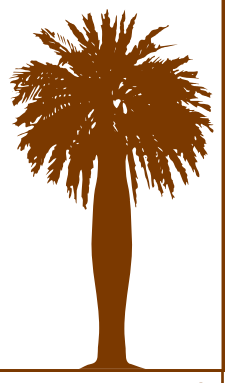


# Jubaea



Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc Newsletter

Volume 11 Issue 1 Jan/Feb/March 2011

FRIENDS OF  
GEELONG  
BOTANIC  
GARDENS

*Community Connections*



*Eastern Park 1934  
Image Charles Pratt,  
State Library of Victoria*

## A Grand Vision...

### *Planning and planting City parkland for beyond the 21st Century*

The value of public open space to the community increases in proportion to the loss of private open space. Most modern urban developments increase housing density which often means the significant reduction or elimination of the traditional garden in favor for hardscaped 'outdoor entertaining areas'. As a thriving regional city, Geelong faces this challenge through the development of its significant public landscapes. One only needs to reflect on the vibrancy of the Geelong Waterfront to understand how a landscape can provide a fabulous setting for community activity.

The Eastern Park and Geelong Botanic Gardens Strategic Plan, 2008, articulates a strong vision for the future. Its 32 key actions guide the development of the Park over the next 50 years- with a focus on protecting heritage values while enhancing the Park. The implementation of the plan will see the Park continue to increase in value as a special place for the community.

The City of Greater Geelong has implemented a number of actions within the plan. The Grey Headed Flying Fox colony has been improved through new plantings, interpretation and management of parking beneath the roost trees. This action secures the future of the roost and reduces the potential for the Flying Fox to choose the Botanic Gardens as an alternate roost site.

A new shared pathway has been built in the northern part of the park adjacent to the Geoglyph. This pathway is being successfully used for cycling and triathlon events which are an ever popular recreational use of the Park. The development of a circuit in this part of the park improves our ability to keep vehicular access to the Botanic Gardens open during minor events.

The Botanic Garden is the vital heart of Eastern Park. In recognition of this a critical element of the plan is the integration of the Botanic Garden with the Park proper. A concept has recently been developed for a Visitor Precinct which effectively combines a range of facilities. The Visitor Precinct will be the first 'port of call' for visitors to the Park from which they can step out to enjoy all the Park has to offer. It's proximity to the end of the waterfront will extend the opportunities for visitors to explore the fabulous north facing bay to its full extent.



The Visitor Precinct will link the Botanic Gardens, Playspace and Park recreational facilities. Most importantly the Visitor Precinct will showcase the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Facilities will encourage our visitors to stay and learn about the fabulous world of plants and explore the Park further. Components of the Precinct include an Education Centre, Café, Toilets, Visitor Orientation and Front of House for the Botanic Gardens. The concept is the first step towards a long term plan. We are seeking funding to undertake a feasibility study in the coming financial year. If successful this study will examine the viability of the concept and identify its potential to become a reality.

Federal funding to reinstate the wetland in Eastern Park has been secured by the City of Greater Geelong. This project will harvest storm water from the drainage system from East Geelong that runs through Eastern Park. It is a multiple year project in its early stages. Water harvested in the future will reduce the reliance on potable water and purchase of recycled water. It will secure a much needed water source for the establishment of trees within Eastern Park and if sufficient volume allows support other water uses in the Park.

The most exciting thing we have achieved during 2010 is the development of the Eastern Park and Geelong Botanic Gardens Tree Planting Plan. This Plan guides the replanting of Eastern Park to reflect the original vision of the site to be a Botanic Garden. It provides the Botanic Gardens with a unique opportunity to develop a landscape which on the surface supports the many recreational pursuits of the community. And for those of us in the know it is an Arboretum which houses an important plant collection and an opportunity to trial trees for changing climates. These trials will influence tree selection for planting in the Geelong region and beyond long into the future.

The Eastern Park and Geelong Botanic Gardens Strategic Plan, 2008, is delivering some exciting projects this decade. These positive changes secure the future of the Park for the community long into the Future.

## **Introducing the Eastern Park and Geelong Botanic Gardens Tree Planting Plan**

Created in an era of exploration and discovery and during the establishment of a new city, the landscape of Eastern Park represents civic pride and a grand vision. Reflecting a time when the introduction of new plants into previously uncultivated landscapes was a very exciting prospect, the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park now houses important Botanic collections.

