

Jubaea



FRIENDS OF
GEELONG
BOTANIC
GARDENS

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc. Newsletter

Volume 20 Issue 1

February 2020



GBG Staff - Tracie, Sheree and Tim with Friends' Volunteers - Norma, Kate and Geoff

SMALL CHANGES : EVOLVING GARDENS

2019 saw Geelong Botanic Gardens take a breath - a new breath of life. When you stop beneath the elm tree and look down to the Hitchcock fountain you may notice the subtle leaf colour changes and branches that have extended with new growth, with annual flowers complementing the trees that shade them. A quiet, still contentment is resting in the air.

The mechanics driving these small yet significant changes that alter the whole atmosphere of the gardens can be contributed to its dedicated team of horticulturalists and volunteers.

The GBG nursery has received \$15,000 which has been used to upgrade the irrigation system, improving stock quality for the

gardens and conservatory. Staff have worked tirelessly at general garden improvements including, but not limited to:

- Broadening the collection and performing intense maintenance in the Asian, fernery, salvia and tropical collections
- Looking at our heritage *Ginkgo biloba* in a new light, with a creative new landscaped lawn to green up what was once bare earth
- Redefining garden beds to improve maintenance and contribute to the aesthetics of the gardens.

- Succession planting of trees such as the *Quercus suber* and the *Juglans nigra*, offspring from the original trees in the gardens

A botanic gardens isn't just about healthy plants; it is a symbiotic relationship between plants and people, and the people are no less magnificent!

The Coordinator of the Victorian Salvia Study Group, Lyndi Garnett visited and liaised with staff last year, helping to identify and develop our own collection and leaving with the promise of a robust future partnership between the Gardens and the Group into 2020.



The Conservatory

The Friends as always are a joy to work with and continue to strengthen their connections with staff as they tirelessly work to promote the gardens. Their feedback and encouragement has been gratefully received. They introduced us to our local botanical artists, definitely a highlight. The skill and creativity of these artists was mesmerising and I couldn't help reflecting on what can be achieved when skill and creativity are combined. It is a great example of what the City of Greater Geelong strives towards: "Clever and Creative". Let's continue to provide horticultural excellence and inspiration for these artists to capture in their work.



New path in front of the Teahouse

This year brings many new challenges and opportunities for the Gardens. With a new visitor facility to be opened, two extra staff and the restoration of the historic customs house, it's going to be a great year.



Restoration of the historic customs house has started

The visitor centre is modern and multipurpose, making it ideal for events and promoting the Gardens as the place to visit. The surrounding landscape lends itself well to conifers and provides the perfect canvas on which to showcase the "Alistair Watt" collection. Keeping in line with our English style heritage garden, the landscape designs are open, purposeful and true to who we are as a prestigious Botanic Gardens. Work has already begun on these landscapes, with the first stage of footpaths to be completed this month. This will be followed by extensive irrigation and plantings.

To the Friends; I look back with gratitude for all your hard work and look forward to what we can achieve together in the future.

Ashley Filipovski
Acting Director,
January 2020



New Petunia plantings
under the
Metasequoia
glyptostroboides tree

FRIENDS' EVENTS

Geelong Seniors Week

The Geelong Botanic Gardens were dressed to impress in a rainbow of colours for the Seniors' Spring walk on October 24. The day started warm and got hotter so the exhausted participants eagerly attacked the refreshments provided after their ramble.



Volunteers Lucy, Jane, Jan, Denise and Nadia

Numbers were up on last year so this event is proving to be popular during the October Seniors' activities. An enormous thank you needs to go to the volunteer guides, office staff and the food presentation team who support this event with enthusiasm. Thanks also to The City of Greater Geelong which provides the grant that supplies the food and drinks. A very enjoyable day all round.



Some of the Geelong Seniors' Week participants enjoying the Friends' Morning Tea

Through the Garden Gates

This annual event continues to be one of the highlights of the Friends' calendar of events. Our regular attendees were particularly high in their praise for the four glorious gardens featured last November. Large gardens, located in the Freshwater Creek/Moriac/Bellbrae areas, featured diversity of style but showcased how good design, considerable plant knowledge and understanding of plant selection contribute to waterwise gardens of outstanding beauty.



A romantic, rambling old garden at Froghill

Members and visitors enjoyed a delightful day, ending with the usual sumptuous afternoon tea and extensive sale of plants propagated by our wonderful volunteers. Many thanks to the garden owners for generously offering their homes and gardens, to volunteers who contributed time, cakes and plants and to our members for supporting this major event.

