

Jubaea

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc. Newsletter

February 2022 Volume 22 Issue 1



FRIENDS OF
GEELONG
BOTANIC
GARDENS



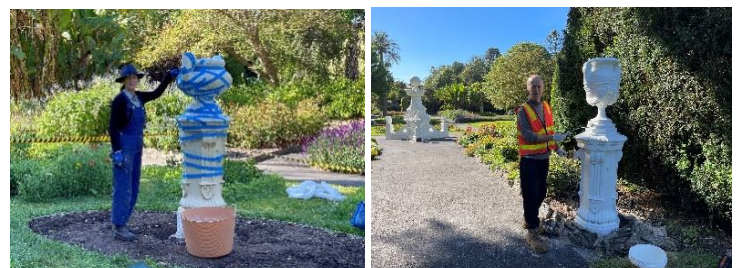
The seed trial of *Rhodanthe chlorocephala*, West Australian wildflower display

A THING OF BEAUTY IS A JOY FOREVER

In 1912, the Hitchcock Fountain, the Traill Fountain and their matching urns were moved to Geelong Botanic Gardens from their original sites in Market Square. More than a hundred years later, it is hard to imagine Geelong Botanic Gardens without these culturally significant pieces: they provide excellent focal points, giving context to space and anchoring the design. With their classical features, each draws the eye of the gardener, the artist, the wanderer – or anyone looking to be reminded of excellence and beauty. When I look at these pieces the words of John Keats (1795 – 1821) certainly ring true:

*A thing of beauty is a joy forever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; (Endymion)*

Now that we have increased the loveliness of the Hitchcock Fountain, we have turned our attention to the urns and it is easy to see that the timeless beauty of these assets will give joy to the gardens for generations to come.



Catherine Millikan and Paul Hunt restoring the Urns

Another project we have undertaken is to restore the Hansen Gates; a project that again relied heavily on the generosity and support of the Friends. It's very satisfying to see these significant gates cleaned and repainted. With our heritage assets and maintenance schedules consistently improving, we can confidently implement new and innovative designs.

The Singaporean-inspired landscape within the conservatory is a pictorial narrative of what is both popular and achievable in a tropical climate garden. It enables us to showcase a larger variety of plants as well as demonstrating the skill of our workforce and their motivation to provide not only excellent horticulture but also excellent experiences for our community.



Work in progress in the Conservatory

The cast waterfall feature, arriving soon, will be a prominent piece of the display, alongside the three large plant towers. We are looking to finish this exciting work by February. Once again, the Friends have made this project possible by financially supporting key elements of the construction.



Ashley and staff have created a replica of the Wardian Case, now housed at the entrance of the Conservatory.

Those of you who were fortunate enough to have attended Dr Luke Keogh's talk on the Wardian Case will have been inspired by the invaluable impact this simple case has had on the world of horticulture. As Luke explained, in 1829 the surgeon and amateur naturalist Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward accidentally discovered that plants enclosed in airtight glass cases can survive for long periods without watering. In 1833 he tested his invention by transporting two cases filled with mosses and ferns from London to Sydney.

The experiment was a success. From then on, thousands of cases were used over the next century to move plants around the world. In the late nineteenth century, the Geelong Botanic Gardens was an active user of the case. It was a "simple but beautiful" invention, as one sea captain described it.

Inspired by this story we have used designs captured in old photographs to create our own replica of the Wardian Case. This case is now located at the entrance of the Conservatory, providing an historical account of how many plants in our collections came to be in the Gardens today.



The Vegetable Patch

In the October update, you will have read about our West Australian wildflower display. The seed trial of *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* was very successful, (photo on front page) being further validated by an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from the public. The colourful display lasts for four months before beginning to wilt and dry, at which point we collect the seed. With this acclimatised seed, we look forward to resowing an even greater display in the 21st Century Garden next season. Our aim is to represent the sweeping blanket of paper daisies that carpet Western Australia's sandy soils. We are also working with our Parks and Gardens teams to identify suitable parks and roundabouts throughout the City of Geelong in which to trial this display.



The Hanson Gate Sign being transported for restoration.