The Botanic Garden Curators introduced plants which now form the basis for this historic landscape. Botanic collections, avenues, the Pinetum and specimen trees created a strong sense of place which has slowly been

dissipating due to the loss of trees. The rejuvenation of the treed landscape through the delivery of this planting plan for Eastern Park is critical to securing the future of the Park as a leading horticultural and botanical landscape.

The planting plan articulates a vision for Eastern Park and the Geelong Botanic Gardens which values heritage landscapes and the development of botanic collections in equal measure.

## **Heritage Context**

The importance of Eastern Park & the Geelong Botanic Gardens is confirmed by its inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Register. Recognition of the value of the historic landscape and its botanical collection is very high. Avenues which defined the layout of historic paths and carriageways, tree circle plantings, the Pinetum and individual tree specimens are listed as significant.

The park is populated with a variety of trees which have established in difficult growing conditions and now underpin the landscape value. A number of trees are included on the Register of Significant Trees and need to be conserved or perpetuated. There are trees which have been used repeatedly as avenues or individual plantings and could be termed the 'signature plants' of the Park: *Pinus canariensis* Canary Island Pine, *Pinus radiata* Monterey Pine, *Eucalyptus claddocalyx* Sugar Gum and *Cupressus macrocarpa* Monterey Cypress. The avenues define the landscape character of the park and so these signature trees are important to perpetuate in the landscape.

The loss of trees has diluted the landscape feel or 'sense of place' in Eastern Park - eroding the Parks strong aesthetic and heritage values. In a large scale park where the trees form the backbone of the landscape the threat to the Parks future is high.

## **Botanic Context**

In 1851 the original intent for the land now occupied by Eastern Park was Botanical Gardens. This intent saw the initial development of the acclimatisation nursery which now forms the core of the Botanic Gardens. The intent was also realised through plantings in the wider parkland, particularly in the Pinetum. The Pinetum now houses an important collection of dry climate conifers and has value as a botanic collection. Scattered throughout the park are other trees which have value for their rarity or as specimens worthy of inclusion on the Significant Tree Register.

The impacts of drought and climate change and the associated challenges of establishing new plantings requires the application of contemporary thinking to an historic landscape. Successfully overcoming challenges facing our heritage landscapes from climate change rest on plant selection for the future. Plants suitable for dryer climates will become more important and can be supported by enhancing the existing collection with suitable species and cultivars which fit the Pinetum collection themes.



# Building Bridges to our Future

..... a window into the Education program at the GBG



*Preps, Grade 1s and Grade 2s enjoy a post-program snack on the Tea House Lawn*

The FGBG Education Program connects the community with the GBG through programs for pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, and tertiary/adult educational organisations. 1150 students participated in 2010. Many others visited the GBG for self-directed sessions.

The "Fairies and Dragons" program introduces pre-schoolers to the Gardens through their imagination, using stories, music and sensory activities.

The "Garden Wonders Program" offers primary schoolers the concept of living and non-living things, plant uses and plant life-cycles. Using all their senses, the children better understand growth of a plant from seed to established plant. They learn how to pot-up seedlings and how to care for them. "Treasure bags" of nature's wonders are taken home to share.

Secondary students gain a first-hand look at plant classification in action and can compare plants, their adaptations to various environmental conditions and seasonal variations. The Gardens also provide a seemingly endless resource for students of art and photography.

Tertiary/adult students broaden their understanding of botanic gardens and the growing requirements of plants from around the world, applying their knowledge to various professions such as horticulture and landscape design, or, in the case of migrant visitors, improving their grasp of English. Agencies for people with disabilities bring their clients to the GBG regularly to connect with nature.

Programs usually run for 1 ½ hours and are delivered by qualified sessional teachers, the GBG is an oasis for learning as well as for pleasure. We often receive letters and drawings from program participants.