Guest Speaker, Ian Rogers

Ian Rogers, former Director of Geelong Botanic Gardens, gave a talk that was attended by 30 members and their guests. It was a fascinating insight into the history of the Gardens and was interspersed with personal anecdotes from his time as Director. A lively question and answer session rounded off an interesting evening, complete with supper and good company. Many thanks to Ian for sharing with the Friends his time and knowledge. The Friends library houses two copies of Ian's book "Kangaroo Grassland to Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park".

Christmas Drinks and Opening of the Christmas Art Fair

As always this was a very enjoyable event, attended by about fifty members and their partners. It was a wonderful opportunity to thank the various volunteer groups and Friends' staff members, Tracey and Sally, for their tireless efforts throughout the year, keeping the Friends a vibrant and supportive organisation. The Botanic Art Fair, showcasing works from students and tutors of the Friends' Geelong School of Botanical Art, was beautifully presented, thanks to Dolores Malloni and Helen Black. Many thanks to all those who attended the evening and to our wonderful Committee members who worked to make the Friends' last function for the year such a success.

The Events Team

INSECTAGEDDON

How do you reap a wonderful crop of blueberries? Last year I thought I had worked out exactly what to do. I had put them in big pots, given them acidic soil, fed and watered them according to direction, and they were thriving. Every twig had masses of flowers and I looked forward to a bumper crop.

As the season progressed, I was very disappointed to see that the majority of flowers dropped without developing fruit. At harvest time I had some nice blueberries, but only a few. What had happened?

Eventually, it occurred to me that it might be a pollinator problem.

At Christmas I was given an engaging book called *A Sting in the Tale*, by Dave Goulson. This book told the story of his obsession with wildlife, particularly insects, from the age of seven. He went on to study entomology and is now Professor of Biology at the University of Sussex. With many of his PhD students, he has demonstrated how far bees travel, how they navigate, and the challenges they face. In the second half of the twentieth century, changed farming practices resulted in their numbers plummeting, and some once-common species have almost become extinct in the British Isles.

In 2006 he established the *Bumblebee Conservation Trust*. The Trust encourages people, particularly children, to provide bee-friendly habitat in the form of wildflower meadows and garden plantings, and to keep records of sightings. He also recounts the fascinating story of the development of his own wildflower meadow in France, where an ancient farm once operated.



Photo by Jael Vallee on unsplash.com

Despite all his and others' efforts, including that of the British government which now provides subsidies to farmers to enable them to promote biodiversity on their farms, insect numbers continue to decline.

In October 2006, in the USA, hundreds of thousands of honeybee hives that had seemed perfectly healthy one day were deserted the next. This disaster, called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) spawned an extraordinary body of research (*Pollinator Protection* 2018). It seems that a multitude of factors were involved. The *Varroa* mite, which has spread throughout the world (except for Australia) is probably implicated, combined with the fact that American beehives are transported to pollinate huge monocultures, resulting in a poor diet for bees.



Bees at Geelong Botanic Gardens

What tipped them over the edge was probably the widespread use of neonicotinoids, 'neonics' for short—a class of insecticide which are synthetic variants of nicotine and had for some time been suspected of harming bees. They attack the insect's nerve receptors and brain and are extremely toxic in very small amounts. One gram can give 250 million bees a lethal dose.

Neonics' advantage to farmers is that they can be applied to the seeds. The germinating seedling absorbs the chemical, which spreads throughout the plant. Any herbivorous insect that eats any part of the crop dies. Farmers no longer need repeated and expensive sprays, and workers are no longer potentially exposed to nerve agents.

When CCD occurred, studies showed that bumblebee nests exposed to neonics declined markedly, and 85% fewer queens were produced. In addition, bees were much more likely to get lost on the way home; to collect far less pollen; and egg-laying was reduced by a third. Neonics were also shown to persist in soil and be soluble in water, having unknown effects on invertebrates that live in the soil as well as on aquatic insects. Neonicotinoids are a class of insecticides which includes imidacloprid—the world's most widely used insecticide (ACS 2014). Given their widespread use they pose the greatest potential environmental concern. They have been banned in

the European Union and were banned by President Obama. This last decision was reversed by the Trump administration. They have not been banned in Australia, but in November 2019, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) decided to reassess neonicotinoid insecticides, their registration and labelling, on the basis of risks to the environment.