With the summer holiday season well underway, it is great to see the Gardens filled with so many people, many of whom will be especially busy in their own gardens during this season. It is the perfect time to promote the humble vegetable patch and demonstrate what it can do. We look forward to updating you on that in the future.

Ashley Filipovski, Coordinator, Geelong Botanic Gardens

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

In mid-December, the meeting room was full of people - our Volunteers and the Gardens Staff. There was a real buzz of conversation at our Christmas breakup, showing the wonderful camaraderie which has developed between the two groups. Relationships between groups don't just happen; both sides have to work hard! January will mean that behind the scenes, the volunteer Growers come and go patiently watering. In summer, there is no holiday for this group of Volunteers. Thank you to all who, when nobody sees you, come quietly in to do this important task.

In December, the Friends Coordinators met in the Bunce Room to develop their part of a Business Plan for the Friends. It was fabulous to see all the representatives around the table. We defined the role of each group of volunteers; we identified their vulnerabilities, future opportunities and their strengths. We also gained a shared view of how we move forward, as an organisation, with the challenges of our times. There was much agreement, and we gained a greater understanding of the challenges we are facing. We spoke of the need for the Friends to be open to new ideas and forms of media to ensure we continue to be relevant and not dinosaurs of a past age.



The Wisteria Arbour. GBG staff have been busy planting 20 wisteria along the new structure; an extension of the existing single arbour.

On a lighter note: in the New Year, the precious Hansen Gates will stand proud and shiny black again, and our Urns will be spick and span. Ashley Filipovski has a bevy of plans for our beautiful gardens. One example is the work to enlarge the water feature in the Conservatory. I am so looking forward to the planting of a Lotus there. Another change is the extension of the wisteria arch, into a wisteria walk, which will be a wonderful spot for the eager photographer.

A major project in our partnership with the City is to increase the planting and to develop our understanding of indigenous plants and the names they have had in the local Wadawurrung language. We can learn so much from the way that Daniel Bunce partnered with the owners of country and respected their ways. The Gardens' and Friends' plans are consistent with those of the

City of Greater Geelong, who are working with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to establish strong links with the new Civic Precinct *Wurriki Nyal* ("speak and talk together"). We are especially thankful for Liz Bennetto who has driven The Friends' participation with the Wadawurrung project in the Gardens.



The Hansen Gates; recently sand blasted and given a new coat of paint.

We should be justifiably proud of our Botanic Garden. Those who have tended it for many years know it like the back of their hand. In December, I heard stories of the commitment of the Rose Growers, some of whom worked there for over 20 years. And even when they retire from their work, they will be able to return and reminisce about the important part they have played in nurturing the roses to be as spectacular as they are today.

It will soon be time to open the "The Inspired by Nature 7" exhibition at the Deakin University Waterfront Exhibition Gallery. I visited three of our art classes in December and I know all who see the exhibition will be impressed with the quality of the botanic art works. Subjects this term have featured cyclamen, leaves, and our own roses. Our art program is as good as any around the world, thanks to the calibre of tutors and their dedication to their craft.



A taste of exhibiting works:
Acer japonicum Full Moon Maple
by Judy Lavery

I look forward to the journey through 2022. I know that I will again be in awe of the work being done by the Friends Volunteers who, with the GBG staff, make our Botanic Garden a very special place.

Denise Feldman, President

GUEST SPEAKER DR LUKE KEOGH

Last November, after a number of cancellations due to Covid, Dr Luke Keogh spoke to a group of about 40 members and friends about the Wardian Case, an invention that changed the world for explorers, plant collectors and humanity.

Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward was a medical doctor with an intense interest in natural history. His training, like that of other medical men, included study in the Chelsea Physic Garden, to understand plants and their properties for their health benefits. In an early experiment, he placed some plants and a moth pupa in a stoppered glass bottle and watched the moth hatch. He then left the plants, which continued to thrive. This gave him the inspiration to expand this simple idea and build a glasshouse, where he was able to grow plants which would not survive outside in Britain at the time.