Our connection with the community can be summed up in the following letters:

*"Thank you for showing us around the Botanic Gardens. I had a lot of fun listening to you talk about the trees and flowers. I learnt a lot of things that I didn't know of."*

*"I loved potting the plant and I will water it every day. I will come back soon and I also loved all those flowers how they were coloured."*

*"My favourite tree was the gum tree. I think it helped Mrs Raidme with her cold."*

*"I have had a great day. You are a great garden talker I learnt a lot of new things like the dragon blood tree.....I loved listening to you – it was very fun."*

*"You are one of the best garden talkers. I don't think I could talk as well as you..... I had the time of my life at the Botanic Gardens!!!"*

*(Grade 2 students from Anglesea Primary School)*

*"We wish to sincerely thank you for the most outstanding and informative time today. Thank you for supporting our garden with your knowledge and answering our questions. Your patience, visual aids and the manner in which you spoke to our young students was most appreciated."*

*(First Years Teacher, Kardinia International College)*

**Ro Noone**  
**Education Officer, December 2010**

## The Australian Plant Society

The Geelong group of the Australian Plant Society is a vigorous group of people committed to growing native plants. We meet at 8.00 PM on the third Tuesday of the month from February to November in the Friends' meeting room of the Geelong Botanic Gardens. The February meeting is often a barbeque in one of the local parks or gardens. Our group is a very social one and as well as our monthly meetings we have a number of less formal activities, including a pre-meeting get together at one of the local restaurants. We also run a number of outings during the year, either locally or further a-field. Members are able to attend quarterly weekend meetings hosted by various other regional groups. These normally follow a theme chosen by the host, but may be around a particular genus. In 2009 Geelong hosted the national biennial meeting of Australian plant groups.

Our meetings begin with a speaker, most of which are local, but we take advantage of speakers from outside Geelong to broaden our horizons. We have a plant table, where members bring specimens from their gardens, to brag a little and show others what is in flower. This is an excellent vehicle for dissemination of information on plants and their growing needs. We have a raffle and members bring along their plants to sell.

Our membership is drawn from a broad range of professions, backgrounds and nationalities. Their reasons for joining differ too. Some members are plants men or women, who propagate hard to grow plants, which baffle the rest of us. Some contribute to publications or write monographs, whilst others started coming with friends and got the bug. Others come because they like gardening and looking at plants. This diversity is reflected in the breadth of interests too. We have members who are bushwalkers, field naturalists, Landcare or CFA members, who belong to local catchment groups or who volunteer their botanical knowledge to help with other community organisations.

We actively promote native plants in the community and to this effect we run an annual plant sale. In 2011 the dates will be April 9 and 10 at 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks. We do not sell plants ourselves but invite growers from Victoria and interstate to bring along plant material. Buyers can speak directly to growers. The stock varies in size and cost, but includes lots of tube stock. We also have book sales, floral displays and arrangements showcasing native flora. We support the Barwon Water sustainability expos in March. At both the plant sales and expos we are able to show the public some of our spectacular and versatile plants. During the drought we had an extremely keen audience.

**Contacts: President Harry Webb**  
**harry.webb@bigpond.com**  
**Secretary Denise Cromer (5245 8979)**

## Hydroponic Gardening - a way to the future.

Gardening hydroponically is a great way to enhance and utilise many things in your life; you not only benefit from the advantages but also contribute to the environment as well.

Our aims and objectives at the Geelong Hydroponic Gardening Inc., are to share information and learn with like minded people.

*The education process includes many aspects some of which are:*

- Showing it is not restrictive to any person regardless of age or physical abilities
- Prevent misinformation from creating false concepts of this incredible form of gardening
- Show how the advantages of no digging, & ability to grow within a very minimal space
- No weeding
- Utilise and recycle household goods to cut costs, yet reap benefits
- Water conservation
- No Chemicals used
- Promote self sufficiency

Hydroponics is about growing plants without soil. Drive around and you'll see plants growing in roof gutters. People don't stop to think; how is that plant surviving; or even realise it is a form of hydroponics - we don't fill our roof gutters with soil do we! So long as the plant has some form of anchorage – usually in the form of an inert media the plant will grow. Then it is just a matter of feeding the plant with the required nutrients.

People are often poorly informed and think we use chemicals in hydroponics. What they don't understand is, like us a plant is a living thing. Plants get their nutrition from essential minerals to sustain and grow. These minerals are mixed in with the water fed to the plants which is known as the nutrient solution.

Hydroponic gardens have been set up in units at each of the Antarctic Stations of Mawson, Casey, Davis and Macquarie Islands to supplement supplies and provide fresh nutritious food for the teams down there. Therefore showing if hydroponics can be grown in such adverse conditions, really anyone can grow hydroponically.

