

Jubaea

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc. Newsletter

June 2023 Volume 23 Issue 2



FRIENDS OF
GEELONG
BOTANIC
GARDENS



Autumn in Geelong Botanic Gardens

COLLECTION PLANNING USING THE LIVING COLLECTION TOOLKIT

Our first decision is which plants we want to collect. Horticulturists can be like kids in a candy store when it comes to collecting, as there are so many choices.

There is so much depth in the Geelong Botanic Gardens, however collections must be curated collections and actively managed for integrity. The focus should be on their scientific and / or educational use and the story they can tell.

The BCARM toolkit will allow us to track and scrutinise our role in collection management and keep us on track in a global sense of participating in plant conservation.

A collection could be 15 plants, or it could be 2000! How we are performing against our objectives will create a sustainable

method of successfully managing our plant collections into the future.

With all this information, we need somewhere to start, and the Nursery is the engine room when it comes to Botanic Gardens. Without a functioning Nursery there just wouldn't be a living collection so it's really critical that we put time and effort into the nursery.

We understand that communication is the key to success, and we need to support our staff and volunteers to ensure there is adequate space and equipment to realistically achieve our goals. This is where we find ourselves in 2023, looking at our nursery as the driving force that will support and provide the results we want for our plant collections.

Our plan is to start using the Living Collection toolkit provided by BCARM (the BGANZ Collections and Records Management group), which includes the following questions:

Who:	collections are held in trust for the public
Why:	knowing the purpose of our collection
What:	knowing which plants are in the garden and where possible their provenance
Where:	knowing where specific plants are located in the garden
When:	knowing when plants are added to the collection, when there are problems with management (pest and disease) and when plants are removed from the collection.
How:	knowing how to apply best practice principles to manage and grow the collection.

We have started the journey to obtain Nursery Industry Accreditation, which will ensure professional management of our Nursery, including everything from growing media, production management, and environmental guidelines.

Accreditation by the Nursery Industry will give us the knowledge and technical support to ensure our plant production operates according to best practice and commits us to continuous improvement.

Industry Best Management Practices for production nurseries will help us into the future with:

- Plant hygiene (root disease prevention, and disease, pest and weed control)
- Plant management practices (nutrition and environment control)
- Nursery site Management
- Water Management



We have started with plant hygiene and have found that we are not travelling too badly! We are always conscious of preventing disease and pathogens, particularly those caused by *Phytophthora* spp, as once infected it is most difficult to eradicate.

Water management and growing media fall into this category, as with movement can come disease and pests. Our water supplies are naturally collected from rainfall and runoff, which is very positive. Routine checks and testing of our water supply is something we must take seriously.

Potting media can pose a problem, if not sourced from a reputable source. We source our materials from a reputable source and store them appropriately. The health and security of our nursery stock depends on its quality and the correct mix.

Working surfaces in our nursery have kept up with Industry standard. We use non-porous benches and clean down at the end of each day, which safeguards and protects our plants. Tools fall into this category as well.

We are looking at methods used in the larger botanic gardens where foot baths and tools are cleaned after use, ensuring collections are secure.



Working surfaces in the depot area are kept to an industry standard for plant hygiene.

Plants are the life of the GBG. We need to ensure that they are protected so that we continue to have a vibrant and healthy collection.

The continual monitoring of our plant collections in the gardens falls onto all of us, gardens staff and volunteers alike! Guides take walks observing as they are speaking to visitors.

Volunteers work each week to manage the plants in the perennial border and the weeding volunteers work as required all around the gardens. All of this allows a constant approach to observing our collection for any change. This work is priceless in keeping an eye on our plants.

