

Jubaea



Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc. Newsletter

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FRIENDS OF
GEELONG
BOTANIC
GARDENS



PANDEMIC, PHOTOPERIODISM, PARTERRE, PEOPLE AND PROJECTS

It is a strange experience to be writing this article in the midst of a pandemic. So much of life and daily routine has changed. How hard it was to close the Conservatory, Customs House and Tea House. Even harder still was having all our volunteers return home. We miss the contributions the Friends make to the Perennial Border, the Growers' Nursery and Rose Garden in particular, as our staff are working hard to maintain these areas until their return.

Because we know these setbacks, although painful, are temporary, we have not been entirely discouraged. Not only are we in good health and meaningful employment, we have also been able to welcome six staff from other

council departments which suffered scale backs. The new staff are working in garden maintenance, making great progress and fitting in well.

While as individuals we are adapting to many changes, the Geelong Botanic Gardens is also moving through its own season of change. Through photoperiodism, hardwood trees have sensed the end of long sunny days and are entering phases of senescence and dormancy. Leaves respond by flitting to the ground, their chlorophyll discarded for colours of burnt orange, red and yellow. As these leaves sway in the breeze, they provide beautifully fleeting moments of distraction - reminding us that all things have their season, and this too shall pass.

Not only has the foliage transformed, so too the Gardens continue to be developed with the excellent work of Botanic staff. The most recent transformation is the new Parterre Garden. Inspired by the '*Jardins du Château de Versailles*' in France, this garden's symmetry and elegance complements the Hitchcock Fountain; blending art, history, horticulture and vision into one landscape.



Newly planted Parterre Garden

This design is particularly suited to abundant displays of interesting and colourful annuals. Rotating every six months the first display will be an abundant crop of winter vegetables for local soup kitchens. The quality of the design and finish of this project has been very impressive; staff are to be commended for their skill and diligence returning the landscape to its former glory as an apex garden.



Two weeks growth:
Parterre Garden, with distant *Jubaea chilensis*



The urn (1904), was originally in Market Square. It was moved to the Gardens with the Hitchcock Fountain in 1912

While the Parterre Garden is the most noteworthy transformation, the most significant improvement has definitely been the restoration of The Customs House, a small yet important building. Built in Sydney, it was shipped down to Geelong as the town's first permanent structure. It served dutifully in many roles including that of a telegraph station, a curator's office and a museum. Then for a time it sat almost forgotten. Botanic Gardens Staff could not give up on this quaint and historical little house and when the opportunity presented itself to repair it, they seized it with enthusiasm. Rotten floorboards were replaced, internal beams strengthened, roof shingles repaired, walls touched up with paint, and a new roof finial erected. The finial was turned from a cyprus that had once grown in the Gardens.



Customs House with Ashley and Tim

Now the Customs House exists as a free library and exhibition space for botanic artists. With gothic muntin windows, hard wood floors, large bookcases, an antique desk and curiosities from all over the gardens, it is a captivating experience.



Customs House free library

The visitor book in the Customs House is a highlight, telling the story of the Gardens through the eyes of our guests. One couple wrote about their annual pilgrimage to the place where they first met while another entry was written by a grandmother sharing fond childhood memories with her grandchildren. May we leave a legacy worthy of her grandchildren's children! Alongside the visitor book is a world map onto which visitors can pin in their home countries. It is enjoyable to see and contemplate the universal love of horticulture.



Visitors' book in the newly restored Customs House

Engaging the public is not just about experience and ambiance, it is also about education. The 21st Century Garden is an incredible resource for information about dry scaping, indigenous plants, conservation and biogeography. New signs installed in this garden guide visitors through the context and philosophy of the 21st Century Garden, as well as highlighting key horticultural themes such as circadian rhythms, photosynthesis and plant ecology. This is done in a relaxed and entertaining way making key and sometimes difficult concepts easily digestible for all ages.



One of the new signs in the gardens

Exhibits and transformations are not all that have been happening around the grounds. Of course, there are always daily maintenance tasks. Two areas of focus recently have been the fernery and teahouse. The fernery now boasts many new species. Additional canopy plants have been added to improve shade while many new species of ferns, mostly native to the Otway Ranges, fill in the ground below. Orchids too have been added, filling in rock crevasses and dead tree hollows, bringing about seasonal colour.