Bunnings was to remove a neonic pesticide allegedly linked to bee deaths from its shelves at the end of 2018. However, I recently found Yates brand insecticides containing neonics in local nurseries.

In Dave Goulson's latest book, he brings new insecticides to our attention; Acelepryn and Naled. He predicts that the cycle will continue, with new products being declared harmless and then perhaps a fifteen-year gap until on-the-ground effects are independently and scientifically described. DDT and Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* all over again.

In August 2017, an article put out by Allianz Insurance lists the three commonly used neonics in Australia, the range of crops on which they are registered for use; and the various methods of application. This article, along with a report by Jess Davis, *ABC New Rural*, cite that levels of imidacloprid were discovered in the bodies of dead parrots in Western Victoria. It is commonly used in seed treatments.

Dr Megan Halcroft urges farmers to switch to biological controls like natural predators (lacewings, hoverflies, assassin bugs and ladybugs), plant native vegetation and habitat to encourage native pollinators and provide alternative food sources for predators when crops are not present.

The ABC *Foreign Correspondent* program on 15 October 2019, called 'Insectageddon,' featured Dave Goulson speaking about providing quality insect habitat. The program was about Europe, but the issues don't seem to be very different here.

My experience is that nowadays we don't have to clean many splattered insects from the windows of our vehicles when we travel on long journeys. It also seems to me that bird numbers are less than they were years ago, especially the insectivorous ones. Others have said they concur with me in this.

Maybe lack of pollinators is the reason I didn't have many blueberries last year. But perhaps I am wrong. Perhaps the weather was inimical to them that season. I have been watching my blueberries like a hawk since they came into flower a few weeks back. So far, when the weather is fine, I have seen little flies, bigger ones with shiny blue abdomens, honeybees and hoverflies diligently working on them. Not many, but some. Will they be enough? Broad beans have set, but nowhere near as many as I would expect considering the enormous number of

flowers. I do grow borage and alyssum, especially to encourage pollinators.

My impressions are not definitive. But we can all watch out more carefully for these extraordinary little creatures. Jenny Possingham drew my attention to a program called *Wild Pollinator Count* in which we can all participate (www.wildpollinatorcount.com)



Photo by Kai Wenzel on unsplash.com

And we can all check the containers at the back of our sheds and get rid of any neonics (anything with imidacloprid or fipronil in the name, Confidor and others) we may have inadvertently purchased years ago.

One more thing; we can make our voices heard—individually and collectively.

We live in a magnificent world of amazing resilience, especially when we properly fulfil our ancient role as its stewards.

Postscript 19 November 2019:

On my return yesterday from two weeks away, I went out immediately to check on my garden. One of my blueberries is massed with swelling green berries! The other less so, but it flowered at a slightly earlier time. Hoverflies are still floating around them. Good little hoverflies. I do not think that any conclusions can be drawn but will keep watching.

References:

Bumblebee Conservation Trust. <https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/>
Campbell, E. (2019) 'Insectageddon', *Foreign Correspondent*, ABC TV, October 15. <https://www.abc.net.au/foreign/episodes/>
Davis, J. (2017) 'Bird deaths linked to common insecticide that is banned in Europe', *ABC News Rural*, 10 August. <https://ab.co/2QbNZJs>
Goulson, D. (2013) *A Sting in the Tale*. (2014) *A Buzz in the Meadow*. (2019) *The Garden Jungle or Gardening to Save the Planet*. London, Jonathan Cape.
There are many other discussions of these issues to be found on the internet.

*With thanks to Geoff Davis, an entomologist and Grower of the FGBG, for his comments and suggestions.
Lynne Clarke

BANKS, SOLANDER AND THE GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

On Sunday 8 March at 2.00 pm there will be a Guided Walk in the Geelong Botanic Gardens looking at plants collected by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander on James Cook's *Endeavour* expedition to the Pacific Ocean, 1768 - 1771. It was on this famous voyage that the east coast of Australia was first discovered and mapped by Europeans and the Union Jack was hoisted at Cape York, claiming New Holland for the British Crown.