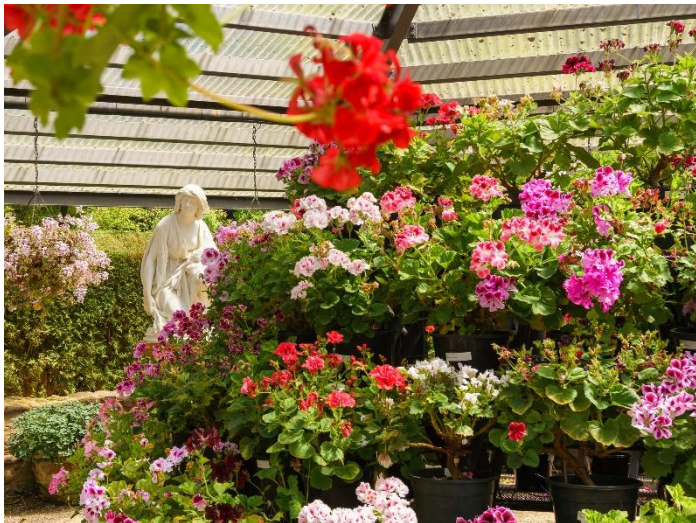
Kellee Reissinger, GBG Coordinator

PELARGONIUM COLLECTION

Of all the plants grown in the FGBG Nursery, pelargoniums and salvias are by far the most popular with customers. Pelargoniums have been grown in the Geelong Botanic Gardens for over 150 years. Daniel Bunce's 1860 catalogue lists those growing at the time. The early Geelong Advertisers describe the floral displays including geraniums and pelargoniums in the Gardens during those early years.

Over the years various collections were added, including Barry Grandpierre's collection of South African Hoareas, which had been acquired by Lara pelargonium breeder Cliff Blackman and later donated to the GBG. Horticulturalist Don Francis managed the collection until he retired from the GBG in 1999. He instigated an annual Pelargonium Day at the GBG, which ran for several years. Les Hunter took over from him until he too retired.

The Geranium House was constructed in 1972. It was named in honour of Florence E. Clarke, who bequeathed \$44,000 to build a place to display geraniums and pelargoniums at the GBG. It was re-roofed in 1989 with a clear polycarbonate by curator, Ian Rogers.



Statue 'Ruth' with the colourful variety of pelargoniums

In 2003 the collection was confirmed as one of the GBG's main horticultural collections and was registered with the Ornamental Plant Collections Association. An expo was held in the conservatory in 2003 and resident botanical artist, Enid Mayfield, painted a representation of the Zonal Pelargoniums, which the Friends purchased for their art collection.

In 2006 the Pelargonium House was once again refurbished and painted in time for the International Pelargonium Conference held at the Conference Centre in Eastern Park. The Friends' assistance included sponsorship of the keynote speaker, Dr Peter Vorster, from South Africa.

In 2015 the wife of collector Mike Brown, who had owned *Floraberry Nursery* at Clunes, donated some of his collection of pelargoniums to the Friends. Interested Growing Friends

collated and described the collection, which included 45 regal and 72 uncommon species.

The Pelargonium Garden Club members used to meet in the Friends' meeting room until membership declined and the group disbanded in 2018, although a few interested people continue to meet privately. At that time, the club donated a potting table to the Growing Friends.

In 2019 the Pelargonium House was again refurbished and the Carrara marble statue of Ruth, by Italian sculptor Raphael Romanelli, was relocated there. Inside were displayed many colourful and healthy plants. At this time, our nursery had approximately 600 pelargonium plants for sale. COVID meant the Friends were unable to volunteer. When the Growing Friends were able to return, it was decided that the number of pelargoniums to be propagated would be limited and now 65 varieties are represented in the Nursery. The GBG pelargoniums are now housed in the depot and the collection is under review.



The Friends' Nursery has a wide selection of pelargoniums available



Jenni Smith in the Friends' Nursery

Jenni Smith is our knowledgeable pelargonium volunteer in the Friends' Nursery. Jenni and volunteer Growers propagate and sell hundreds of pelargonium plants each year and regularly advise customers about growing and caring for pelargoniums. Kelly Reissinger is working with Jenni to build up the collection.

Luanne Thornton

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Some may think we are on City of Greater Geelong land. But no, it is Crown Land set aside for Recreation and Botanical Gardens and managed by the City on behalf of the Crown. We are very privileged that our members have been able to meet and volunteer on this Crown Land for nearly 38 years. We have also learned a lot and have been able to assist the public to enjoy and learn so much more about the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Two of our purposes are:

- To conserve, protect and enhance the Geelong Botanic Gardens and its environs, including Eastern Park.
- To act in partnership with the body known as Gardens Management, created by the statutory body known as the City of Greater Geelong to conserve, develop and support the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park.