Taking advantage of its current closure, the Tea House is undergoing renovations. A fresh coat of paint and other much needed maintenance will bring this popular café back to its former glory, ready for reopening.

Looking ahead has required a lot of looking back. Our fountains, heritage trees and oldest buildings remain because they were projects born out of great passion and skill. Well-planned, well-built, well-loved, they survived through many circumstances long after their creators had faded away. To continue as a high class Botanic Garden, we can strive for no less.



The Hitchcock Fountain - restoration work beginning soon

That is why we are so excited about our upcoming projects - the restoration of the Hitchcock Fountain and installation of the Alistair Watt collection and Southern Gardens. We look forward to updating you again soon.

Ashley Filopovski (Acting Co-ordinator, GBG)

GARDENING EXPLOITS FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

Allison Martland:

In mid-March 2020 Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens were very quick to respond to advice to cease all volunteering and Geelong School of Botanical Art activities indefinitely, playing our part in helping to contain the spread of coronavirus.

But for every cloud there is a silver lining and the coronavirus shut down has certainly revealed that to be true.

Resourcefulness, ingenuity and lateral thinking have come to the fore for many in the community, including our intrepid members. The stockpile of hand sanitiser is sure to have come in handy after the many hours of hard work in the garden and face masks may have been deployed when cleaning out dusty old cupboards and garages or trying new craft ideas!

It's been a time to try new things, discover new talents or indulge existing passions.

Here members have shared some of the triumphs in their own gardens and homes, making the most of prolonged confinement, by turning isolation into an opportunity for creativity.



Allison and Ian's back garden, *Ginkgo biloba* to the right

Jenny Dean:

Cosmos are an old favourite and look spectacular floating around above nearly everything else in my small front garden. They are giving pleasure not just to me but to the many people now walking past my garden. There is quite a lot of activity out there and this afternoon I witnessed a mum and her little kids walking past. The little boy stopped to look up at a Cosmos in full bloom, reached up, picked a purple flower and gave it to his mum. She threaded it into a buttonhole in her jacket as he laughed and they continued on their way. Just lovely!



Cosmos in Jenny's front garden

Ro Richards:

This photo is of the tamarillo (tree tomato), with a pair of tamarillos hanging like a well hung male! The tree also towers over my lovely Children's Rose, making it grow tall and spindly. I did not realise how big the tamarillo would grow. The persimmon is flourishing and will happily feed both me and the birds. The cumquat promises more marmalade and the flowers just make me feel good.



Ro's tamarillo

Carolyn McFadden:

This garden was created with the help of my husband Rodney. The garden was grown on alkaline soil which made the conditions difficult and the soil was really clay and tough to work with.



Anthea Williams:

Great autumn weather here at Beeac. I've been planting a new garden bed using *Salvia leucantha* clumps I dug up from my Belmont garden.

I added some *Aloe vera* plants and a few pieces of pale succulent for contrast. I think the effect will be good.

My other favourite salvias are also flowering here. *Salvia mexicana* 'Limelight' (thanks Judy Fyfe) looks stunning against an old green timber shed. I am missing you all but these plants are a nice reminder of my Growing Friends.



The house was built in the 1870s using stone, cut and dressed on the property

Benn Nunn:

Not a lot of gardening exploits, apart from a new vegetable garden going in here, which is still looking a bit lacklustre. But I do have these two Aroid treasures that are flowering.



Biarum carratracense



Biarum marmarisense

I obtained both of these from Marcus Harvey from *Hill View Rare Plants*. Very sadly now deceased, he was a good friend and old work client of mine.

Marcus Harvey used to do yearly trips through Europe and Western Asia collecting wild seed of plants and bulbs, which he then sold online via mail order.

He was an amazing source of wild collected seed for those seeking to grow obscure species of various things.

These two *Biarum* were obtained from him many years ago as plants that he'd grown from some of his wild collected seed.