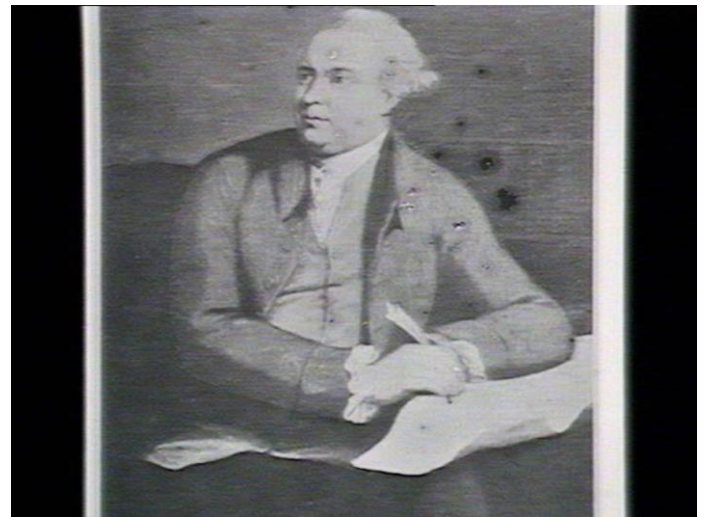
Sir Joseph Banks, 1810/Thomas Phillips
Dixson Library, State Library of New South Wales and the National Portrait Gallery, London

Our walk is timed to contribute to the Wooden Boats Festival being held in Geelong. As a part of that Festival, Geelong school children have been invited to take part in a visual arts competition on "Solander and Banks -- the Floating Laboratory."

The *Endeavour* had been a "collier" ship, designed to carry coal. It was only 33 metres long and 9 metres wide at its maximum. It was broad-bottomed, so if it hit a reef, it was less likely to capsize. Its shallow draught and small size also meant that it could be beached and repaired. Both these characteristics proved to be life-saving for Cook and his crew. The *Endeavour* also had a comfortably large hold, 3.45 metre tall even after an extra deck was put in.

The interest of our Walk is in what was put into that hold. The *Endeavour* sailed at the peak of the Age of Enlightenment, when there was an insatiable interest in the natural world by Europe's educated classes. Many had "cabinets," large collections of natural curiosities -- fossils, petrified wood, bones and skins of rare animals, gastropods, shells, ocean creatures, stones, feathers, corals and, of course, pressed plants.

Aboard the *Endeavour* was the wealthy Joseph Banks, interested in all these things. Prompted by Banks, King George III had put £4000 into the expedition and ordered cabins for Banks and his entourage as well as space for whatever they collected. Banks put in £10,000 himself. He paid for the inclusion of Daniel Solander, protégé of Carl Linnaeus, the Uppsala botanist whose plant classification system we still largely use. Solander had been brought from Sweden to London in 1760 to catalogue the natural history collection of the British Museum. He had rapidly become indispensable for his expertise to Britain's private "cabinet" collectors. Banks also brought an assistant naturalist, a botanical artist (Sydney Parkinson), a landscape artist and several servants. Banks's party were allotted the best cabins on the quarter deck.



Dr Daniel Solander, State Library, NSW

Banks, Solander and the assistant naturalist, Herman Sporing, collected and described over 3,600 plant species, 1400 new to science, from Tierra del Fuego, the Society Islands (notably Tahiti), New Zealand and Australia. Many of these were illustrated during the voyage by Parkinson before he died in Batavia. On the *Endeavour's* return to Britain, Solander catalogued their materials and Banks paid for copperplate engravings of plants to be made from Parkinson's illustrations. 743 of these were completed by 18 professional engravers. However, they were not published at the time. Banks moved on to other things including his Presidency of the Royal Society and his patronage of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Solander died in 1782. The engravings languished until Banks's *Florilegium* was belatedly published in 1990. A compact edition with 181 illustrations became available in 2019.

Our Walk on March 8 will look at living examples of plants in the wonderful *Florilegium* and consider the botanical significance of the *Endeavour* voyage.

Cherry Collins

GEELONG SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL ART

The botanical art school (GSBA) began the year with a fascinating workshop facilitated by John Pastoriza-Piñol, based on the work of Arthur Harry Church (1865-1937). Church was a lecturer in botany at Oxford University and during his time there he produced many remarkable botanical illustrations that are quite exquisite in their detail. He was particularly interested in depicting plant morphology and their reproductive structures. To achieve this, each flower was dissected with great precision that exposed their reproductive mechanisms, which although rarely seen, are quite beautiful. He must have been a master of a very sharp razor, as his dissections seem to have been perfectly executed. For me, this was quite a challenge and my attempts were not greatly successful - however, the exercise was very useful as I came to appreciate both Church's skills at dissection and also his detailed artistry. His story is fascinating - as are his beautiful illustrations. For us, as students, this workshop improved our knowledge of plant structures and gave us a glimpse into the life of this very interesting man.



