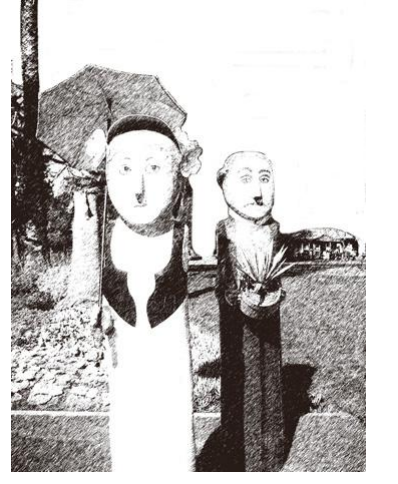
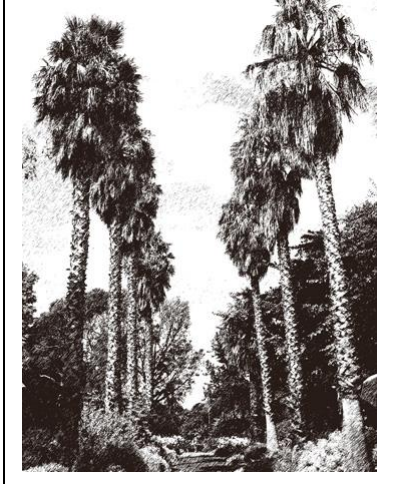
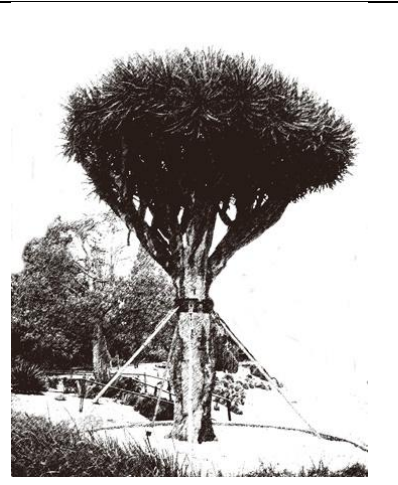
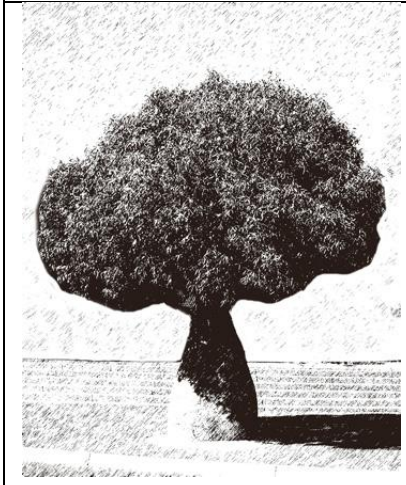
Because it is top heavy it needed supporting while its root system re-established after transplanting and it will stay supported into the foreseeable future.

This Discovery Trail was developed by the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens. If you would like to find out more about our activities, please visit our website [www.friendsgbg.org.au](http://www.friendsgbg.org.au) or find us on Facebook

# GEE LONG BOTANIC GARDEN DISCOVERY TRAIL



Can you find these things in the Geelong Botanic Gardens?  
Can you count them?  
One picture is missing from our garden- to find out why, read the story on the back of this page



*GEE LONG BOTANIC GARDEN DISCOVERY TRAIL*