He was also a great diarist during his travels, and on the site published what he called his 'Ramblings'. These would be a great plant read for those stuck at home at the moment; they are very interesting and entertaining, and full of fascinating stories of his travels, and the people and plants he encountered.

<https://hillviewrareplants.com.au/marcus-harveys-notes-and-ramblings>

Luanne Thornton:

During this period of lockdown I have been noticing little things in my garden. Two tiny cyclamen seedlings that have appeared beside last year's plant and are now in a pot of their own.

Several sparrows and New Holland honeyeaters enjoying a splash in the birdbath under the crab-apple close to our window. Flowering Salvias in pinks and blues and the last roses of the season, contrasting with the changing leaf colours on deciduous trees and ornamental vines.

Sunsets and time to watch them – some have been quite spectacular. Watching two young grandchildren adventuring for hours in the garden with my new garden cart filled with their tent and various bits of equipment.

Seeing the increase in tiger worms in the worm farm as they consume the vegetable scraps and produce lots of liquid fertiliser.

The bright red pelargoniums in their pots, an idea taken from Helena Buxton's garden.

**Nadia Zacchigna:**

During this time of lock-down and loneliness I had a number of projects on the go. I couldn't do much gardening because the autumn so far has been cold and cloudy. Where are the beautiful calm, warm autumn days of past years?

Firstly I worked on the design for extensions: a new garage (the old one is leaking and leaning), an additional bedroom and a family room. Luckily, my garden is big and I get to keep most of my trees.

Another project involved sorting George Jones' research material: checking folders of saved material, organising the contents and placing them under a specific subject for long-term storage. I also created an index for easy access in the future.

The third project involved sorting my mother's old photos and adding them to my family tree. The photos ranged from early 1900's to 1965 and it was such a thrill to sort through them and see how beautiful we all were when we were young!

The recent nostalgic photo sorting has been a real source of joy during these worrying and restricting times.



Nadia's Golden Honey Locust, *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* 'Sunburst', turns from lime green to yellow at this time of year

Liz Bennetto:

My garden is heading for winter dormancy, but there are still splashes of colour to keep me happy. The nature strip is spectacular with *Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty'* in full flower. *Templetonia retusa*, grown from a cutting from Margaret Guenzel's garden, is also flowering in a warm deep orangy red, and my greatest thrill was to see *Hibiscus insularis* (photo on the right) in flower after at least eight years of waiting!

The back garden captures the sun for most of the



day. Fruit trees are just beginning to turn and the ripening pomegranates give a splash of colour. The vegie bed is fully planted, and every morning I've been rushing out to see which seedlings have emerged. It has been wonderful to have time in the glasshouse. I have acacias and stenocarpus coming up from collected seed, and I have planted trays of very old packet seed. Who knows what will come up? Pots of cuttings are on the go, probably at totally the wrong time, but it's worth a go!

On colder days, there's plenty to do inside: sorting and culling, cooking, music, reading ... even sewing and crocheting! I found some crocheted squares done in the late 60s, went to YouTube for lessons, and am now making a rug. Incredible what you do when you have time!

Judy Fyfe:

March 17 certainly seems a long time ago: on that day the Growers' Nursery was closed and Ashley suggested that the Gardens staff would care for it until we could return. Super thanks to Ashley and staff; that exceptionally generous offer has certainly made the closure a bit easier. The Growers have managed a couple of Morning Teas on Wednesday mornings to catch up, courtesy Zoom.

Our garden at St Leonards has had considerable time and effort put into it. Most of the garden was planned and planted in 2007 and many sections have not had much maintenance – until now! So the compost heap is growing and the chipper is working overtime (leftovers in the wood pile for winter fires).

Fortunately, last Spring, I did get the vegetable garden fully planted so the beds have been fully occupied – no time for fallow or green manure crops this year! I tried in vain to buy seedlings in late March, so I have grown winter vegetables from seed with surplus seedlings to give away. We covered the orchard last spring so that meant we (and many neighbours) could enjoy a super harvest. I don't think of myself as 'being old' but we have had many kind offers from neighbours to do our shopping on a regular basis!

Spending more time in the garden has been an utter joy, but somewhat exhausting at times. The Salvias are a delight: there are self-sown seedlings to transplant, many flowers that I haven't noticed before and the bird population is as busy as ever.