Artwork by British botanist and botanic illustrator,
Arthur Harry Church

Our normal classes under the tutorship of John Pastoriza-Piñol, Dolores Malloni, Deb Chirnside and Amanda Ahmed are about to begin for the year. I'm sure our students are anticipating another productive year and our grateful thanks go to the tutors who put so much time and effort into making these classes the successes they obviously are. Just think of the wonderful works exhibited by the students and tutors at our 2019 exhibition *Inspired by Nature 6*. This year, perhaps we will begin our works for our next exhibition in 2021. We are so fortunate to have four very talented tutors, each with an international reputation, and they contribute so much towards ensuring the success of our school.

With our next exhibition in mind, a small committee of tutors and students are currently looking at possible galleries for our *Inspired by Nature 7* exhibition. Although Exhibition Gallery at Deakin University where our last exhibition was held was a great space to exhibit our work, it was felt that not being open at weekends detracted from possible sales. But as galleries get booked up years in advance, we need to act fairly quickly now to ensure the best possible space for the next exhibition at the end of 2021.

Niki Coates, a graphic artist and botanical art student, is currently working on a logo for the Geelong School of Botanical Art, to be used on all our advertising and marketing. The final decision on this will be made in the near future.

In September this year, we are very pleased to be hosting as guest tutor, Rogerio Lupo, a renowned Brazilian biologist and botanical illustrator who is undertaking two three-day workshops for us as part of his Australian tour, as guest of the Botanical Art Society of Australia. Rogerio has an international reputation and has won many awards including the coveted Margaret Flockton Award for scientific illustration in 2010 and 2013. He has given workshops in the USA, as well as his home country, Brazil, and we are very excited to have him come to Geelong to teach our students. His graphite work is exceptional, but he also works in pen and ink, coloured pencil and watercolour. For our two workshops, students will be given the choice of either graphite or pen and ink for one workshop, and coloured pencil and watercolour for the other. This will be decided later in the year.

Judy Lavery
Co-ordinator, GSBA

THE DAWN REDWOOD – A STORY OF DISCOVERY

Metasequoia glyptostroboides



The Dawn Redwood is an attractive symmetrical conical tree which is now found in most botanic gardens. In the wild it is endangered, and now survives only in wet lower slopes and valleys in a small pocket of south-central China. The Dawn Redwood is a fast-growing, deciduous conifer, the sole living species of the genus *Metasequoia*.

Metasequoia first evolved about 100 million years ago in eastern Russia. It spread out to northern Europe and North America, but changes in temperature caused it to retreat. By the end of the Miocene period (5 million years ago), *Metasequoia* had vanished from the fossil records.

When uncovered in a remote corner of Sichuan Province in the 1940s, the tree had been thought to be as extinct as the dinosaurs with which it once lived.

Unravelling *Metasequoia*'s complicated history has been challenging. Scientific records and research materials went missing amid China's fight against Japan during World War II, its subsequent civil war and the Communist takeover. Later, letters and handwritten manuscripts disappeared during the Cultural Revolution. Since the "Living Fossil" was re-discovered, the stories have varied considerably. Among the arguments, who discovered the 'Living Fossil' first, and who introduced the seeds into USA, have been hotly debated in the past 70 years.

1943: Wang Zhan was administrator of a survey department in the Central Forestry Experiment Institute. In 1943, he went to explore the botanically rich forest area of Shennongjia. There, he heard about an unusual tree. The locals called it shuishu and had built a small mud-and-tile temple at its base to honour its height and perceived protective properties. A village leader told them that tea brewed from the tree's bark and prayers to the tree god had saved his daughter's life. The thickness of the tree's foliage and the quantity of its seed cones were said to predict regional crop fertility. Wang gathered more than 10 tree specimens—needled branches and 10 stemmed cones collected from the temple's tiled roof. He was unable to identify the tree.

1948: Scientists in Beijing solved the mystery of the unknown tree by matching Wang's specimens to the photo of a five-million-year-old fossil. They named it *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* in a paper published in 1948, but there was no mention of Wang. The omission of Wang's contribution sparked an immediate furore. Power and class differences may have caused it: Wang had been born in a remote village in Manchuria, had not studied overseas, and was 'an ordinary teacher'. But

not crediting Wang Zhan for his crucial role in the *Metasequoia* discovery was seen as "a very dishonourable thing."