He had many friends and acquaintances in the nursery and garden trade, including George Loddiges, who ran a nursery at Hackney and designed hot houses. Together they thought that if plants could survive in a terrarium type setting for months, they could be sent greater distances.

In July 1833 the barque *Persian* transported two cases filled with ferns, mosses and grasses, to Sydney via Van Diemen's Land. The majority survived and a thriving trade in live plants began. The cases allowed such plants as bananas, tea, cacao, rubber and coffee to be moved from their original habitat to be grown around the world.

Not everything went according to plan as the cases required soil for the plants and various microbes and insects could also be transported as well. By the 1930's the use of the case was waning, as the spread of invasive species and other pathogens made governments aware of the potential damage to the environment through the wholesale movement of plants and soil without a strict quarantine regime.



Image supplied by Dr Luke Keogh

Luke spoke with such enthusiasm for his topic and the audience was similarly moved. The Friends' Library has a copy of his book "*The Wardian Cases; How a simple box moved plants and changed the world*". This is available for loan to Friends and staff. Luanne Thornton, FGBG Librarian

VOLUNTEERS

THE GUIDES

2021 has been a most interesting year. Many guided walks had to be cancelled, and when they resumed, we had to use masks, QR Codes and hand sanitiser as well as restricting numbers. We worked whenever restrictions allowed, and although only a few wanted a guided walk, the many people enjoying the gardens were glad to have a chat with the guide on duty. As usual, our monthly advertised themed walks were popular: visitors to Geelong as well as locals always turn up to learn more about our plant collections and history.

Monthly Garden Highlights were distributed from the gates throughout the year and continued to be popular with visitors. The U3A course The Geelong Botanic Gardens – a local treasure was fully booked as usual, but unfortunately, we could only fit in three sessions before lockdown. In the interim, we have reviewed and updated our course for February – March 2022. Guide Training is planned this year for July – October. Based on feedback from the previous intake, we are extending the course to give trainee guides more opportunity to learn about the Gardens.



The Guides

Meetings and Professional Development were also affected by lockdown restrictions, but we managed, initially via Zoom, and later in person (with individually wrapped morning teas!). Several guides also presented interesting sessions online for the broader Friends' membership, while Jenny Dean recorded another virtual introduction to Geelong Botanic Gardens for the website.

We were delighted to return to our normal meetings, as well as congenial lunches, and we look forward to an active and successful year in 2022.

Gwen Anderson, Guides Coordinator

FRIENDS' NURSERY 2021

In spite of some challenges, the Growers' Team has had another good year. It is such a pleasure to work with GBG staff, who continue to be very helpful with materials, advice and gifts of excess GBG stock, as well as assistance when necessary. We are very grateful for their generous cooperation and friendship.

2021 was a challenge in so many ways. There were times when volunteers were not permitted to work in the nursery, times when we couldn't open to the public, and then, when we could, so many restrictions: mask wearing, QR codes and checking Drivers' Licences for invaders from hot-spots. On Wednesdays, numbers were restricted, so small groups of growers arranged to come in on other days to look after the stock.



Jenni Smith in amongst the colourful Nursery

Growers coped cheerfully with all of this, but it did have an impact on sales, and we were left with many pot-bound specimens which had to go out as bargains or even given away.

ROSE GROWERS

The roses look gorgeous this year, especially the Carabella beds. Gardens staff have kept the weeding, mulching, and feeding of the rose beds under control, as well as the trimming of nepeta and box balls. Three unsatisfactory roses have been replaced. We have implemented a colour-coded pruning scheme: a chart relates each tagged rose bush to the appropriate method of pruning. This is a step towards succession planning. We will trial this to test its usefulness and the details will be kept in the Friends' Library.

Unfortunately, age and health issues have caught up with some of the original members of our group, and their wealth of knowledge and experience with "old roses" will be sorely missed. This explains our attempts to set in place a self-explanatory pruning regime. However, the good news is that we welcomed three new members who have recently joined our group.

Once we were allowed to open, we had several Saturday "clearance sales" where customers were thrilled with the bargains. Many people "discovered" the Friends' Nursery and Wednesday sales increased dramatically. It is now quite normal to take more than \$500 on Wednesday mornings.

