

## Brief Timeline of UCSC Arboretum History<sup>1</sup>

Summer 1965: Chancellor Dean McHenry receives gift of eighty species of *Eucalyptus* which are planted across from the intersection of Western Drive with Empire Grade.

June 12, 1967: Campus Planning Committee approves extending the *Eucalyptus* plantation westward to include the Old Reservoir.

August 1967: Chancellor Dean McHenry establishes Arboretum and Plantations Committee. It develops the first Arboretum collections.

1967: Earliest conifers are planted parallel to Empire Grade. Some of the original deodar cedars donated by Robert Burton are still visible near the Barn at the main campus entrance.

1968-69: Ray Collett and the McHenrys pool seed packets of protea that they received as members of Kirstenbosch Gardens of South Africa. Collett learns to germinate the seeds and raise the seedlings and the Arboretum's collection of Proteaceae begins. By 1978, Walter Middlemann, leading grower of Proteaceae in South Africa, would call the UCSC Arboretum's collection "the most extensive collection he had seen outside of South Africa."

Early 1970s: Collett and Dick Hildreth, Director of the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation, import plants from Rodger and Gwen Elliot of Melbourne, Australia.

1972: Ray Collett begins publishing a monthly newsletter entitled *Notes from the UCSC Arboretum*.

1974-75: Arboretum acquires its first budget.

September 1974-June 1975: Todd and Virginia Keeler-Wolf, graduates of UCSC in Environmental Studies (Natural History), with guidance from Ray Collett, collect and ship primitive angiosperms and South Pacific conifers to the Arboretum. These specimens flourish, forming the core of the New Zealand garden. They also provided plants from Australia and New Caledonia for those collections.

1975: construction of lath house, small office shed, and three geodesic domes, and a bathroom in the concrete structure that was formerly a chlorinator plant.

1975: Brett Hall begins working at the Arboretum as a student.

1976-77: Grevilleas are planted on "Old Grevillea Hill."

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<sup>1</sup> This timeline draws from the timeline available authored by Mike Clark and available on the Arboretum's website at [http://www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum/hist\\_exhibit/](http://www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum/hist_exhibit/)

November 20, 1976: First meeting of the Arboretum Associates. The Associates began with 113 charter members. Income for that year was \$1050.00

February 1977: Collett makes first of many trips to Australia to collect plants.

June 1977: Vice Chancellor Hal Hyde becomes first president of Arboretum Associates. In his acceptance speech Hyde called the Arboretum a "library of plants" and advocated that the university utilize the Arboretum's collections more fully in its teaching and research.

June 1977: Arboretum opens to public for the first time on a regular schedule, Sundays and Wednesday afternoons from two to four o'clock.

July 1977: Elvenia J. Slosson gives the first Slosson Foundation Grant. Collection is named the Slosson Gardens. The Slosson Foundation continues to support the research gardens today.

October 1977: Arboretum holds its first plant sale (managed by Phyllis Norris) and approves the first lecture series.

December 1977: Phyllis Norris becomes Chief Docent of the Arboretum.

1978: A redwood and glass docents' kiosk is constructed on top of the old dam.

1978: Under the direction of docent Jean Beevers, Arboretum Associates begin to pick, dry, and prepare protea blooms for sale to local florists.

1978: In cooperation with local native plant enthusiasts, a "Natives Come First" display is established near the entrance to promote interest in native flora.

June 1978: Eminent biologist Peter Raven, then director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, visits the UCSC Arboretum and is inspired to write "Impressions of the Arboretum" in the *Bulletin*: "It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that Ray Collett and the enthusiastic group of students and workers with which he has surrounded himself have assembled what may well be the finest collection of Australian plants in a botanical garden anywhere—including Australia."

1979: *Erica* gardens begin.

1979: Specimens from Santa Cruz Island, the Central and South Coast Ranges, North Coast and Klamath Ranges are collected.

1980: Arboretum creates the first computer database of its 4000-plus plants.

1980s: Collett conducts hybridization in *Correa*, *Leptospermum*, and *Alyogyne*. Many choice selections emerge and the introduction of prized cultivars becomes an Arboretum practice.

1981: Ed Landels makes first of many gifts for the New Zealand garden. In 1984 the collection is officially named the Edward D. Landels New Zealand Garden.

1980: An award from Institute of Museum Services for conservation of endangered flora of New Caledonia enables more collection from South Pacific.

1982: The "Geriatric Construction Corps" including Chancellor Emeritus Dean McHenry, build the docent reception center (kiosk) near the Arboretum parking lot. This provides shelter and display area for exhibits (and docents in the rain), items for sale and information about the collections.