1948: Science writer Milton Silverman accompanied Chaney, the paleobotanist, on a harrowing trek into China to see live *Metasequoia*. Chaney and Silverman, believed to be the first Western men to see the newly discovered tree, between them lost 65 pounds on the mountainous trek, which took 10 days. Their guards shot one bandit, and a porter nearly fell to his death. Silverman claimed credit for the common name, Dawn Redwood.

1983: The first Westerners revisited the *Metasequoia* area since 1948. Delegates from the Botanical Society of America visited locations of botanical interest and worked to re-establish ties with their Chinese colleagues.

2002: Ma Jinshuang, a Chinese botanist, found Wang's original specimens at the bottom of a cabinet in a dark, moist, long-abandoned herbarium in Nanjing. The *Metasequoia* specimen, its typed label noting it was collected by Wang Zhan on July 21, 1943, ended up there after a tangle of geographic moves, institutional mergers, war and political upheaval. Ma's discovery involved three years' work, plenty of guanxi (human network capital), and "fees" to gain access to the building. The Jiangsu Forestry Academy has now taken steps to better preserve the Wang specimen. The Academy won't part with it now!



Metasequoia glyptostroboides, seasonal change

References:

- Ma, Jinshuang. (2003). The chronology of the "Living Fossil". Harvard Papers in Botany. 8.
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/242444076> Rubin, Kyna The *Metasequoia* mystery. Landscape Architecture Magazine, January 2016
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metasequoia_glyptostroboides
Metasequoia glyptostroboides Records, 1940-2010: Guide.
<https://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/> Liz Bennetto

GUIDES IN TRAINING 2019

We began guide training in June 2019 with five trainees, all of whom stayed the course. Congratulations to Beverley Stringer, Lynne Clarke, Peggy Muntz, Carol Richardson and Jan Cheyne, who will be ready to take their place on the guide roster this year.

The training course involved six classes with some written requirements, on topics such as Gardens History, Guiding Skills and Botany, with sessions on guides' responsibilities and resources. Each session included a theoretical component, followed by a walk in the Gardens which reinforced the area of study. A period of extended practical experience followed: observation, participation in and evaluation of as many walks as possible with a variety of styles, topics and guides.

Trainees each had a buddy/mentor guide, who helped them to organise their work, answered questions and offered reassurance. The trainees also supported each other, often walking together and comparing notes and ideas.

We are delighted to welcome our new guides, who have already added a new spark to guiding at Geelong Botanic Gardens. Their evaluation of the training program has also given us great new ideas for future training.

Please contact the FGBG Office if you are interested in training to become a guide.

Liz Bennetto

WALKING ON A THEME – THE PINNACLE OF GUIDING

Our guides are at work every Sunday: on discovery walks or tables, or sometimes simply wandering to chat with visitors, but themed walks are where we really shine.

A themed walk is the result of many hours of research and planning. The guide undertakes work on a set topic which will be explored in detail during the hour's walk. Preparation is demanding, but the result is rewarding for guides and visitors.

Themed walks are advertised with colourful posters, on websites and Facebook and through radio and print media. We can then be sure that people will come from far and wide to the Gardens: there are usually 10 -20 participants, but on one occasion last year, 76 turned up for the walk! (After that walk, guides resolved to have two people on duty for all themed walks).

This year, we are adding to our regular monthly themed walks by recognizing national celebrations and local festivals. Descriptions for each themed walk are located on the Friends website.

THEMED WALKS FOR 2020:

February 9	Colour and Silver	
March 8	Banks Festival	Banks, Solander and the Voyage of the Endeavour 1768-1771
March 22	Eucalyptus Day	Eucalypts – Not Just Gum Trees
March 26, 11 am	Designed For the 21 st Century	
March 29, 1 pm	Waste Not, Want Not – Water	
March 29, 2 pm	Designed For the 21 st Century	
April 12	Trees: Precious and Rare	
May 17, 11 am and 2 pm	National Trust Heritage Festival	Majestic Trees and Heritage Structures
June 14	Around the World in 60 Minutes	
July 12	Naidoc Week	Australia's First Peoples
August 30	Wattle Day	Wattle It Bee?
September 13	Our Plant Inheritance from Gondwana	
October 11	Fabulous Plants of China	
November 8	Changing Planet, Changing Plants	

2020 AAFBG BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Banks and Solander: Celebrating 250 Years of Botanical Friends



Celebrating the botanical wonders of 1770's exploration and the influence on the botanical knowledge and the use of Australian and South Pacific tropical and sub-tropical flora. The legacy of Banks and Solander in botanical research and what we could claim as the first 'Botanic Gardens Friend'.