Deb Sonenberg:

In late February, we left a bountiful garden in Central Victoria and moved to a flat by the sea, an adventure we took for the purposes of work. My first step outside was to join the Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Eastern Park at my doorstep filled me with awe, nourishment and a place to be creative: I had the opportunity to gather seeds and to study the abundance of delights in the Botanic Gardens. To study for pleasure, to yield to the restrictions imposed on us by the pandemic, to become more mindful of our responsibility to our local and global communities, and to consider more deeply our natural world: all these possibilities opened up for me.



The Garage Door Gallery began in March with neighbourhood children. We invited our local community and passers-by to join us and make art to add to the gallery. Children and adults alike contribute poetry, drawings,

paintings, painted stones, crafted pieces and messages for grandparents, family members and friends. They're using the door to create a sense of connection during our isolation, leaving gifts for others. Some have even left cuttings for me to invigorate our front garden.

I met a local weaver, Marg Watts, who was eager to make some connections through her weaving and fibre art. We approached the Gardens staff who generously gave us opportunities to gather fallen fronds, fibres, reeds and seeds to practise using new materials.



From these we created random rapid works for the front garden. Together Marg and I have surprised each other with our attempts to use recycled materials and let the plant fibres determine the pieces, with a focus on creating joy for the many who pass by. We invite others to join us and contribute to the 'Fronds of Eastern Park'.

Helena Buxton:

Slow Gardening in the era of Covid-19.

You will laugh when I say, 'I am a terrible gardener'. The list of tasks remains long and the time to achieve them is short. As a consequence many jobs go unfinished. Now we have been offered a rare opportunity - the indulgence of time.

We are in a period of 'Slow Gardening', a moment to 'rethink' the place that gives us pleasure.



Here are a few of my changes:

Firstly outside my kitchen door I am growing a potted veggie patch. I have revamped old flowerpots and planted them with a mix of herbs and greens for the kitchen. You could call it my 'Pot to Pot' garden.... I am already harvesting and it has changed my plans for next summer.

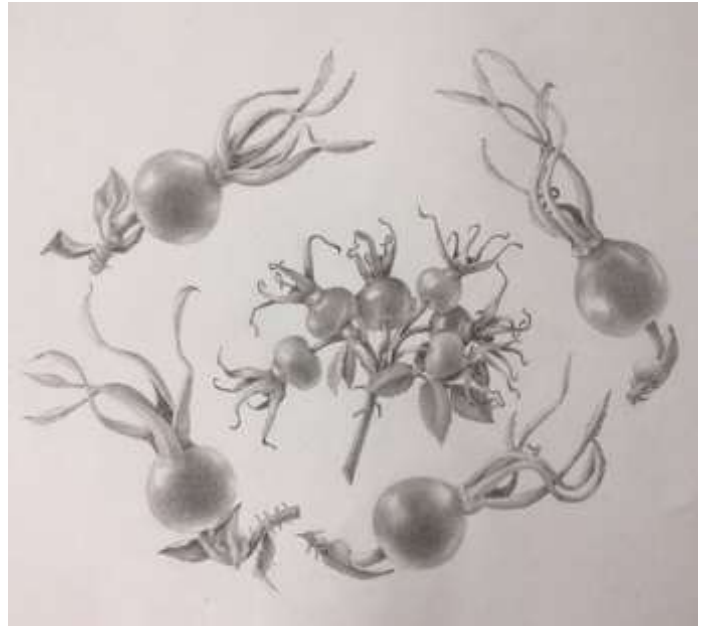
Secondly I am using time to rethink areas that need revamping. The challenge is to build a garden that is easily maintained, that I can implement without help from others and something I can grow from my own resources. The simple plan is to plant a circle of the common *Salvia leucantha*. Each autumn the garden is filled with chitter chatter of visiting honeyeaters. Their undisputed plant of choice is the *Salvia leucantha*. I am prepping the beds and am cutting back various thugs that have outgrown their welcome.

The 'Circle of Song' will be planted to welcome autumn 2021... after all a garden is not just about the plants.