With tables emptying rapidly, we set about replenishing stock via cuttings and seeds from the Gardens. Material is regularly collected from our volunteer gardeners at the perennial border and correctly documented on our database.

We are now back to full ranks in the nursery and volunteers are happily committing to three hours work on Wednesday mornings. Occasionally, smaller groups still come in to work on other days, and the watering roster ensures that someone is keeping the plants alive in this warmer weather. Thank you so much to all of the team, who work together so well.

We are tackling the waiting list for volunteering in the nursery. After their FGBG induction by Denise or her representative, volunteers will come in for three sessions of Nursery Orientation. At the end of that time, we will decide how many we can take on in the nursery, and what their roles will be. We appreciate the fact that people have had to wait to volunteer in the nursery, but it is vital that we maintain a happy team, where everyone learns about plants and processes, and is valued for their work.

As the nursery area is badly in need of an upgrade, we are exploring several ideas for improving nursery working conditions. Once these have been discussed by the nursery team, proposals and costings will be submitted to Committee of Management.

The Growers look forward to another successful year in 2022.

Leanne Barnes, Nursery Coordinator



The Heritage Rose Garden nestled in between the Conservatory and the Teahouse

Rose labels continue to go missing. We've tried several methods of labelling the roses, but the labels seem to vanish overnight. Our tasks for 2022 will be to add new labels as well as compiling a list of roses in the collection.

Lyn Lang, Rose Growers' Coordinator

PERENNIAL BORDER

A perennial border is a beautiful thing, and the one in our gardens is no exception. A wet spring, and good watering has resulted in vigorous growth, so all our plants are looking very healthy, and there is always something special to catch the eye.

We try to maintain the original concept of the border which was to create a generous garden of perennial plants that will provide a yearlong season of interest with consideration to size, form, texture and colour. The original colour spectrum ran from pink at the southern end, through maroon, to red, yellow and blue, then around the corner, red, orange and purple. The plants in the shady border opposite are chosen for leaf form, texture and colour.

We haven't always managed to keep to this: there is far too much temptation to try interesting new plants, and others decide where they would prefer to be and seem to move themselves, but we are happy with the result so far.

When the border is cut back and plants divided in late autumn/winter, the surplus goes to the Friends' nursery for propagation, so spring is a good time to visit to see if there is something in the border you think would look good in your own garden.



Some of the Perennial Border Team

Covid affected our work in the gardens during the year and many weeks went by without our attention, so we would like to give thanks to the Horticultural staff, especially Sheree, for weeding, feeding and mulching the border in our absence, and for always being willing to help with tasks that were beyond our ageing muscles!

Jan Cheyne, Perennial Border Coordinator

LIBRARY

There are currently four people volunteering in the Library. The scope of their work includes looking after the books and other Library resources, as well as keeping Friends' historical records. These include a complete collection of *Jubaea* and the newsletters that preceded it. Our regular news has developed from typewritten pages to the full colour news you receive three times a year either in a hard copy or as an electronic file sent to your email inbox.

The library keeps two copies of each issue and one of our volunteers, Nadia, indexes these into a Microsoft Excel document, making it easier to search for past articles. There are also albums of photos as well as newspaper and magazine cuttings, which are put into scrapbooks in chronological order. We welcome Friends' help to collect these latter items. Meralyn Roberts has done a wonderful job collecting and collating these.

Our Friends' history timeline is another project well underway with the first 25 years complete. The remaining 12 years is progressing and the two documents are being combined into a complete history. A new volunteer, Dale, has editing skills and her input is very welcome.

We encourage members to visit and use the Library for information or to borrow material. There is always someone there to help on a Wednesday morning, our regular Friends volunteering day.

Luanne Thornton, Librarian



EVENTS 2022

The Friends Events team is excited to present a full calendar of events for 2022, despite some uncertainty from Covid; we have designed a program which should provide something for everyone.

Beginning in late February, our first event will be a self-drive tour to some outstanding properties close to Geelong. The tour involves about 150 km travelling to Lethbridge, Ceres and the Moorabool Valley. The full itinerary is printed on the tickets; all bookings to be made with the Friends' office. Two of the three properties are not generally open to the public, making it a unique experience for members and their friends.