However, we are an incorporated body: we have our own governance documents, a committee of management and our own rules and purposes. It is a balancing act to work with the City, but also to maintain our independence. We are indebted to our members and volunteers for their ongoing support for all our activities and for the professional manner and time devoted to the Gardens, which in turn benefits the Geelong Community.

Below this article, you will see the current total balance of the Gift Fund. This fund was established by the Friends to support projects, programs and items which enhance the Gardens. By law there is a specific percentage of Gift Fund which must be distributed each year; this is the responsibility of the Friends' Committee.

John Norman Mann 1926 -2017

Several years ago, the Friends' Gift Fund received a considerable bequest from John Mann's estate. Recently Kellee Reissinger, Allison Martland and I had the privilege of spending time with John's nephew, Lance Mann and his wife. Lance shared memories of his uncle with us.

John Norman Mann attended Geelong High School. He studied at Melbourne University to become a civil engineer. In 1973 he became the Director of Water Resources Victoria and through his work travelled extensively to view overseas water projects. After retiring from that job in 1982 he continued his engineering as a consultant.

John and wife Bette later retired to Highton, Geelong to be closer to family. In retirement, even into his 90's, John was extremely passionate about climate change and as a water engineer studied the benefits of Pumped Hydro (in particular), wave and tidal, wind and solar, as forms of energy for electricity production.

The couple attended ballet, theatre, galleries, gardens and museums regularly. They loved fine dining beforehand or a glass of wine afterwards. They also loved world travel with highlights including a visit to Butchart Gardens, Victoria, Canada.

On passing, in 2017 John and Bette left significant bequests to Melb University, The Australian Ballet, Geelong Art Gallery and Greening Australia. They also bequeathed the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund approximately \$270,000; they wanted this bequest to provide a tourist attraction for the Botanic Gardens.

GBG Master Plans

A friend told me recently that there is a new term for Community Consultation: it is Co Design. Formal master plans are the result of much consultation between many individuals and community groups. In fact, Geelong Botanic Gardens has two documents to guide the work of the Gardens. The 1995 Master Plan and the 2008 Strategic Plan. What a great blueprint these documents are for the ongoing development of the Gardens! The Friends contributed to these both financially and through the input of members. Of particular significance was the work of Jayne Salmon and her committee.

Botanical Art Exhibition

The Botanical Artists are preparing for the biennial *Inspired by Nature Exhibition*. The Exhibition will be held in November at the Gallery adjacent to the Alfred Deakin Ministerial Library.

Although the library is primarily a reference collection of books about Alfred Deakin, the artists have a lot in common with this library. Stored in it are historic botanical works, including a copy of Sir Joseph Banks' *Florilegium*, a collection of copperplate engravings of plants collected on Captain Cook's first voyage to Australia 1768-71. The exhibition director and curator intend that our exhibition will demonstrate links to these works.

Denise Feldman, FGBG President

FGBG GIFT FUND

The Gift Fund currently has \$ 406,604.59 The 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.

To make a donation online, go to <https://fgbg.tidyhq.com/public/shop/products>

or at the Friends' Office ph. 5222 6053

GEELONG SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL ART

As we near the halfway mark of the school year and I reflect on our work, I can't help but draw an analogy with a seed's development. For some, the planting of a seed could be the planting of an idea, watching the creation flourish to full bloom. For the school, I see the seeds are our students being nurtured by our tutors; like plants unfurling, their talents emerge. As they bloom, we are amazed and delighted at the knowledge they have gained and the high level of artistic endeavour they have achieved; for it is in the fruits of their labour that we can all enjoy and celebrate.

I would like you to **save the date** for our biennial art exhibition – **4 November to 10 December 2023**. Our eighth *Inspired by Nature Exhibition* is expanding! For the first time we are exhibiting large scale art works. Visitors will be in for a floral feast. Appropriately, the theme for our exhibition is ***Inspired by Nature 'Bloom'***. The Exhibition will be held once again at Deakin University Waterfront Campus. More information will be released in the coming months.

