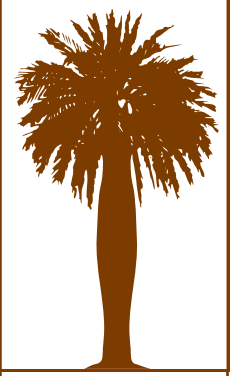


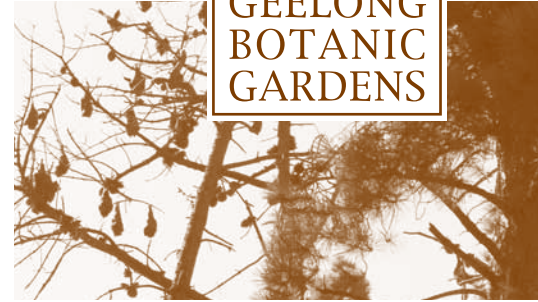
Jubaea



Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc Newsletter

Volume 14 Issue 1 March/April/May 2013

FRIENDS OF
GEELONG
BOTANIC
GARDENS



Simply Green @ GBG

This year, Simply Green @GBG is the Garden's theme for sharing our passion for plants with the wider community. A series of initiatives around the Gardens and Eastern Park will pique the interest of our many visitors as we showcase our fabulous plant collections and explore their stories in new and interesting ways.

The Green Mulch Project

Our first Simply Green @GBG theme is Green Mulch. Gardeners everywhere have been celebrating the breaking of the drought and a return to damper conditions, but we need to keep challenging our thinking as we select plants for our gardens to carry them through into the future. GBG staff have chosen a range of native and exotic groundcover plants to 'put on trial' in the ever changing Central 'Flag' Bed Display.

These new plantings are attracting a lot of attention from visitors, demonstrating living green alternatives to mulch. Our horticultural team has chosen eight species to trial and are actively monitoring the plantings for performance. One of the stars is *Dicliptera suberecta* (firecracker or Humming Bird plant) from Uruguay which has been a somewhat unnoticed plant growing well under the stand of Bunyas for years. Performing well in shade it has performed equally well in full sun. We hope that others see its potential as a strong garden plant and pop into the Growing Friends' Nursery to buy one (or more!) for their home garden.

'Green Mulch' goes far beyond the boundaries of the Geelong Botanic Gardens as we extend our influence to our fellow Parks Department horticulturists. A series of sites around the City have been chosen to benefit from replanting with Green Mulch. The project team has completed site analysis and plant selection and our nursery is growing stock for autumn and winter planting. The team is so inspired that we

now have projects for improvements to green space within the City of Greater Geelong to keep us going for several years.

Securing Water

Our second Simply Green @GBG theme is Water. Despite good winter rains, a dry summer reminds us that we cannot become complacent about such a valuable natural resource. Our investment in the Eastern Park Stormwater Harvest Dam is already paying off with water for the arboretum trees in the Park and for street trees throughout the City. This water is harvested from stormwater collected in East Geelong and stored in the dam. When needed, water is treated by being pumped through a sand filter to remove turbidity followed by treatment with ultraviolet light to remove bacteria. Since commissioning in November 2012, over 300,000 litres of recycled stormwater has been used for watering.

In future, water from the Stormwater Harvest Dam will be used to irrigate the Geelong Botanic Gardens. The two systems will be connected this year. Recent visitors to the Gardens will have noticed construction works near the southern boundary. Rumours abound that we are building another dam, but what is in fact being built is infrastructure for the major upgrade of Garden's irrigation system.

To enable the water to go through a new main line, it will be pumped up from the dam to storage tanks in the Gardens. One tank will hold recycled water and the second potable water as there are some applications within the Gardens which require us to use water which is safe for human consumption. Tanks are required in order to pump the water under pressure to the irrigation main line. This stage is part of a four year project which is critical in ensuring an effective delivery of water through the irrigation system.

This water project will generate many stories to share with our community, regional schools and industry professionals. We have already hosted tours for Parks and Open Space professionals interested in stormwater systems. Sustainability is a key theme for the National (School) Curriculum and water themes will continue to be important components of our education program in the coming years.

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Out and About

Jubaea via email

Jubaea is now available in electronic as well as printed form. This represents a significant saving to our organisation, enabling your membership fees to work harder to support our Friends' programs and the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

If you would like to receive *Jubaea* via email, please contact the FGBG office so we can change your details on our database. Printed copies are available to all members from the FGBG office.

Member Discounts

The following businesses have generously offered discounts on purchases made by members of the FGBG. Members must produce a current Membership Card at the time of purchase. The discount extends to all goods unless stated below, but may not be available on specials or reduced items.