This self-drive tour, "Eclectic Gardens", will begin at Lethbridge at the home of a well-known TV personality gardener. Morning tea will be followed by an entertaining tour of this wonderful property, with beautiful ornamental gardens and very productive vegetable gardens. We will have access to sales of gardening merchandise for those who need more!

After lunch, (either BYO picnic or purchase at Lethbridge or Bannockburn; maybe Clyde Park), we will visit a flower farm; a business which supplies proteas and native wildflowers almost all year round to local florists. Flowers have been sold at markets for many years and there is a rambling country garden around the home. The owners will open especially for the Friends and will treat us to a tour of their farm, followed by the opportunity to buy a posy of flowers. There is a great story about how the garden and business evolved after trying different things.



Flower Farm at Meredith

The day will conclude with a tour of a garden at Ceres. It is in a rain-shadow created by the Otway Ranges, making it one of the state's driest areas. The gardens are full of tough, beautiful plants that are suited to the harsh conditions. The gardens draw on the principles of good design and the plants are arranged to make the most of foliage, flower and form.

In April, our greatly anticipated coach tour to the Daylesford area, first scheduled in early 2020, will hopefully go ahead. This

will include the magnificent *Frogmore Garden and Nursery*, featuring the famous swathes of glorious prairie grasses, the wonderful perennials garden at nearby *Blackridge Garden and Nursery*, and a visit to *Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens* where we will meet the Friends group for a tour of the Gardens. The panoramic views and beautiful surrounds of the Gardens are spectacular. Perched high on the summit of an extinct volcano, it's the perfect spot for a picnic, with magnificent trees of historic importance.



Frogmore Gardens in the Daylesford area

Later in the year another coach tour is planned, to the stunning *Alowyn Gardens* in the Yarra Valley. This garden tour has often been requested by Friends and we will also visit the highly regarded *Antique Perennials* with its Retail Nursery and Display Garden.



Alowyn Gardens in the Yarra Valley

Other events planned for 2022 include High Teas, Luncheons, the Botanic Gardens Open Day, Lectures and Movie Nights as well as tours and picnics. Everyone is invited to enjoy the Friends Events Program throughout the year. Event details, dates and bookings will be on the website and reminders will be in our monthly Member Updates, as well as in emailed flyers as each event approaches. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Allison Martland, Events Coordinator

PLANT IN FOCUS

Cyathea and Dicksonia, Tree Ferns

Ferns are among the most ancient terrestrial plants on planet Earth. The first ferns emerged in the Devonian period, 360 million years ago, before there was Gondwana, indeed before the coming together of Pangaea. The Cyatheas evolved in Gondwana, originating in the late Jurassic period (around 200 million years ago) in either South America or Australasia (both then areas of Gondwana). The Cyatheas are the largest extant family of tree ferns with around 640 species. There are some 20 to 25 species of Dicksonias, a genus related to the Cyatheas but retaining more primitive traits. It is important to note that there are no surviving tree fern families in the northern hemisphere (outside the tropics)



Dicksonia antarctica at beginning of John Raddenberry Fern Garden

Tree Fern Vocabulary

Rhizome: underground (or just at surface) tubers which are food storing and root bearing. The trunk of a tree fern is, in fact, a rhizome. On some tree fern rhizomes, particularly on *Dicksonia antarctica*, aerial roots are evident matting around the trunk.

Meristem or Apex: top of the tree fern rhizome (or trunk) which is the developing part of the rhizome from which the tree fern grows slowly upwards and from which the fronds unfurl.

Frond: The leaf of a fern.

Stipe: The stalk of the frond.

Stipe scars: On many *Cyathea*s the dead fronds break away cleanly from the trunk (rhizome) leaving distinctive scar patterns on the trunk. This is true of *Cyathea cooperi* and *Cyathea cunninghamii*.

Spores: The reproductive system of tree ferns predates pollen-bearing conifers and flowering plants with their stamens, style and ovaries. Tree ferns reproduce in a two-stage cycle which begins with spores (the sporophyte stage) on the underside of the fronds.