Pammi Pryor, Coordinator, Geelong School of Botanical Art



Scale: 100 x 50 cm

Here is a sneak preview of what to expect from the large-scale works. Stunning works from **Debra De Vries on the left** and **Angela Langley below**. These particular works may not be at the exhibition; however, they give you an idea of the scale and style of artwork that Amanda Blake Sutterby teaches using the medium of gauche.



Scale: 80 x 60 cm

CAMELLIA WALK PATH WIDENING



Recognising that the Camellia path width was not fit for purpose and maintenance was difficult as the path could only be utilised by foot traffic, the GBG staff worked with the City Works Department to take out all the bluestone edges.

The widening of sections was completed by the garden staff recognising which areas could be widened, protecting vegetation that could not be moved. Staff removed plants that were compromised and could be replanted in other areas of the garden.

After the new path was laid, it was an all-in effort to replace the bluestone edging one by one.

Kellee Reissing, GBG Coordinator

EVENTS REVIEW

The Friends celebrated Seniors' Week in late February rather than October, with a guided walk to encourage seniors to remain active and perhaps visit the wonderful botanic gardens more often through the seasons. For some, the free catered morning tea was a highlight of the visit, and the City's Positive Ageing staff were delighted with the event, which is attracting more and more seniors each year. As a result, for 2024 we are planning to double the number participating, increasing to 100+ senior participants in two sessions.

Autumn saw the Friends welcome new members with a delightful morning tea and guided walk. New members are always invited to the next welcome event held after they join the Friends. It's a lovely way to meet other new members and Committee members and share your story.



The System Garden Bee Hotel

The Friends' Events Catering team and Guides have been very busy already this year. In March forty members of the Alexandra Club from Melbourne requested a guided walk and were delighted with the walk and sumptuous morning tea we provided.

In May Geelong Botanic Gardens hosted 108 members of the International Plant Propagation Society, as part of a three-day conference in Geelong. GBG staff led back-of-house tours and Friends' Guides conducted informative tours of the Gardens. Our caterers put on a three-course dinner which was enthusiastically received. In September we will be hosting a picnic lunch and tours for Cranbourne Friends, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

These initiatives contribute to Friends' fundraising efforts, as well as working with the Gardens staff to showcase Geelong's 'jewel in the crown'. The Gardens always put on a spectacular show.

In May a hardy group of Friends travelled by train to the historic System Garden at University of Melbourne. For those who had attended University of Melbourne many decades ago it was a trip down memory lane. We were very fortunate to have a guided tour by the Director of the garden, Virginia McNally, who explained the significance of the remnant features and symbolism behind many of the modern features. After moving on to Treasury and Fitzroy gardens, members wandered at will through the autumn colours, glorious conservatory, historic structures and warm café, before enjoying a tour by a most entertaining guide at the gardens of Parliament House. The symbolism and history of the gardens, peppered with amusing anecdotes, kept us engaged for the afternoon. Who would have thought Parliament House had arrow slits in case of armed rebellion!



Friends enjoying glorious Treasury and Fitzroy Gardens



Parliament House rooftop native gardens and manicured grounds



The Friends' annual Volunteers Lunch in May was a noisy and enjoyable affair. Delicious soups made by our Catering Team, bread, cakes, laughter and a chance to mingle socially with some of the GBG staff, were followed by a whimsical documentary that divided those who stayed. For some, the life of a free spirit living a true hippie lifestyle with her goats was a little more than they could sit through. For others it was a delightful experience.



Deputy Mayor, Cr Anthony Aitken spoke of the value of volunteers and how important their work is to the GBG.

Better luck pleasing everyone with our next movie, "Delicieux", at our Supper Night in July at The Hub!!

See the back page of Jubaea for a synopsis of our events coming up in the next few months. Winter Lunch, Supper Night with a Movie at the Hub, AGM with guest speaker Stephen Ryan, a Coach Tour to the Macedon Area. Get in early for bookings.

Allison Martland, Events Coordinator



We were also pleased to have some of the GBG garden staff join us for the yummy soup lunch and it was also lovely to see some retired volunteers present.