ART IN ISOLATION

Even though the Geelong School of Botanical Art has temporarily suspended classes this term because of the extraordinary circumstances in which we find ourselves, our students have not been slacking! As you can see from the beautiful works of art on these pages many of our students continue to paint in isolation at home. In fact, our enforced confinement gives us more time to complete all those paintings begun in class but never quite finished. Many of our class members keep in touch with each other, and occasionally our tutors, via text, on the phone or during Zoom sessions where we can critique each other's work, give advice and, importantly, encouragement. It's this contact that is so important to keep us motivated and on track with our work. It is hoped that many of the paintings being worked on at present will be shown at our next 'Inspired by Nature 7' exhibition due to be held later next year, so perhaps you will be able to view these in person at that time. So consider this a preview! Our classes will be up and running again as soon as circumstances allow, but in the meantime we will continue painting in isolation.

Judy Lavery



Delia's Rose Hips

Niki Coates:

Watercolour study of gum tree components, *Corymbia x hybrid*, whilst at home.



Delia Soar:

While working on some beautiful, but small, rose hips recently, I thought I would enlarge them, to show the fascinating sepals in more detail. The graphite drawing turned out to be somewhat whimsical!

I had such fun drawing them, and being in isolation has given me plenty of time to paint. Missing the classes but soldiering on till they start up again, hopefully in the not too distant future.



Big Hips

Rosemary Hall:

Hello to our lovely patient teacher Amanda and everyone in our Tuesday class. I hope you are all well and producing marvellous artworks to further inspire me to get a move on.

I had another birthday last Saturday and little presents appeared on my fence posts, under the front doormat along with text messages. In a small town like this with only the newsagent and the supermarket open people were quite imaginative. Magazines on all my interests and food goodies, homemade knitted items etc. Even some freshly caught and cryovac packed fish. Fantastic! A birthday which will be remembered for a long time.

I am going to plant some seedlings now for winter greens and bulbs. So stay safe everyone and I am very much looking forward to meeting up again when COVID- 19 Lockdown 2020 is over.

Deb Chirnside:

Isolation is certainly working for me; love having so much time to paint and potter in the vegie garden.



Judy Thomas:

Judy's creativity is blossoming at home.



Sandra Snow: *Papaver nudicaule*. Iceland Poppy.



Helen Larkin:

Working at home on the Lotus Pod.



Angela Langley:

Eucalyptus erythrocorys using watercolour pencils.



Sue Perkins:

Rose Hips, a graphite study of two rose hips picked on a walk. Looking forward to finishing water colour.



Wendy Johnson:

Eucalyptus Blossoms at home.



POINSETTIA: the flower of winter

Even in winter, you can find many flowers in the Geelong Botanic Gardens. One of the most striking is the Poinsettia, *Euphorbia pulcherrima*. You will find it right at the back of the gardens next to the glass house. You may be puzzled by this plant. Its striking red 'flowers' and green leaves have become associated with Christmas. They are sold in pots, in full bloom in December, and yet here it is with flowers in winter. This plant has quite a story.



Surrounding each cluster of tiny flowers there are red leaves, called bracts, to attract pollinators. The flowers themselves are so small that pollinators might miss them.

The Aztecs of Mexico loved this flower. They considered it a symbol of purity. They also made dye and used its latex for medicine against fever. Unlike many *Euphorbias*, the latex of this plant is only mildly toxic, hence its use as medicine. It is not even dangerous to children, unless they eat 500 of the red leaves, called bracts.



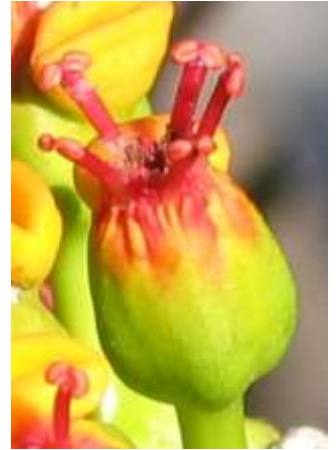
Each individual flower is single sex, either female or male. This close-up of the flower cluster has 4 female flowers. Surrounding the female flowers there are at least 8 male flowers. Clusters of flowers like these are more or less replicated across the whole *Euphorbia* genus. In some species the individual flowers are even smaller.