Sori: Distinct groups of spores on the underside of a frond.

Indusia: covers for the spores on the underside of the fronds. They are outgrowths of the frond. They can be cup-shaped or hood-shaped.

Scales and Hairs: Some tree ferns have hairy trunks, meristems and stipes (eg *Dicksonia antarctica*). Other tree ferns have scales on their trunks, meristems and/or stipes. (eg *Cyathea cooperi* and *Cyathea cunninghamii*).

Tree Fern Reproduction

Like all ferns, tree ferns reproduce through two-phase cycle with alternation of generations: 1. The sporophyte stage (diploid) produces spores on the underside of the tree fern fronds. These drop to the ground and give rise to: 2. The gametophyte stage (haploid). The tiny gametophyte 'plants' are 4mm in size. They are bisexual and it is they that engender the new sporophyte fern.

Tree ferns in Geelong Botanic Gardens

Cyathea cooperi (Lacy Tree Fern, sometimes Australian Tree Fern)

This tree fern is often sold as *Cyathea 'australis'*. It is also sometimes called the Scaly Tree Fern or even 'Rough' tree fern, a term used more broadly for all *Cyathea*e. It is native to New South Wales and Queensland rain forest areas. The trunk of *Cyathea cooperi* is up to 30cm in diameter and it can grow to 15 metres in height. The crown is widely spread with pale green fronds up to 6 metres long. The trunk (rhizome) is beautifully patterned with large, oval, cleanly detached stipe scars. The base of the living stipe is brown, tuberculate and covered with long white and short red-brown scales. The sori (groups of spores) are orbicular and are surrounded by circular indusia, made up of scales.

Distinguishing features:

- Beautiful pattern of oval stipe scars on the trunk.
- Two types of scales on the stipe base: long white scales and short red-brown scales.



Cyathea cooperi with oval stipe scars

Cyathea cunninghamii (Slender Tree Fern) well earns its common name of 'slender' tree fern. It grows to over 20 metres tall on a trunk of 15 cm diameter. Its Gondwana heritage is evident in its range which extends beyond Australia (Victoria, NSW, Queensland, Tasmania) to the North and South Islands of New Zealand and to the Chatham Islands. It is relatively uncommon, needing damp forest to survive. It has a slender rachis (central rib of the frond), which is black-brown and covered in brown scales and tubercles. The fronds are dark green above, pale green on the underside and soft in texture. The sori are covered by cup-shaped, well developed indusial. The labelled *Cyathea cunninghamii* in the GBG is distinguished by its oval stipe scars extending far up the trunk.

Distinguishing features of *Cyathea cunninghamii*:

- Slender trunk and small crown
- Soft fronds.
- Well developed indusia
- Like other *Cyatheas* – but distinguishing it from *Dicksonias* -- it has scales and not hairs.



Slender Tree Fern *Cyathea cunninghamii*

Dicksonia antarctica (Soft Tree Fern) is our local, common Victorian tree fern and the majority of tree ferns in the John Raddenberry Fern Garden are this species. Its range is the sheltered and damp gullies of southern Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. Its rhizome (trunk) is covered in matted adventitious roots. It tends to have a thick trunk, which can be up to 2 metres in diameter in extreme cases, and it is therefore an excellent host for epiphytes. It grows to over 15 metres tall and is sometimes buttressed at the base. The stipes persist on the trunk after the frond dies and breaks off, so the upper trunk has untidy old stipes sticking out rather than a beautiful pattern of stipe scars. Living stipes have shiny brown hairs (not scales) at the very hairy base of the stipe (adjoining the trunk). Fronds are up to 4.5 metres long, relatively narrow, and are dark, glossy green on the upper side. The fronds unfurl in spectacular flushes of 'croziers'. The sori, when present, are conspicuous.