VALE ZOE MONOTTI

Zoe Monotti was a key figure at Geelong Botanic Gardens. In 1999, the National Heritage Rose Conference was held in Geelong, and this was the prompt to change the way roses were presented at the Gardens. The conference showcased our GBG Heritage rose collection amongst other Victorian country gardens and was a huge and successful operation. As President of this organisation Zoe Monotti organised the team to run the event.

In preparation for the conference the Western District Branch of Heritage Roses Australia obtained a grant to purchase roses for the Geelong Botanic Gardens and a site was cleared with ten new beds set up ready to receive the 300 roses. Zoe was one of four drivers, including Elizabeth Vorath, Pam Thomas and Fairlie Friend, who worked each week with many other volunteers to nurture and look after the rose collection over the years.

As membership of the Heritage Rose Group dwindled over time the remaining members came under the auspices of the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens, continuing their roles in the rose gardens and working closely with the horticultural staff of the GBG.



Zoe was given a Life Membership of the Friends in 2016 and continued working with the group under Lyn Lang's leadership until about eighteen months ago. She will be missed by her many friends as she was always enthusiastic about roses and gardens, opening her own garden on over twenty occasions. A history of the GBG roses is currently being completed by Rosslyn Jablonsky with input from the rose group.

Luanne Thornton

SUPPORTING THE GARDENS



THE PERENNIAL BORDER TEAM

Autumn is traditionally the time the Border plants are cut back, divided, and the beds generally tidied up: a big job as there are approximately 200 different plants growing there. However, there are still eye-catching plants flowering to add interest during the winter months. *Dahlia imperialis alba plena*, the double white tree Dahlia is soon to flower. At two metres tall, it will be smothered in large white blooms. *Kniphofias*, the red-hot poker, are already flowering. The tall orange and yellow blooms held above strappy foliage are loved by the birds who often snap the flower stalks with their weight as they seek the nectar.

Edgeworthia chrysantha is a fairly new addition to the Border: it's actually a small shrub but gives some permanent height and structure to the garden. This one is deciduous and flowers on bare branches in winter. It has lovely yellow flowers which resemble the *Daphne*, and the bark has traditionally been used to make paper in Japan.

The Border continues to amaze and delight the many visitors to the gardens and is maintained by ten stalwart volunteers from FGBG who work every Wednesday regardless of the weather. Heather Boyd has missed very few in her thirty years of work in the Border and has a great knowledge of the history of the plantings. Some years ago, Heather chose all the *Dahlias* which provide such a variety of colour and shape over the summer months, lasting well into Autumn.

A Perennial Border is not a static thing; we continually try new and interesting plants, and remove those which underperform, always striving to maintain a harmonious blend of colour and texture. We love it!

Jan Cheyne



THE NURERY GROWERS

2023 has been a time of change and adjustment for the Growers. After Leanne's unexpected resignation as Coordinator, we agreed to share the role. We thank the team for their understanding, positive support and willingness to take on extra responsibilities, often suggesting successful new procedures.

As we all adjusted to our new roles, there were further changes in our procedures. We no longer collect our own cuttings for propagation: instead, we submit a list of requests to Gardens staff each week. Diane Scott has become the wonderful Wishlist Fairy. Propagation now takes place in the refurbished GBG nursery. Space is reserved for us on the GBG hot beds, and in their Bush House. In the Friends' Nursery, our team works together on potting up, advice, maintenance and customer service. At Kellee's request, we have been experimenting with new pots for sales, and with peat plugs for propagation. Not everyone is happy with this, but we're trialling all combinations. We are confident that problems will be solved!

Sales remain very good in spite of wintry weather, and some customers travel great distances, especially for the pelargoniums (advice from Jenni Smith) and salvias (Jenny Stein). Bruce McGinness has had great success with seed propagation, and our collection of Australian native plants has grown dramatically. We look forward to working with Jan Cheyne and the Perennial Border team to build up our depleted stocks. This will be under the supervision of GBG staff.

We record all sales for reports to the GBG, in an effort to rationalize and justify the species we offer for sale.

The Growers are an amazing team: we help and support each other, exchange information (and produce) and have lots of laughs together. We all look forward to Wednesday mornings!