Visit the Friends of Brisbane Botanic Gardens and Sherwood Arboretum for more information: <https://fbbgsa.org.au/>



THE GARDENS DELIVER A VISUAL FEAST



Lush and colourful plantings are thriving in the refurbished conservatory



The Perennial Border at its best



To the Right:
The Black Bat Flower
Tacca chantrieri
in the Conservatory



Pictured below; The Camellia Walk in full colour

A group of people originally from Kalamata, but now with the Greek Society in Newport, took advantage of the beautiful setting to dance to their Greek music in the Gardens



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES with the FRIENDS

FREE DISCOVERY WALKS

Every Wednesday at 11.00 am and Sunday at 2.00 pm.

THEMED WALKS

Second Sunday of every month at 2.00 pm. Meet your guide at the front steps. Gold coin Donation

Check the Friends' website for theme and date.

For more information, or to make a booking, contact the Friends' office on 5222 6053 between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm Monday to Friday.

DISCOVERY TABLE in the Gardens

Third Sunday of Every Month, 1.00 – 3.00 pm

Meet the Friends' Guides for interesting information and direction to key plants and seasonal change. Copies of the Self-guided Walks and information sheets are available at the Discovery Table and the Teahouse.

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.

JIMMIE MORRISON

Acknowledgement of Janice (Jimmie) Morrison's voluntary contribution the Geelong Botanic Gardens as an active member of the Friends from 1986 until 2019.

Jimmie brought a wealth of horticultural knowledge to the Gardens when she became an inaugural member of FGBG and joined the first enthusiastic guide training group in 1986. The guides and Director Ian Rogers visited her extensive country property "Woolbrook" at Inverleigh to broaden their knowledge of rare and hardy plants. Jimmie, with five other guides and our Director, made a five day visit to The Adelaide Botanic Gardens in 1988.



The Perennial Border

The Friends' enthusiasm for promoting the Geelong Botanic Gardens was considerable, so following the success of a newly established perennial border in the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne in 1987 our leaders thought there was a great opportunity for the Geelong Botanic Gardens to establish a similar border in the garden beds separating our historic 19th Century and 20th Century gardens. We were fortunate to have much plant and perennial expertise amongst the Friends with Lesley Stewart and Jimmie Morrison strongly supported by Judy Bailey of Worrana Nursery. The Border was labour intensive and with minimum horticultural staff at the Gardens, the design, purchase of plants and maintenance became the responsibility of the Friends with some help from staff.

Jimmie was always the consummate plants person: the Border gave her scope to experiment and trial plants to provide colour, shape and texture. Encouraged by the Friends, many of the original group have assisted in maintaining this inspirational space since planting began in 1989. Visits were made to specialist nurseries to obtain special plant material: Worrana, Norgates, Lambley and Frogmore provided quality plants. Jimmie retired as a voluntary guide in 1999 to concentrate on the Border which has been expanded numerous times and is an outstanding attraction in our Gardens. Jimmie has led the way sharing her expertise with the Friends, the horticultural staff and the general public. Excess plant material from the Border is sold at the Friends' Nursery to assist with fundraising.



Jimmie Morrison

Jimmie has enjoyed a remarkable journey with the Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens over 34 years. Awarded Honorary Life Membership, she has provided expertise, leadership, companionship and fun throughout. She has left a great legacy to the Botanic Gardens; the Friends will endeavour to maintain her standard of excellence.

Thank you Jimmie, we have all enjoyed the amazing ride.

Jayne Salmon

The Gift Fund currently has \$434,053 and we look forward to continuing support for projects in the Geelong Botanic Gardens with these funds. Details of our past support are on the Friends' website. Our continuing thanks for all donations.

FGBG Patron: Dr Philip Moors

FGBG Committee: Allison Martland - President, Libby Hogg - Vice President, Judy Lavery - Vice President, Jane Laidlaw - Treasurer, Kate Kirkhope - Secretary, Tilly Brunton, Barrie Satchell, Denise Feldman, Jan Cheyne, Peggy Muntz.

Editorial Team: Luanne Thornton, Liz Bennetto, Judy Fyfe, Tracey Tilbury, Allison Martland, Peggy Muntz.

The Jubaea Newsletter is printed at GORDON PRINT, Little Malop Street, GEELONG 3220.