After the Spanish conquest of Mexico, Franciscan priests used the flowers in a nativity procession, because they appeared at Christmas. The plant was introduced into the US by Joel Poinsette, who was the US Special Envoy to Mexico in 1822 and 1823, and a botanist. Thus, his name became associated with this plant. Today, Poinsettia flower production in the USA exceeds \$325 million. It is mostly sold in Christmas flowering pots, as it is in Australia.

In 1923, the Ecke family nursery in California had a virtual monopoly on Poinsettias owing to a technique that made their plants much more attractive. The fuller plant was achieved by grafting two varieties together. They had discovered that one of their plants prolifically produced leaves and flowers. The only way they found to produce the large quantity of plants the market demanded was by grafting, as growing them from seed did not work. They kept their technique secret.



The female flowers have sticky stigmas that emerge from the centre of the flower and are splayed out at the top.



The male flowers have stamens projecting from the top edge of their bulbous container.

Their monopoly continued until 1991, when a researcher discovered the method previously known only to the Eckes. He published the method, making it possible for others to grow this desirable plant form. 'Probably since 1923, a secret "friend," unbeknownst to the growers, has dwelt inside poinsettias, "casting magic spells" on poinsettias to produce free-branching morphotypes.'

In 1995-97, researchers showed the secret friend to be a phytoplasma, an organism that makes infected plants branch freely. When plants are infected with this or other organisms they can produce a Witch's Broom, a branch covered with many more stems and leaves than is normal. You may have noticed one branch, dense with needles, on the Pine tree growing along Podbury Drive, where you drive towards the gardens from Eastern Beach.

The Poinsettia infection is the first reported example of a pathogenic phytoplasma being the cause of a desirable and economically important trait. Another example of a desirable trait induced by an infection is the mosaic virus that causes colour-breaking in Tulip flowers. However, unlike in the Poinsettia, the virus in Tulips causes the deterioration of the plants. Phytoplasmas are also pathogens of agriculturally important plants, coconut, sugarcane, sandalwood and other crops.



Now back to the puzzle of the Christmas Poinsettia flowering in winter in these gardens. The Poinsettia requires a period of uninterrupted long, dark nights followed by bright sunny days, in autumn, to encourage it to develop coloured bracts. This colour change needs 12 hours of darkness, without being broken by any light, for at least five days in a row.

Attached to each male and female flower there is a pair of yellow lips that surround a vessel. This nectary is filled with sweet sugary liquid to ensure visiting insects come right up to each tiny flower.

The plants measure the duration of darkness by producing a chemical in light that then leaks away in darkness. This is like sand flowing through an hour-glass. If all the chemical is gone before daylight comes, the plant is primed to flower. If this is repeated on five successive nights, buds and flowers will form. A few minutes of relatively weak light during the night can reset the chemical back to its starting concentration, so darkness is important. To have Poinsettias in pots for Christmas in the Southern Hemisphere, it is necessary to have plant houses that have artificially long nights in the southern spring (typically 14 hours). These plant houses are blacked out so they are completely dark when the lights are off.



The Poinsettia bush in the GBG with flowers emerging.

People who buy a Poinsettia for Christmas, in Australia, can be disappointed that it doesn't flower the next Christmas. However, if they keep it outside in a place that is dark at night it will flower 18 months later, in winter. These gardens are ideal, they are dark at night, so the Poinsettia flowers prolifically. The growth and flowering is helped by annual pruning.

One last thing. Look closely at the flowers. Can you work them out? To help you, here are some photos, with captions explaining them.

David Johnson

BY GEORGE! Let's tour the world's gardens together

After spending many months sorting through a multitude of research material, I would like to highlight some of George Jones' tours. His aim was to share with others some of the best gardens around the world. The Garden Lovers tours he organised and led were many and varied; he embarked on 30 trips overall and visited more than 50 countries over 40 years.