- THE GROWING FRIENDS PLANT SALES: Rear of Botanic Gardens, Wednesdays 9.00 am – 12.00 noon and seasonal weekend sales

- FAGG'S MITRE 10 GARDENER: 5%-10% garden items only. (Power tools & specials excluded)
- LEAF & STONE GARDEN GALLERY: The Wintergarden, Mc Killop St, Geelong
- RORAIMA NURSERY: 20 Swan Street, Lara
- VALLEY ROAD NURSERY: 9 North Valley Road, Highton

Deadline for the Winter edition of *Jubaea*: Friday 10 May.

Vale Lawrence Cohn

The success of Friends Groups in Botanic Gardens owes much to Lawrence Cohn. He was instrumental in 1993 in setting up the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) and in broadening the Association of Friends to become an Australia-wide organisation in 2001 where he served as Secretary until retirement in 2006. Lawrence will be remembered by many Friends for his dedication and integrity; he was highly respected by all who worked with him.

A Guide's Diary Note:

George Jones, the Bunce Bollard and a Very Naughty Girl



George Jones was the Friends' first President as well as a long-time Volunteer Guide. Since 'retiring' George continues to join the active Guides for their regular monthly meetings. He usually delights us with a short, manually typed story of the Gardens or one of our plants which we can include in our file of stories.

Since taking a particular interest in the history of the Gardens, I am sometimes the recipient of a real typed letter from George, filling me in on some additional piece of history. I received one such letter shortly before Christmas providing a number of snippets

relating to pilfering at the Gardens.

Visitors to our Gardens pass through the Hansen Gates to be greeted by the 'Bunce Bollards'. They frequently pose for photographs beside the elegantly dressed lady and the stern looking Daniel Bunce. Jan Mitchell designed each set of Bollards to reflect a real Geelong story. Ours reflect the difficulties that the first curator, Daniel Bunce, had in keeping his flowers and plants in the Gardens rather than gracing the gardens or mantelpieces of the local Geelong ladies.

Visitors who take the time to look will notice that the lady is hiding a sprig of Sturt's desert pea and a flower press behind her back. Originally, Mr Bunce was holding a pot of the pea. His stern demeanour and her guilty look gave the visitor a clear message that this 'lady' had been caught in the act.

George's researches reveal that the story behind our bollards is a little more complicated. Mr Bunce did indeed have trouble with specimens of Sturt's desert pea being the object of constant pilfering – presumably as an object of curiosity, so it is highly likely that blooms would have found their way to into many a lady's flower press. However, it was not just individual flowers that went missing. In September 1862, a couple were seen to uproot some choice tulip bulbs as well as a quantity of other plants.

The bollards give the impression that the prevailing fashion was rather "Jane Austin-ish" with clinging skirts, but by 1862, crinolines with wide hooped petticoats were all the rage. Such skirts provided ample hiding places for a few young plants or bouquets. The problem was so bad that the lodge keeper – or rather his wife – was detailed to check the skirts of visitors leaving the gardens. *The Argus* reports that she intercepted a number of thefts in this manner.

But do we know who the lady in the bollard might be? In 1871, the *Geelong Advertiser* reported the case of Mary Sibley who had been caught picking flowers in the gardens by a gardener named John Reeve.

A fine of five shillings and five shillings costs was imposed; the Bench hinting "that persons picking flowers in the Gardens, rendered themselves liable to six months imprisonment".

Jenny Possingham (volunteer guide)
with information supplied by George Jones

From the President

Amongst the many purposes of the Friends is its role in supporting and celebrating the Geelong Botanic Gardens through the promotion and provision of a range of education programs at the Gardens.

From the very early days of the Friends, this has included offering guided walks in the Gardens to members of the public, community groups and school students. As the number of schools requesting walks grew, it became apparent that the provision of programs for schools would need to move to a more formal arrangement. In the first instance, the Friends sought professional help to tailor their guided walks programs to school students. By 2001, it was clear that we needed to employ someone to take on the role of delivering education. Ro Noone was employed as Education Officer by the Friends in 2002 to develop and promote education at all levels. The hope was that in time, and once the program had proved its worth, that the City would be in a position to take over the provision of Education at the Gardens.

Over the last 10 years, Education Programs have been run by the Friends with the support of volunteers and sessional teachers and has reached students of all ages from pre-school through primary and secondary students to TAFE and adult language students. Programs have included introducing primary school students to the wonders of the plant world, Children's Week activities and behind the scenes visits with secondary students. More recently we have started to take school holiday program bookings and introduced Family Discovery Walks. On average, between one and two thousand students annually have benefitted from an education program at the GBG.