Distinguishing features:

- The soft fibrous trunk (rhizome) with its matted root cover.
- The smooth, hairy (not scaly) stipes
- The sori covered by a 2-lobed indusium about 1cm across

New Zealand Tree Ferns (no name tags) in the John Raddenberry Fern Garden:

1. ***Cyathea dealbata* (Silver Tree Fern).** This is an emblem of New Zealand. We have one directly behind the Tea House. It is about 150 cm tall and is recognisable by the silvery underside of the fronds.

2. ***Cyathea medullaris* (Black Tree Fern).** This is another New Zealand tree fern though its range extends to some Pacific Islands (Tahiti, Fiji, Pitcairn). There are 3 young (and therefore low) black tree ferns at the end of the John Raddenberry Fern Garden on the right as one walks to the new toilet block. They are easily recognised by the black trunk and black rachis (stalk and mid-rib of the frond).

Note: This is a simplified version of the Plant in Focus. For the detailed original version, refer to the Friends' website.

Photos and article: Cherry Collins, Guide

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES with the FRIENDS

GUIDED WALKS

Every Wednesday at 11.00 am and Sunday at 2.00 pm.
Second Sunday of every month at 2.00 pm. Meet your guide at the front steps. Gold coin Donation

WEEKLY PLANT SALES

The Friends' Plant Nursery is **open every Wednesday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm** showcasing a wide selection of plants sourced from the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Located at the rear of GBG.

THE GIFT FUND

The Gift Fund currently has \$420,097.03. Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund is registered with the Australian Taxation Office to receive donations, which are tax-deductible. This Fund may only be used to support special projects and programs within, and initiated by, Geelong Botanic Gardens. It may not be used to support the Friends or Friends activities. The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens are very appreciative of your generous donations to the Gift Fund and would like to thank you.

INSPIRED BY NATURE 7 EXHIBITION 2022

The Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens, who manage the Geelong School of Botanical Art, are pleased to present the 7th biennial '*Inspired by Nature*' exhibition at which over 70 artworks by 21 students and their tutors will be featured.

This '*Inspired by Nature 7*' exhibition will be held at the Exhibition Gallery, Deakin University, Waterfront Campus, Western Beach Road, Geelong, from 5 March to 1 April 2022, Tuesday - Saturday, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Many of the artists have received numerous awards and are represented in botanical art collections both nationally and internationally. We also have many beginner artists who will be featured.



Deb Chirside
Solanum melongena, Eggplants

Of note are the works by Amanda Ahmed, Amanda Blake Sutterby, Deborah Chirside, Rosemary Donnelly, Craig Lidgerwood, and John Pastoriza-Piñol. If you follow these artists' works at exhibitions, on Facebook or Instagram, this is an opportunity to view their works firsthand. John Pastoriza-Piñol, Amanda Ahmed and Craig Lidgerwood are also tutors for the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.



Sue Crothers
Agaricus bisporus, Common White
Mushroom



Wilma King
Vagus sylvatica, *Platanua*
x acerfolia, *Acer rubrum*

Of particular interest is the bibliography of John Pastoriza-Piñol, who also tutors in the USA, and elsewhere overseas. His artworks are included in both the 'Highgrove Florilegium' and 'Transylvania Florilegium', projects created under the aegis of the H.R.H Prince of Wales' Charitable Foundation.

John, Rosemary and Deborah have all exhibited their work and /or contributed to the prestigious collection at the Hunt Library - Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, USA. We are showcasing a very eclectic range of subjects, all inspired by nature, and nature's detail is depicted in watercolour or gauche paintings, or graphite drawings. There is something for everyone who loves the world of art and plants.

Botanical Art and Botanical Illustration have a long history throughout the world. Before cameras it was the only means of recording the anatomical features of plants. While fashions in the world of art have come and gone, botanical art has continued to feature in botany, horticulture and in fine art. Our prestigious exhibition recognises the important role of botanical art but in a more contemporary way, and records the beauty and complexity of what is becoming even more important today; our green environment.

If we can encourage others to value and nurture the environment so it can be sustained for future generations through such exhibitions, we have achieved our goal.