Liz Bennetto and Judy Fyfe

HANDS-ON VOLUNTEERING WITH THE FRIENDS



THE WEEDING TEAM

The weeders have been kept busy every week working at sites all over the gardens. This autumn we have seen a flush of weeds proliferating everywhere and it has been a challenge to keep on top of it. Due to the amazing commitment and hard work of the team we have risen to the challenge each week!!

We have welcomed some new members and now have eight enthusiastic members dedicated to the removal of all weeds.

The team share a wonderful humour, happiness and recipes each week. We are always searching for the perfect lemon tart recipe so would welcome new members with expertise in this area.

Peter Jablonsky



THE HERITAGE ROSE GROWERS

Winter isn't the best time for Rose Gardens; however, the upper beds have continued to flower very late into May and the hips on some of the heritage roses have been spectacular.

Our group has expanded to now become 11 "Rose Ladies" AND John! We welcome our new members and are grateful for the continued dedication of our team and their willingness to move our working day to Wednesdays. The extra hands will be appreciated as we enter our heavy pruning period.

As well as tending the roses, we have been busy creating a guide specific to our significant collection. A very special thanks to Rosslyn, Marg, Lyn and everyone else who has contributed. Jane Edmanson, of Gardening Australia fame was very impressed with the draft publication and has agreed to host our **Rose Lovers' Day** on Monday 6 November, launching the booklet to the public at that event.

We are looking forward to participating in a Professional Development session with our Guides in June and longer term we hope to work with the Growers and Council Staff to propagate our precious and popular roses, with new signage and labels.

Thanks again to other volunteer groups who pitched in earlier in the year to help us with a catch-up prune – it was lovely to meet you and work together.

Rosalyn Carr-Gellie



THE GUIDES

The guides have the honour of showing off the wonders that surround us all when we visit the gardens. Our monthly Themed Walks are a perfect example where an area is selected and brought to life by the guides. The same can be said for the monthly Discovery Table which features many curiosities selected and presented to the visitors so they can learn more about nature. Every Wednesday and Sunday the guides host any visitors choosing to have an escort to take them around the gardens.

Gwen Anderson

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER GUIDE?

Contact the Friends' Office for more details:

info@friendsgbg.org.au or phone 5222 6053

PLANT IN FOCUS

***Quillaja saponaria*: the Soap Bark Tree**

Quillaja saponaria is a large evergreen tree, native to warm temperate central Chile. The tree has thick, dark bark, smooth, leathery, shiny, oval evergreen leaves 3–5 cm long, white flowers 15 mm diameter borne in dense corymbs, and a dry fruit with five follicles each containing 10-20 seeds.

The species is drought resistant and tolerates about -12°C (10°F) in its natural habitat of dry sclerophyll forest. Quillaja is found naturally in a general area of central Chile approximately 800,000 hectares in size, and **nowhere else**.

The inner bark of *Quillaja saponaria* can be reduced to powder and employed as a substitute for soap, since it forms a lather with water, owing to the presence of a glucoside saponin.

Traditional Uses

Soap bark tree has a long history of medicinal use with the Andean people who used it especially as a treatment for chest problems. Quillaja has been used in traditional medicine to relieve cough and bronchitis, and topically to relieve scalp itchiness and dandruff. The bark has also been used by South Americans to aid in washing clothes.

However, it is not recommended for current ingestion.

- quillaja can depress cardiac and respiratory activity and induce localized irritation.
- Quillaja is not considered safe for human use. The ingestion of the quillaja bark can result in liver damage, gastric pain, diarrhoea, respiratory failure, convulsions, and coma.
- Quillaja saponin is highly toxic.

Current Uses

The inner bark is separated from the cork and collected for commercial use. It has an acrid, astringent taste. Currently, it is used as follows:

- extracts of quillaia as a food additive: used as a foaming agent in some carbonated beverages and cocktail mixes. They are typically used in concentrations of about 0.01%.
- an ingredient in pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and fire-fighting foam.
- an additive for photographic films.
- a medicine: the saponin content of the bark stimulates the production of a more fluid mucus in the airways, thus facilitating the removal of phlegm through coughing.
- as an adjuvant to vaccine solutions, to modify the immune response and increase effectiveness.
- the wood is used in cabinetry, and scents derived from the tree are used in perfumes and cosmetics.