Our meetings are held at the Geelong Botanic Gardens Meeting rooms at 9.30am on the 2nd Sunday of the month. The Geelong Hydroponic Gardening Inc. has a library with books and DVDs which are available for use to members. We have farm visits to various commercial outlets to show our members different techniques and diversify the gardening interests.

We also provide informational talks on hydroponics to any interested groups for a small fee.

**Any person interested in coming along to one of our meetings as a guest, or interested in joining the GHG Inc. can obtain more information by phoning: 5250 3952 or Emailing: shazfenn@bigpond.net.au or lauriehydro@hotmail.com**  
**www.geelonghydroponicgardening.com**

## Clean up Australia Day

**SUNDAY 6th March**

Come to Eastern Park and join the team. Clean Up Australia is an annual event that offers an opportunity to mix pleasure with work. Celebrate the International Year of Forests, walk through Eastern Park's magnificent arboretum, wonder at the boughs of century old pines and offer your time to help clean our parkland.

Register attendance with the Friends - friendsgbg@sunset.com.au

## *The Geelong Herb Society Inc.*

Reg No. A0011262E

### About Us

The Geelong Herb Society, founded in 1983, meets regularly in a friendly social environment, to promote an interest in the cultivation, propagation and use of herbs. Many members have specialised knowledge which they are glad to share.

### Why Join The Geelong Herb Society

Membership is about fellowship, about sharing information, about finding out what others grow and how they are going about it, about meeting other people with similar interests, about the opportunity to ask questions and learn from others. Find out who grows herbs successfully with the same or similar climatic conditions to those experienced in your garden, plants that survive in times of low rainfall and others that need to be nurtured. Plants that need to be protected from frost and plants that winter underground. What ever your interest area, you will find a member who will be delighted to help you. It may be where to purchase unusual herb plants or seeds or learning how other members successfully use their herbs, how they dry them, how they use them medicinally and how they cook with herbs.

### Information For New Members

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday each month except December and January. At each meeting there is a \$2 charge, which includes entry in the door, raffle and helps cover the costs of running the society. Members bring a plate to share for supper at the end of the meeting.

### Activities and facilities include:

- A program of speakers covering various aspects of herbs, natural medicine and other topics of interest to members.
- Each month a member speaks on a herb of their choice for "Herb of the Month"
- Periodical excursions to visit open gardens and nurseries.
- Exchange of information including advice and support with propagation and cultivation of herbs.
- A trading table with home-made/home-grown produce, and herbs propagated by members.
- Our Magazine 'Prov Herb', published periodically, is free to all members.
- Library of books on herbs that may be borrowed by members only.

#### ***Cost of membership, due 1 July Each year:***

***\$12 single***  
***\$10 single concession***  
***\$15 family***  
***\$12 family concession***

## *Geelong Organic Gardeners*

Geelong Organic Gardeners – or "GOG" as we like to call it - has had a long and fruitful association with Geelong Botanic Gardens, including collaborating in the planting and harvesting of the Edible Garden. Several of our Chairs have been employees of GBG. GOG celebrated its 30th anniversary last year.

Our aim is to provide resources and a social and educational network to maximize the practice and the enjoyment of organic gardening; both for our members and to encourage and promote organic gardening practices in the wider community. We promote sustainable horticulture and a sustainable lifestyle concentrating on generating expertise in urban agriculture. We seek to work with allied groups in the interests of a healthy and positive future for people and the environment.

To this end we do not support, the use of non-organic pesticides and insecticides, the use of synthetic fertilisers and other products derived from non renewable sources or the farming or consumption of genetically engineered foods. The Geelong Organic Gardeners define "organic" consistent with the Australian Organic Standard, 2006.

If you attend one of our evening meetings down at the bottom of the Geelong Botanic Gardens, you will hear laughter and discussion coming from the meeting rooms. They were recently described in a membership survey as "boisterous". The meetings may include a talk or presentation from a guest speaker with questions / discussion or an open topic, question, forum. There is a fantastic library for members, a sales table (plants, vegies, jams, pickles etc), free excess plants and produce, a seed bank and a super supper table and door prize

Members receive an email or print copy of the famous GOG newsletter. You can see past copies on our website or as part of the extensive membership package. There are over one hundred who regularly pack the GBG meeting room for the bi-monthly evening meetings. In between meetings, we go on field trips, mainly to other member's gardens, but also other gardening sites within the Geelong region. These are great social and informative events.