1982: Thomas Wittman, a UCSC Environmental Studies major, writes a successful proposal to the UC Appropriate Technology (UCAT) Program for four solar greenhouses for the Arboretum; UCSC students do the construction for this project.

1984: Arboretum Associates has 650 members and income from dues and plant sales is nearly \$35,000 a year.

1984-86: "The Banksia Field" extends the collection to the eastern boundary of the Arboretum.

1985: The succulent collection is established based on early donations from Naomi Bloss, Victor Reiter Jr., Jim Daniel, Jack Napton, and Stephen McCabe. It has grown to become one of the largest collections in term of numbers of individual plants and numbers of different accessions.

1985: Helen Englesberg starts as a student worker in the nursery and is hired four years later as permanent staff.

1985: Institute of Museum Sciences funds the development of Entrance Native Garden. Arboretum staff continue to collect and cultivate specimens.

1986-89: Rare Fruit Collection is initiated by the Monterey Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers.

1986: By this year the Arboretum had received favorable publicity in many venues including the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Jose Mercury News*, the *Monterey Peninsula Herald*, *Pacific Horticulture*, *Sunset Magazine*, *Voyager*, *Monterey Life*, *American Nurseryman*, *Veld & Flora*, the *Encyclopedia of Australian Plants*, the *Auckland New Zealand Herald*, the *Dunedin Otago Daily Times*, and the *Wellington Evening Post*.

1986: The Arboretum had introduced over 300 cultivars to the public and the nursery trade.

1988: Arboretum and the UCSC Campus Natural Reserve begin to collaborate on managing the Lower Moore Creek section of the Reserve. This is the largest parcel in what is now called the California Province Gardens.

1989: First overseas horticultural/botanical tour to Australia.

1989: Completion of Horticulture I building.

1989: The Arboretum now has the largest collection of *Dudleya* in the world.

November 1990: South African area is named the Dean and Jane McHenry Garden, consisting of *Protea*, *Leucadendron*, *Leucospermum*, and *Erica* species.

1990-98: USDA issues special permit to the Arboretum to import from Australia members of the Citrus Family, *Rutaceae* (*Correa*, *Boronia*, *Crowea*, *Flindersia*, *Zieria*, etc.).

1993: A small grant helps enhance the special Native Bulb Collection, which include *Calochortus*, *Triteleia*, and *Fritillaria*, among others.

1994: Completion of Horticulture II building.

1994: Opening of Norrie's Gift Shop.

1994: Budget crisis forces Arboretum out of Natural Sciences Division. State funding cut; Arboretum becomes part of Chancellor's office. University plans to phase out support over the next five years.

1994 Dedication of the Jean and Bill Lane Library.

1997 David Packard Foundation provides a three-year grant to help Arboretum weather loss of state funding.

1997 Ray Collett resigns as director. Ron Enomoto appointed interim director.

1999: The Arboretum credited with being the only place that cultivates one of the oldest flowering plants in the world. DNA analysis places one of the New Caledonia endemics, *Amborella trichopoda*, at the base of the evolutionary tree of angiosperms--a direct descendant of the forerunner to all angiosperms.

2000: *Restio* Family is added and the collection takes on the natural look of a "fynbos" landscape.

October 2001: Daniel Harder becomes director.

2003: Tad Sterling is hired as Arboretum's first development director. Arboretum has annual budget of \$800,000.00 and derives over eighty percent of its support from memberships, gifts, sales, grants, and endowments.

2003: Brett Hall and Dan Harder do five weeks of fieldwork in Vietnam with a grant from the National Geographic Society.

2004: Arboretum has introduced 500 plants to California gardens. Koala Blooms plant introduction program introduces Australian plants to partner nurseries with royalties going to supporting the program and Arboretum operations.

2005: Arboretum receives Organizational Effectiveness Planning grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to help with its master planning process.

2006: The American Public Gardens Association has its annual conference in San Francisco. Arboretum Director Dan Harder is co-chair for the meeting and the programming includes a field trip to the UCSC Arboretum.

2006: Arboretum Associates grows to 1000 members.

2007: Conifer Collection contains representatives of all but four of the world's known genera of conifers. Some are extremely rare, such as the *Dacrydium guillaumanii*, and some interesting genera such as *Araucaria* and *Phyllocladus*.

2007: A new survey determines that the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum's collection of *Eucalyptus* trees and shrubs is the most diverse anywhere outside of Australia. The finding is the result of an inventory conducted by Matt Ritter, a visiting scholar at the Arboretum.