Denise Feldman, President

20²²



Inspired by Nature

**Deakin University
Waterfront Exhibition Gallery**

Cnr Cunningham Street and Western Beach Road, Geelong

5 March – 1 April

Tuesday - Saturday
10.00 am to 4.00 pm



Supported by:



The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

Artwork provided by: John Pastoriza Pinol, Wilma King, Judy Lavery

Sponsored by:



[hayeswinckle]

DIARY DATES AT A GLANCE

JUBAEA SUBMISSIONS for the next Edition are due by 2 May 2022.
All articles including high resolution photos (jpeg files) can be sent to the FGBG Office



FEBRUARY

THEMED GUIDED WALK Perennial & Silver Borders

Sunday 13 February, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates

The Gardens have an impressive display of perennial plants and silver plants in its borders. Learn how these plants not only have the ability to conserve water but can also offer a colourful addition to our own gardens. Gold coin donation.

HIGH TEA AND GUIDED WALK FOR NEW MEMBERS

Monday 21 Feb at 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

GBG Visitor Facility

RSVP Friends' Office by Thursday 17 February

'ECLECTIC GARDENS' SELF-DRIVE TOUR

Monday 28 February 10.00 am to 4.30 pm

Join the Friends on a self-drive tour to some outstanding properties close to Geelong. The tour involves about 150 km travelling to Lethbridge, Ceres and the Moorabool Valley. Two of the three properties are not generally open to the public, making it a unique experience for members and their friends. Morning and afternoon tea are provided. BYO drinks and picnic lunch.

\$50 members or \$60 non-members. RSVP to the Friends' Office by Friday 18 February.

Full itinerary provided with payment.

MARCH

GEELONG DESIGN WEEK GUIDED WALKS:

The Wadawurrung Connection

Sunday 20 March, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates

Geelong Botanic Gardens, on Wadawurrung land, celebrates the traditional owners, and features many of the plants they used for food, medicine, tools and celebrations. New developments in garden design and signage will highlight our connection with the Wadawurrung, from the time of the Gardens' first curator. We welcome representatives of the Wadawurrung who will be involved in this walk.

The Pacific Rim – Ancient Plants For New Garden

Sunday 20 March, 3.00 pm at the Front Gates

Explore the newest area in the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Ancient trees are a key feature of this beautifully landscaped section of our Gardens. Tree-lined avenues intersect with paths, seating areas allow contemplation and rocks invite children to enjoy this place.

EXHIBITION 'INSPIRED BY NATURE 7'

5 March to 1 April, Tuesday – Saturday, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Deakin University, Waterfront Exhibition Gallery

The Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens are pleased to present the 7th biennial *Inspired by Nature* exhibition showcasing over seventy watercolour and gouache paintings and pencil drawings representing works by twenty-one artists from the Geelong School of Botanical Art.

APRIL

COACH TOUR TO GARDENS AND NURSERIES NEAR DAYLESFORD

Friday 8 April

Visit famous 'Frogmore' Garden and Nursery prairie grasses garden, Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens and 'Blackridge' Garden and Nursery perennial garden. Friends of Wombat Hill will treat us to a guided tour of beautiful Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens at Daylesford.

BYO lunch /afternoon tea or purchase at Wombat Hill /Blackridge cafés. \$75 mems \$85 non-mems. Morning tea included.

RSVP Friends' Office by Friday 1 April.

NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE WALK

Sunday 24 April, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates

Geelong Botanic Gardens are the fourth oldest botanic gardens in Australia. The first curators were avid plant collectors and many of the splendid trees they planted now have heritage status. Several historic structures have also found a home here, including some curiosities. Gold coin donation.

MAY

THEMED GUIDED WALK Changing Planet, Changing Plants: Plant Adaptation

Sunday 8 May, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates

Many plants have developed impressive features for coping with drought conditions. These adaptations are vital in a time of climate change. We will explore some of the plants in Geelong Botanic Gardens demonstrating the strategies which they employ. You may be inspired to alter the character of your garden! Gold coin donation.

FRIENDS VOLUNTEER WEEK SOUP LUNCHEON

Wednesday 18 May, 12.45 pm - 3.00 pm, GBG Meeting Room

Free Event for Volunteers Only

RSVP Friends' Office Monday 16 May



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