We participate in public events as part of our commitment to encouraging and informing the public and our community about organic gardening. We hold working bees at communal gardens such as Karingal. We work in partnership with other like minded groups such as Community Gardens and the Geelong Sustainability Group. During the last few years we have spread our knowledge through workshops and talks on subjects such as composting, worm farms, seed raising, cucurbits and grafting.

Primarily GOG meetings are fun, social, educational affairs and we promote organic gardening through laughter and enjoyment.

***For more information see our website***  
***www.gog.org.au***  
***or email us at***  
***gog.geelong@gmail.com***



# Director's Report

## A sense of place

The Geelong Botanic Gardens primary role is to hold plant collections for the purposes of conservation, education, research and display. Its' secondary role is a public garden as a place for

- plants and people
- discovery and learning
- ideas and innovation
- community engagement and pride
- conservation and the environment
- and quiet contemplation

Our community brings the Geelong Botanic Garden to life; in the eyes of the majority we are most simply a beautiful garden. There is great variety in how people connect to the garden and how they use it. This readership fully understands the strong sense of community which the Friends group creates in the garden through the many activities the Friends host. Through these opportunities more personal friendships develop and a social network has developed. I can only wonder how extensive our social network might be if it were hosted by Facebook?

The broader community who visit the Botanic Garden engage with the garden in a multitude of ways. Many groups are often noticed who come for tours, mums and kids meet after fun at the Playspace and to celebrate weddings in their finery. But my interest is piqued by those quiet individuals, who can

be observed on their early morning walks, having fun at the Teahouse and absorbed in their companion during romantic summer evening strolls.

For a short while last year I watched a couple in traditional Indian dress visit the garden in the early morning to practice their yoga and meditate in the garden. Their visits stopped, I can only assume they were visiting Geelong and hope that they have taken away a lasting memory of this special place.

**Annette Zealley**

**Director, Geelong Botanic Gardens**



*continued from page 2*

## Recreation Context

Eastern Park has provided recreational opportunities for the Geelong community and its visitors for over 150 years. Recreation usage includes; passive recreation users, weekend competitive sports, major social events and national and international sporting events. As the fashion for recreation has changed the Park has continued to meet the needs of the community and new elements have been included in the Park. These elements have distracted from the strong design element of the avenues lining the carriageways and other key features.

The reinstatement of the internal carriageways will support a greater recreational use of the Park by walkers. The enhancement of the heritage parkland feel through the planting of shade trees will encourage greater use of the parkland for informal picnics. Carefully defining space for events and group activity through planting will improve the potential for group events while eliminating the need to compromise other more sensitive areas of the Park.

## Understanding our past through planting our future

No living landscape is static and this plan recognises the need to redress the loss of trees from both drought and senescence. Heritage values will be respected through the rejuvenation of avenues and tree circles and in the style of parkland plantings which imbues the spirit of an historic parkland.

The original intent for the Park to house botanic collections will be enhanced through the selection of trees which support the aims of the Pinetum and development of new collections. These selections will conserve plant material from around the world and have the potential to influence the regional landscape.

In implementing this plan we are making a strong commitment to the future of Eastern Park and the Geelong Botanic Gardens as well as to the people of the City of Greater Geelong. This commitment will ensure that in another 150 years Geelong will have a significant landscape which has continued to fulfill its potential as one of the most influential landscapes of its time.

**Annette Zealley**

**Director - Geelong Botanic Gardens**

## The Geelong Orchid and Indoor Plant Club

This club was formed by a group of enthusiastic orchid growers 45 years ago. There were an increasing number of orchid collectors who wished to foster their enthusiasm and interest others in orchid culture. They approached the Geelong Horticultural Society and 38 people attended a meeting held on 4th November 1965, with Mr G. Valiopolus in the chair. The club was formed with Mr H. Fagg as the first president. In 1967, as membership grew, a successful exhibition was held in the basement of Edments, Geelong to enable the public to view the beauty of the plants.

The Geelong Orchid and Indoor Plant Club is unique as it combines both orchid and indoor plant culture and advice. Two annual shows are held, where expert growers are available to educate and correct procedures in re-potting demonstrations and printed literature. The club also participates in competitions with other Victorian orchid clubs and our stands have met with great success.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month, except January. Professional growers are invited to address the members on the habits, fertilising and information on newer varieties. We own a laptop and projector for showing DVDs displaying many aspects of orchid growing and potted plants. We also have an annual casserole / trivia night, which is a popular event.