Harvesting and conservation:

“Two men with chain saws stand in the warm Chilean sun, cutting branches from trees. There are plenty of bees here buzzing around in the central valley, especially in this part where pesticides are not used. The men are careful to cut only up to 35 percent of each tree – quillaja saponaria – and to leave the rest for re-growth. These same trees will not be touched by saws again for another five years. It is all part of a sustainable harvesting program supervised by the Chilean forestry department CONAF, for the making of saponins from the soap bark tree.” (Kilham, C. 2015)

Quillaja could be over-harvested, resulting in environmental and supply problems. But Chile’s forestry ministry CONAF has developed a monitoring program that enables commercial entities to harvest up to 35 percent of the total bio-mass of quillaja in Chile over a five year period. If a limb of a quillaja tree is cut and the rest remains, new growth will commence from the cut. This management program ensures a sustainable harvest and a good supply of the tree for the future.

Family: Quillajaceae

Genus: *Quillaja*

Species: *Quillaja saponaria*

Common names: Soap Bark Tree

Origin: Chile

Meanings of its name: from the Chilean word quilleán, to wash.

Location in GBG: Pathway intersection on north side of the C19 Garden.

National Trust Classification: Significant.

Our tree also provides a home for bees! The tree seems to have benefited from the new irrigation system. It has flowered abundantly in recent seasons.

Liz Bennetto, FGBG Guide

References:

Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quillaja_saponaria
www.drugs.com

Article by Chris Kilham, published in Fox News March 25, 2015

Quillaja: coming to your beer, soda and shampoo

GarudaInternational Inc <http://www.garudaint.com/>



BOTANICA WORLD DISCOVERIES TRAVEL WITH THE FRIENDS

The Friends have negotiated some very special opportunities for members to travel together in a 15-25 group, to two amazing destinations. All fully escorted with experienced Botanica Guides, these tours promise to be popular with those who would love a horticulture-based tour with like-minded people. Botanica will organise everything, including assistance and liaison of airfares.

Botanica Travel and the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens invite you to join one of these three tours offered. Two are exclusive to the Friends. When booking any of these tours through Botanica, ask them to note your Friends membership, which will attract a \$100 donation from Botanica World Discoveries to the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens.



Exclusive Lord Howe Island Tour

Tailored specifically to the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Departs Monday 30 October 2023 – Saturday 4 November. Five nights/six days, the tour starts and ends in Sydney. Lord Howe Island is World Heritage listed with an extensive Marine Park and is home to an incredible biodiversity on land and water. See the tour itinerary attached.

\$5,795 pp twin share, \$7,295 pp solo.

Please try to arrange twin share as accommodation is limited. Total number of tour guests is 16 if all apartments are twin share. Maximum solo bookings available is 4, but twin share is preferred. \$1000 deposit at time of booking and balance by 22 July 2023. Full Covid Vaccination required. Bookings email info@botanica.travel and refer to Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens booking.



Exclusive New Zealand Tour

Tailored specifically to the Friends of Geelong Botanic Garden. Subtropical Landscapes and Gardens of the North Island. 9 days Auckland return departing 21 Feb 2024. Only available in 2024 with Friends GBG Botanica booking.

Group size 15-25 guests. Subject to minimum booking numbers. Please book with deposit early to ensure this tour departs. Bookings email info@botanica.travel and refer to Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens booking.

Extra itineraries are available from the Friends' Office.
To Book email info@botanica.travel
and refer to Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens bookings.



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Luanne Thornton, Liz Bennetto, Judy Fyfe, Tracey Tilbury, Allison Martland

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DIARY DATES AT A GLANCE

JUBAEA SUBMISSIONS for the next Edition are due by 1 Sep 2023.
All articles including high resolution photos (jpeg) can be sent to the FGBG Office



JUNE

SELF-DRIVE TOUR TO SUEALOE GARDENS & FYANSFORD PAPER MILL COMPLEX

Thursday 8 June, 10.00 am

Join the Friends on a self-drive excursion, for a guided tour by Highton Rotary Volunteers of the wonderfully historic paper mill at 10.45, moving on to purchase your own lunch at Fyansford Hotel. After lunch, drive on to Suealoe garden at Lovely Banks. Afternoon tea follows a guided tour of this extensive garden. Tickets include two guided tours and afternoon tea. Book online or at the Friends' office. Members \$30 and Non-Members \$40