In 2012, the Friends reviewed how best to provide ongoing support for Education at the Gardens. A meeting of the Friends Committee of Management in December 2012 determined that

it was no longer practical for the Friends to continue to manage and run formal school education programs. Instead, the Friends would pass the management and control of Education to GBG management and commit a minimum of \$10,000 per annum over the next 5 years to the ongoing support of these programs. The handover period commenced on 1 January with a six month transition until 30 June 2013.

Education at the Gardens will continue to be supported by the promotion of Public Programs @ GBG through the Friends networks such as our website, What's On and *Jubaea*. Most importantly, the Friends will continue to provide practical support for Education through volunteer involvement in the research and development of new program materials and through the volunteer Guides' Discovery Programs which reach out to visitors to the Gardens from all parts of our community.

Education at the GBG will now comprise a new team based approach combining the talents of FGBG volunteers, sessional teachers, and GBG horticultural staff to provide a whole of Gardens approach. The first example of this is "Living Fossil", which includes program materials for schools as well as related links throughout the Gardens.



Jenny Possingham
President FGBG

Simply Green @ GBG ... article from page 1

The Curiosity Cabinet

If you haven't seen the Curiosity Cabinet yet, you must! Also known as the Pit Glasshouse or Sunken House, this underestimated treasure of our Gardens has been transformed by an inspired Gardens' project team. This fabulous heritage building is currently showcasing our arid plant collection. A thematic display representing the deserts of the world not only delights the eye but piques your interest in the survival mechanisms of these stylish plants.

As with the Central Bed, displays in the Curiosity Cabinet will be changed regularly to feature different elements of our plant collection. The growing conditions and layout of the glasshouse interior enable us to present plants which are not currently on display in the Gardens. Interpretive material, both on site and on the Garden's website, expands the stories we are sharing and enables 'virtual visitors' to our Gardens to learn about our plant collections.

Regularly changing presentations provide opportunities for partnership projects and we hope to encourage local horticultural groups to participate in our displays. Our next display will explore fossil plants as part of our Permian Monsters/Living Fossil educational theme. So please take the opportunity to visit the Curiosity Cabinet before things change again!

Changing displays within the Gardens give the opportunity for our Horticulturists, Volunteer Guides, Teachers and Growing Friends to share new stories with our visitors. We will encourage interest in Simply Green @ GBG through interpretive information in the garden, on our website, through Discovery Walks and our Education Program. The opportunities to explore new partnerships which will engage new audiences are boundless, as will be our role in sharing our passion for plants with our real and virtual visitors.

Annette Zealley
Director GBG

From the Library

A librarian's job is a bit like being a detective: someone comes in requesting information and the librarian responds. In order to find the appropriate material, questions are asked to make sure both parties understand exactly what is required. This is the challenge, and it gives great satisfaction to the librarian when the required material is found.

The Geelong Botanic Gardens library is no different. Often we are asked to help identify plants and/or find pictures or details of habitat. Sometimes it is the correct plant name, particularly if the name has changed recently where there are a number of possibilities.

George Jones, our founding President, occasionally comes in with queries and as his knowledge is prodigious, this can be a challenge. Our Library is privileged to have copies of many of the volumes of the *Index Kewensis*, and I was excited to find pertinent information in it for George one morning. He was looking for the first known date for a plant citation, which would confirm his understanding of where the plant originally occurred.

The *Index Kewensis*, maintained by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, originally aimed to be a complete register of all botanical names for seed plants at the rank of species and genera. Later, it came to include other taxonomic information including plant Family and sub-species as well as names of ferns and their allies. The project was initiated by the Linnaean Society under the direction of Joseph Hooker from Kew Gardens.. Charles Darwin's will provided funding of £250 per annum over a five year period. The starting point for the citations of plant names was 1753, the year of publication of Linnaeus' *Systema Naturae*. Darwin had difficulties in applying these names to the plants he studied. Hooker's directive was to



compile an index "to the names and authorities of all known flowering plants and their countries".

While the Index never fulfilled its original charter it was the authority on plant names for over 100 years and more recently has been combined with the 'Gray Card' and the *Australian Plant Name Index*, to form the *International Plant Names Index*, which is anticipated to complete the task.

The first *Index Kewensis* contained the scientific names of 400,000 species. Regular supplements were issued every five years with newly published names, each one adding around 6,000 names to the index, eventually forming a compilation of over a million entries.

The Geelong Botanic Gardens has two volumes and multiple supplements of *Index Kewensis*, each covering five years of entries. *Index Kewensis* was donated to the Library by Roger Elliott in 2007.

