

THE LONE PINE - Seedlings available. 2021

The Battle of Lone Pine was named for a solitary Turkish red pine (*Pinus brutia*), native to the area, which was destroyed during the battle on the Gallipoli Peninsular in 1915

The Land line program shown on the ABC on ANZAC Day 2021 has prompted a lot of interest in the Lone Pine in Warrnambool Botanic Gardens. This tree is a Turkish red pine, one of four grown from seed from a cone brought back from Gallipoli by Sergeant Keith McDowell of the 23rd Battalion AIF. It was planted in the Gardens in 1934. It is on the register of significant trees. The other three seedlings were planted at Wattle Park, Melbourne (1933), the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne (1933) and the Sisters Memorial Hall near Terang (1933). Of these three only the tree at Wattle Park remains.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the battle, Legacy arranged for 150 seedlings grown from the tree at the Shrine to be distributed to schools and the RSL. They did the same in 1989 when about 1000 seedlings were distributed.

Another pine cone was collected by Lance Corporal Smith from NSW. This was from an Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*). While this is not native to Gallipoli it is common around the Mediterranean and probably came in with branches used to cover the trenches. Two seeds were raised from this cone, one being planted at Inverell and the other at the war memorial in Canberra. Many progeny of the Canberra tree have been propagated and sold through the Yarralumla Nursery. Aleppo Pines can be quite invasive and have been declared a noxious weed in parts of South Australia. In other places they are a revered memorial.

The Lone Pine (*Pinus brutia*) on the other hand is difficult to propagate, but Lou Hollis, a member of the Friends of WBG has successfully grown quite a number. They are now ready for planting. Lou does not charge for them, but suggests a donation to the Friends. She can be contacted at micklou666@gmail.com or 0408 527 670.

More information is available on the Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens website www.wbgardens.com.au and 'Stand up the real ANZAC Pine of Gallipoli', Mike Wilcox and David Spencer, New Zealand Journal of Forestry. May 2007.
Pat Varley 2021