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'DISCOVER THE FERN GLADE'

Sunday 11 June, 2.00 pm Meet at the Front Gates

Learn about ferns and how fashions in the GBG have changed. John Raddenberry, the 2nd Curator, created his renowned Fernery in 1885: our modern natural Fern Glade was established in 1982 and recently refurbished, with many new ferns added to the collection. The Conservatory displays tropical ferns. Gold coin donation.

WINTER LECTURE ONLINE SERIES

Thursdays at 12.00 noon via Zoom

15 June: Norman Houghton 'Otway Hotels and Shanties'

6 July: Liz Bennetto 'The Wadawurrung Connection'

20 July: Stephen Ryan and Craig Lidgerwood 'Gardens of North West France'

Recordings will also be sent to paid participants to watch at your convenience. Book online or at the Friends' office \$15 for the Series of three talks.

ANNUAL WINTER LUNCH AT TRUFFLEDUCK

Thursday 22 June, 12.00 to 3.00 pm

Join the Friends and guest speaker John Arnott for lunch at our premier fundraising event in a beautiful setting overlooking the delightful garden. John will be speaking on 'Conservation in Botanic Gardens'. An impressive raffle is always a feature of this event. Book online or at the Friends' office by Wednesday 8 June. \$75 members and \$85 non-members.

JULY

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'ON WADAWURRUNG LAND'

Sunday 9 July, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates

Geelong's First People, the Wadawurrung, used plants in many ways: for food, medicine, fibre, tools and ceremony. Many of these plants are in Geelong Botanic Gardens. Come for a stroll around the Gardens to learn more. Gold coin donation.

SUPPER NIGHT with a MOVIE at the HUB

Monday 17 July, 6.00 to 8.30 pm

Enjoy a wonderful light supper and sweets with Friends, followed by the delightful movie - 'Delicieux', subtitled: a movie set in France just prior to the French Revolution, telling the story of a chef and his venture into a new style of outdoor café dining. Supper at 6.00 pm and Movie Viewing at 7.00 pm. Bring your friends for a charming night out. \$30 members and \$40 non-members. RSVP by 12 July.

AUGUST

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'CHINESE PLANTS AT THE GBG'

Sunday 13 August, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates

China had the first Botanical Garden in 138 BC, an enormous park with 2,000 different plants and hot houses. 2nd emperor Yang Di in Sui dynasty (581-618AD) built the largest gardens in history and searched far and wide for rare and beautiful plants. 2,000 years of Chinese horticultural endeavour enrich gardens all over the world. Gold coin donation.

FGBG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 28 August, 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm

Join the Friends for an informal evening at their AGM. The Annual Report and election of Committee will be followed by supper and Guest Speaker Stephen Ryan (FGBG Patron). RSVP by 21 August.

SEPTEMBER

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'SENSORY WALK'

Sunday 10 September, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates

Stimulate all your senses on a guided adventure in Geelong Botanic Gardens. Explore the aromas and flavours of plants and learn how they are used in food, drinks, cosmetics, and medicines. Listen to the sounds of the Gardens – identify the birds. Feel the textures, from velvety soft to harsh and abrasive. Enjoy the vistas. Gold coin donation.

COACH TOUR TO THE MACEDON AREA

Tuesday 12 September, 8.00 am to 5.45 pm

8am departure for morning tea and tour of renowned Macedon Post Office Farm Nursery, which is a Hellebore Nursery. Followed by a tour of Stephen Ryan's nursery at Mt Macedon. BYO picnic lunch before a tour of glorious Forest Glade Historic Garden. The day will finish with afternoon tea at either Mt Macedon Bonsai Nursery or Trentham Falls. \$85 members \$95 non-members

FUTURE EVENTS FOR THE DIARY:

October: Through the Garden Gates

November: Inspired by Nature 8 Botanic Art Exhibition

Rose Lover's Day at the GBG

Ferry & Coach Trip to Mornington Peninsula