Luanne Thornton
Librarian

Living Fossils and Permian Monsters

The Permian Monsters exhibition at the National Wool Museum presents the relatively unknown creatures of the Permian that lived before their more famous ancestors, the dinosaurs. Visitors can step back in time 290 million years to the Permian Period, when bizarre-looking animals dominated the Earth. Fossilised skeletons, life-sized models and interactive dig pits give adults and children a rare insight into these incredible creatures.

Permian Monsters is on show in Geelong until 10 June 2013.

But did you know that our Gardens host their very own permanent display of Living Fossils many of which have remained virtually unchanged since the Permian era?

To learn more about Living Fossils at the GBG:

- Take part in our Living Fossils Family Discovery Program over the Easter School Holidays with self guided material and the chance to do some hands on fossil making with our Volunteer Guides. For further details see our April What's On, the Friends' website and posters in the Gardens.
- Join the Living Fossils Discovery Walk on 5 May.
- Buy your own living fossil from the Growing Friends' Nursery where they have good stocks of ginkgo
- See the new display in the Curiosity Cabinet.

Summer Pleasures

January in Australia is traditionally time to relax and spend time with family and friends. Holidays are also a time to try something new. This summer the Friends presented three summer workshops for our members and friends.

Ein Plein Air,

a two day workshop, brought drawing with pastels to the Gardens. Tutor Jill Shallless introduced the group to materials, showed how to frame a view and set us quickly to work.



Jill gave a demonstration, and to the applause of students, produced a drawing of the Traill Fountain within an hour. With laughter, trepidation and mixed success we all tried the same feat. By the end of the first morning we had produced a wonderful sketch of the Gardens, by the end of the first day we had two drawings to show for our efforts.

Jill's offering of quiet encouragement, suggestions for colour and composition and her assistance when each of us thought we had made a terrible error ensured that everyone produced a picture they could be proud of.



Indigenous Basket Weaving with Helen Brotherton



explored a completely different medium, one laced with the cultural resonance of the Koori people. Students were privileged as Auntie Helen shared traditional basket weaving techniques taught by her grandmother. The workshop began with a visit to the 21st Century Garden to inspect mat rush (*Lomandra longifolia*), Helen's preferred plant material. Not every blade is suitable. Preparation includes harvesting a week prior to weaving, drying, soaking then splitting the best blades, success is determined by the careful choice of the right material. Weaving offers a gentle rhythm, for some of us two days felt like two weeks.



Vessels 2,

an idea developed by Botanic Art tutor Dolores SK Malloni, involved transferring an image from previous botanical studies into the form of a plate or urn. Students were completely engrossed in the task. We look forward to seeing these stunning works when they are completed.

Participating in activities in our Gardens is a wonderful way to spend a summer's day. The laughter of happy families and the quiet chatter of people as they stroll through the Gardens define the place. There is an ever-present ambient magic that is hard to describe. It is easy to immerse yourself and know that a day has 'slipped past'. Perhaps this is a measure of being truly relaxed, it is certainly a value shared by many of the participants in the Friends summer programs.

Helena Buxton,
Friends vice-president

Director's Report

Curiouser and Curiouser

Summer brings wonderfully warm weather and more visitors to enjoy the delights of the Gardens. Our summer events' season encourages new visitors to the Gardens and welcomes back others. December activities included the popular outdoor production of 'Alice in Wonderland', performed by the Australian Shakespeare Company. This entertaining, well known story excited 950 visitors, many of whom were young families. From their arrival and going down the rabbit hole, to seeing the scary Queen and wondering about the caterpillar, audiences were entranced. It is truly inspiring to see so many young children enjoying the Gardens and taking home such wonderful memories.

Jenny Possingham has outlined the changes in managing and delivering the Geelong Botanic Gardens Education Program from 2013. The City of Greater Geelong has been very fortunate to have had such strong support from the Friends over the years and this has resulted in the development of a great program. I thank everyone who has been involved over this period whose volunteer efforts have raised funds and delivered elements of the program – your efforts have left many students with lasting memories of their school visits to the Gardens. You never know, you might have inspired a few gardeners along the way!

I have been developing a partnership with the National Wool Museum over the past year and our key partnership activity for this year is linking the Garden to the Permian Monsters exhibition. This exhibition provides many opportunities for us to share stories of our fossil plants. I've been leading a project team including representatives from our teachers, guides and horticultural team who have been inspired by the exhibition. This team has been excitedly developing material for schools' programs, a new display in the Curiosity Cabinet and school holiday activities. I won't spoil the surprise by telling all, but encourage you to keep an eye out in March for the appearance of monsters in the garden.....