Jubaea is published by the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc. PO Box 235, GEELONG 3220.

Friends' Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 10.00 am - 1.00 pm.

Friends' phone: (03) 5222 6053

Website: www.friendsgbg.org.au

Email: info@friendsgbg.org.au

FGBG activities @GBG and beyond



JUBAEA SUBMISSIONS for the Autumn Edition are due by 1 May 2020.
All articles including high resolution photos (jpeg files) can be sent to the FGBG Office via email or USB.

FEBRUARY

SOGETSU IKEBANA DEMONSTRATION

Wednesday 5 February, 2.00 – 3.00 pm

FEBRUARY THEMED GUIDED WALK 'COLOUR AND SILVER'

Sunday 9 February, 2.00 pm

GBG has a colourful, much admired display of perennial plants and silver plants in its borders. Meet your Guide at the front steps of the GBG. Gold coin donation.

GUEST SPEAKER, DR FRED CAHIR, HISTORIAN

'Aboriginal Fire and Agriculture in 19th Century Victoria: The Invader's Perspectives'

Monday 24 February, 5.30 pm for a 6.00 pm start

More details on the Friends' website.

MARCH

GUIDED WALK 'BANKS, SOLANDER AND THE VOYAGE OF THE ENDEAVOUR 1768-1771'

Sunday 8 March, 2.00 pm

On Cook's first Endeavour voyage, 3,000 plants from the South Pacific were collected. This walk will look at some of the plants Banks and Solander collected and discuss why they were botanically new and interesting. Meet your Guide at the front steps of the GBG.

GUIDED WALK 'DESIGNED FOR THE 21ST CENTURY'

26 March, 11.00 am and 29 March, 2.00 pm

The opening of the 21st Century Garden in 2002 created huge interest and some controversy with both locals and visitors. Its planting themes are increasingly relevant as climate change becomes a global concern. Meet your Guide at the front steps of the GBG.

GUIDED WALK 'WASTE NOT, WANT NOT – WATER'

29 March, 1.00 pm

This stormwater harvesting system was completed in 2016; the collection of suburban stormwater helps support the long term future of the GBG. The landscaping around the dam is a bird-attracting natural wetland encircled by a walking track. Meet your Guide at the front steps of the GBG.

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'EUCALYPTS – NOT JUST GUM TREES'

Sunday 22 March, 2.00 pm

Eucalypts are superbly adapted to environments across Australia, from desert to snow country. They range from small stunted shrubs to the tallest flowering plants in the world. Find some of this diversity in the GBG. Meet your Guide at the front

WEEKEND PLANT SALE

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 March, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

The Friends' Nursery holds a wide selection of plants sourced from the Geelong Botanic Gardens. The Nursery and Carpark is located at the rear of the Gardens.

The gates of the rear carpark near the Nursery will close at 4.05 pm sharp.

APRIL

BUS TRIP TO NEWBURY, DAYLESFORD AND BLACKWOOD

Friday 3 April, 8.30 am – 5.30 pm

Visiting Frogmore Gardens and Nursery, Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens (with talk and mini tour by their Friends) and returning via Blackwood Ridge Nursery and Garden and the Lerderderg River. \$65.00 FGBG members. \$75.00 Non Members. Includes bus, entry fees, morning and afternoon tea, tours and talks.

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'TREES – PRECIOUS AND RARE'

Sunday 12 April, 2.00 pm

Over the last 200 years many species of plants and animals have become extinct. This walk will look at a selection of threatened species grown here and discuss the important role Botanic Gardens play in plant conservation. Meet your Guide at the front steps of the GBG. Gold coin donation.

MAY

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'MAJESTIC TREES AND HERITAGE STRUCTURES'

Sunday 17 May, 11.00 am and 2.00 pm

Geelong Botanic Gardens, established in 1851 on Wadawurrung country, holds many cultural treasures: plants used by our first people, majestic heritage trees and historic buildings and structures. Meet your Guide at the front steps of the GBG. Gold coin donation.

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON WITH GUEST SPEAKER

Wednesday 20 May, 12.30 pm

Friends Volunteers are invited to our Annual Volunteers Luncheon. This is a free event for Friends' volunteers. Lunch at 12.30 and Presentation at 1.00 - 2.00. More details will be available on the Friends' website.

BGANZ NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS DAY 2020

Sunday 31 May, Geelong Botanic Gardens

A program of activities in the Gardens will be available on the Friends' website.