Our newer members can attend informal monthly discussion groups, normally held on a Saturday afternoon at a senior member's house, where they can see different growing procedures, receive printed literature and hands on advice on repotting and general care of their plants.

There is a monthly news bulletin, which includes information on speakers for the upcoming meetings, cultural notes and upcoming orchid club shows.

We have at least three bus trips a year to nurseries or shows, where we can add to our collections and gain information from professional growers. These are popular with members starting out on orchid growing.

**Contact: Ann Berryman (President) – 03 5250 2503**

### High Tea in Autumn

Sip a special blend of tea, enjoy cucumber sandwiches, cup cakes and delight your friends with sweet delicacies from the Teahouse.

**Sunday 27th 11am to 4pm**

The Friends Teahouse ~ \$ 15 per head  
Bookings advised ~ 0409 031358



## From the President

This year, 2011, is the United Nations International Year of Forests. Following a year that focused on Biodiversity we can only hope that major gains will be made for forest environments around the globe. In Geelong there are two areas of focus, the valley spine that marks the course of the Barwon and Moorabool rivers and the parklands that punctuate our City.

When we use the word 'forest' we think of wild places and pristine environments. Importantly the reference is to the critical role that species and natural systems play in providing food, medicine, habitat, resources and biodiversity across the globe. The coming year will witness open discussion at an international level of all the above .... but what role do we play at a local level?

The discussion about 'forests' should not neglect the state of our 'urban forests' and their contribution to the making of a healthy city. Imagine New York without Central Park, London without Hyde Park or Paris without the Tuilleries. Geelong is indeed fortunate that our City forefathers offered future generations Eastern Park and the GBG.

The work currently underway and being managed by the City through the 2008 Eastern Park and GBG Masterplan is to be celebrated. New plantings undertaken in 2010 are bursting with growth. The continued rejuvenation of this important parkland will add to a purposeful plan that has seen Geelong's image radically change ... 'Industrial City' to 'Vibrant Family City'. Geelong places a high value on the quality of its open spaces, providing for a balance of passive and active opportunities. The value of the landscapes that lace through our City marks the character of this place, the 'Urban Forest' of our streets, parklands and waterways forms a critical part of that picture. The Friends look forward to future planting in Eastern Park and indeed across our City to celebrate UN International Year of Forests.

In November 2010 we celebrated 25 Years of Friendship. The announcement of Richard Barley as the new Patron of the FGBG is a major achievement to mark this year. Richard has a long association with botanics and horticulture, working at the Royal Botanic Gardens for over 20 years, actively involved with BGANZ and now acting as the newly appointed CEO of Australia's Open Garden Scheme. We are extremely fortunate and could not wish for a better Friend. Richard has a sound understanding of the volunteers' role and will work with FGBG over the coming 5 years, providing support, advice and guidance to a growing organisation.

Finally congratulations must be extended to the Perennial Border Team and Staff at the GBG for the magnificent partnership that has produced the Silver Anniversary Border. If you have not visited recently come to Open Day @ GBG on 29th January. This new venture will open the Garden with all our Specialist Associations and Master Gardeners, providing gardening advice and assistance with those hard to answer questions. The Teahouse will offer morning tea and lunch, along with free family entertainment throughout the Garden.

Botanic Artists will show their skills and beautiful cards and prints will be available to purchase. Join a Guide and take a walk through the Garden and along the magnificent Silver Border. The Growing Friends will be open to offer silver specimens to take home, so you can plant a little piece of the GBG in your very own garden. Happy Summer Gardening.



**Helena Buxton**



# What's on Events, dates for the diary

## January

**What:** **Special Guided Walk – ‘Australian Plants for Australia Day’**

Take a guided stroll through Geelong botanic Gardens to look at the Australian native plants most likely to succeed in your garden

**When:** Wednesday 26th January 10.30am

**Where:** Meet your Guide at the front steps of the GBG – Gold Coin donation

**What:** **Open Garden @ the GBG – Entry and Entertainment Free**

Meet your Guide who will take you on a tour to meet the network of plant enthusiasts based at the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Bring your questions to the specialists, including the Perennial Border Team, Heritage Rose Group, Organic Gardeners, Herb Society, Orchid & Indoor Plant Society and many, many more. Meet members of Geelong Field Naturalists, look at the talented group pursuing Botanic Art studies at the Gardens or you might purchase rare and unusual plants at the Growing Friends Nursery. The Friends Teahouse will be open and Skipjack theatre providing family entertainment throughout the morning and at the Teahouse for lunch.