Annette Zealley

Director Geelong Botanic Gardens

Wider Geelong Flora Lecture

Tuesday 12 March 2013

**Alpine Plants
and their response after fire**

Frank Scheelings

**GBG Meeting Rooms,
7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start**

Contact: John Bell 5261 3546

solea1@bigpond.com

All welcome

AUTUMN

GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS



The Growing Friends

Autumn Plant Sale

10 am - 4 pm

Sat 13 & Sun 14 April

Showcasing a wide selection of Australian plants, colourful perennials, hardy shrubs, pelargoniums and succulents, sourced from the Geelong Botanic Gardens

Growing Friends' Nursery entrance at rear of
Geelong Botanic Gardens



FRIENDS OF
GEELONG
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GARDENS

Ph: (03) 5222 6053

Email: info@friendsgbg.org.au

www.friendsgbg.org.au

FGBG activities @GBG and beyond

This page lists planned Friends activities and other events for the coming season. Details are correct at time of printing but sometimes arrangements change. To get the latest information please subscribe to our monthly What's On email which is sent at the beginning of each month to all our members who have registered their email address with the Friends Office. Those members without email can pick up their copy directly from the FGBG Office during normal opening hours.

MARCH 2012

Sunday 3 March:

Discovery Walk – Tunes, Tones and Treble Clefs: magic and music in the GBG. This is a Discovery Walk with music. See and hear many of the associations between plants and music, both ancient and modern, with special attention to the use of plants in making music and musical instruments. Back by popular demand

Tuesday 12 March:

Wider Geelong Flora Lecture with the Geelong Field Naturalist Club. Frank Scheelings will talk about Alpine Plants and their response after fire. 7 for 7.30pm in the Geelong Botanic Gardens Meeting Room.

APRIL 2013

Autumn Plant Sale Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 April: Take the chance to pick up your very own living fossil in the shape of a young ginkgo tree as well as plants for your autumn garden.

Sunday 14 April:

Discovery Walk – Hidden corners of the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Explore those corners of the gardens that you might not have seen before and discover some interesting and unexpected plants

School Holiday Family Discover Programs - Living Fossils.

Wednesday 3 April 10.30am -12.30pm

Sunday 7 April 2.00 – 3.30 pm

Thursday 11 April 10.30am – 12.30 pm

Cost \$5 per family, bookings advised through the Friends Office. See April What's On for details.

Monday 22 April:

Bus tour to Cranbourne Botanic Gardens to see the newly opened Stage 2 Garden with John Arnott. Bus departs Eastern Park at 8.30am returning around 5 pm.

Cost \$55 (\$45 for members). Lunch not included. Bookings essential. Contact the Friends Office.

Closing date 15 April.

MAY 2013

Sunday 5 May:

Discovery Walk – Living Fossils: plants that stood the test of time. As part of the Living Fossils program at the GBG this autumn, we will introduce you to some of our very own living fossils. These plants have stood the test of time outliving waves of animal extinctions, including that of the dinosaurs. Their descendants can still be found growing on earth today – and in our Gardens.

Sunday 19 May:

Discovery Walk – Aboriginal Plant Use. Discover some of the plants used by Aboriginal people for food, medicine and other purposes.

Monday 27 May:

A morning talk – Winter at Kew with Helena Buxton. 10am for coffee, 10.30am for the Talk. GBG meeting room. Gold coin donation.

WATCH OUT FOR...

Sunday 16 June – Discovery Walk. Bare trunks and Conifers

June 23 – Winter high Tea at Truffle Duck

Discovery Walks all start at 2 pm on the front steps of the Geelong Botanic Gardens, unless otherwise indicated.

For all bookings contact the FGBG Office on 5222 6053 or email: info@friendsgbg.org.au

For all bookings contact the FGBG Office on 5222 6053

To keep up with everything that is happening at the GBG and with the Friends, make sure your email is registered at the Friends' Office so that you can receive our monthly What's On @ GBG.

For more details, see the monthly What's On, visit our website: www.Friendsgbg.org.au or contact the FGBG Office

Postcards from Music in the Gardens

Photographs for this edition of Jubaea have been supplied by Katie, Graham and Jenny Possingham and Helena Buxton



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1. Soul Sister Swing rocks the Gardens
2. The lack of a dance floor does not stop the dancers
3. Hip Cats in the groove (and in the Gardens)
4. The Gardens themselves were of more interest to this young visitor
5. The Junes brought a laid back Country feel
6. Our plastic marker cones were a great hit with the small fry

The final week was Geelong's very own Sweethearts. To see pictures from this concert, visit us on Facebook.



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