**When:** Sat 29th January 9.30 to 12.30

**Where:** Every Corner of the Beautiful GBG, entry at the front gate.

## February

**What:** **2011 Botanic Art Classes Term 1**

Tuesday	am & pm	Rita Parkinson
Friday	am & pm	Delores Malloni
Saturdays	Alternate	John Pastoriza – Pinol

**When:** Weekdays, 9.30am – 12.30 am, 1.30pm – 4.30pm  
Saturday, all day, dates confirmed on enrolment

**Where:** GBG Meeting Room

**What:** **Music In The Gardens**

Pack a picnic and bring your family and friends to our Sunday Summer Twilight Concerts on the beautiful Teahouse Lawns.

6th Feb	Soul Sisters Swing
13th Feb	Donegal Express
20th Feb	Hip Cats
27th Feb	Geelong Concert Bands

**When:** EVERY SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY - 5 to 7.30pm

**Where:** Teahouse Lawn, Geelong Botanic Gardens  
Cost: Adults \$15, Children Free, these are family friendly but pet free events

**What:** **Special Guided Walk – ‘Food Plants from Around the World’**

Our organic vege patch is now in full summer production, with a range of common and more unusual vegetables ready for harvest, join our guides for a whirl around the world and discover veges growing the old fashioned way.

**When:** Sunday 27th February 11am & 2pm

**Where:** Meet your Guide at front steps of GBG – Gold Coin Donation

## March

**What:** **Sustainable Garden Expo** – Source information that will help you design or modify your garden and home to fit a sustainable model for the 21st Century

**When:** Sat – Sun 12 & 13 March, 10am to 4pm

**Where:** Waterfront Geelong

**What:** **Special Guided Walk – ‘Birds & Binoculars’ – an early morning event**

Bring your binoculars and join your Guide for a morning stroll to discover some of our feathered visitors who add to our local diversity and live at the GBG & Eastern Park.

**When:** Sunday 20th March 9am – **note the early start**

**Where:** Meet your Guide at the front steps of GBG – Gold Coin donation

**What:** **Special Guided Walk – ‘Gardens for the Birds’ – timed for those who have had a Sunday morning sleep in.**

Take a walk to look at the ways in which Geelong Botanic Gardens provides suitable habitat and learn how you can apply these principles to your own garden to increase biodiversity in your neighborhood.

**When:** Sunday 20th March 2pm

**Where:** Meet your Guide at front steps of GBG – Gold Coin Donation

**What:** **The Famous Friends Autumn Plant Sale – purchase rare and unusual plants sourced from within the GBG**

Featuring plants propagated from the ‘Silver Anniversary Border’, don’t miss an opportunity to purchase a garden treasure for your own garden.

**When:** Sat-Sun 26th & 27th 10am-4pm daily

**Where:** The Growing Friends’ Nursery, rear of GBG, vehicle entry via Nursery Gate, or enjoy High Tea at the Teahouse & follow the red flags to the Nursery.

**What:** **High Tea in Autumn**

Sip a special blend of tea, enjoy cucumber sandwiches, cup cakes and delight your friends with sweet delicacies from the Teahouse.

**When:** Sunday 27th 11am to 4pm

**Where:** The Friends Teahouse – \$ 15 per head - Bookings advised – 0409 031358

**What:** **Garden Tour – Cloudehill Nursery & Garden**

Regarded as Australia’s finest private garden by serious garden lovers, it is at its peak during early Autumn. Owner Designer Jeremy Francis will entertain us with a presentation about the garden during lunch at the Seasons Restaurant, then escort us on a tour of the garden. In the morning we will also visit Beechmont, a magnificent garden nearby, this large historic garden has been magnificently rejuvenated with advice from Jeremy Francis. Time allowing we will also visit Pirianda.

**When:** Monday 28th March, 8.30am to 5.30pm

**Where:** Cloudehill Tour leaves GBG gate 3 car park 8.30am, arrive Beechmont 10.30 for morning tea from the coach. Noon arrive Cloudehill, for lunch / talk / tour.  
Cost: \$ 75 members, \$85 non-members (lunch included) – Booking essential