The very first tour that George helped organise was the 1965 Chelsea Flower Show tour sponsored by the various state Royal Horticultural Societies around Australia, which involved boarding the Lloyd Triestino ship 'Marconi' in Melbourne and sailing for about a month to Naples. The participants numbered 120 and came from all over Australia. His comments in a newsletter to participants in 1964 states: *'As time for our departure is getting nearer... I shall be overseas inspecting your hotels... and to attend to a number of details to make sure that your forthcoming trip to Europe will be a most happy and successful one.'*



Another amazing fact about this 1965 tour was that each year following the trip, the participants got together for a reunion. They were called "the Chelsea Mob of 1965" and were eager each year, to reminisce and rekindle the friendships made on that trip. Here is an interesting letter: *'On the 20th anniversary reunion of those who came with George Jones to Chelsea Flower show in 1965, I send the*

Royal Horticultural Society (UK)'s best wishes for continued good gardening coupled with the hope that you will all come over again to see what remains the same and what has changed over the years. Those slides you took in 1965 need updating!' After 30 years of reunions, George wrote to the Guinness Book of Records asking if they could claim a record but the reply came back: *'It is very difficult to draw any record conclusions from reunions'*, so nothing came of it. What a pity! Breaking a record is not what they set out to do, but it was a very unique achievement just the same.

George's love of the Chelsea Flower Show continued over the years as many more trips took in this grand event, and he was particularly excited when Phillip Johnson and the team took out Best In Show in 2013, as is evident by the number of newspaper cuttings he kept.

Here are some more highlights from other tours that he organised and attended:-

- In South Africa in 1977 he wrote: *'Most of the party members returned to Stellenbosch on the free day to visit the University's 'Hortus Botanicus' as guests of the Director, Mr. Wimm Tijmens. This was a unique experience for us because Mr. Tijmens not only personally showed us around the gardens and glasshouses but made arrangements for us to visit a private reserve to view the indigenous plants.'*
- In 1978 he was in Teotihuacan, Mexico and wrote: *'I climbed to the summit of the Pyramid of the Sun, on the way photographing some Zephyranthes, native to the region and in flower that were growing on several of the pyramid's steps. On reaching the top I looked down and noticed for the first time a line of workmen also climbing.'*

- In 1981 he was in Aswan, Egypt and wrote: *'On arriving at the elevator at our hotel the young attendant on seeing from our hand luggage we were from Australia called out, 'Up there Cazaly'. It can be assumed he learnt that from an earlier Australian visitor'*
- On another trip in 1989 he wrote: *'The enjoyment of the Gardens of Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island was enhanced by the participation in the group of noted botanist Dr. James H. Willis. We learnt just how eager he was on the first morning at Castaway Hotel. As we were about to go to breakfast Jim was returning from a botanizing walk, somewhat bloodied by getting through a barbed-wire fence.'*
- During the Greek Cruise tour in 1996 he wrote about Corinthian columns. *'The Corinthian column is the most ornamental because its capital has two or three leaves modelled on those of a plant called Acanthus (A.spinosus, a species that is native to the Mediterranean region). It came about in the fifth century B.C. when a sculptor named Kallimachos saw an Acanthus growing over a basket that had been set on the grave of a Corinthian girl by her devoted nurse. Struck by the beauty of the curling leaves, he created the column capital that is still called Corinthian'.*
- In 1999 he wrote about Wales: *'Plants impact on every aspect of our lives. Without them we wouldn't exist. The (National Botanic) Gardens of Wales helps people understand and appreciate that fact. It aims to stimulate, challenge and entertain so people leave us feeling spiritually and intellectually charged'.*



So let's remember and honour the achievements of George Jones, especially his passion for plants and gardens, his horticultural expertise, his outstanding organising abilities and his hunger for knowledge. His tours were jam-packed with things to see and do and following the trips many thank-you notes were sent, some very expressive about good times and marvellous experiences.

George Jones, a dedicated gardening enthusiast, has been involved in administration for 40 years, including his term as Secretary, Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria. President, Gardening Gardeners and Planners, Friends of the Garden, Geelong. His research has contributed to the gardening history, "Growing Together" series, gardening columns in the Geelong Advertiser, is now in its 16th year. For three years he was a selector for Australia's Open Garden Scheme. George has been leader of a world garden club, also of other tours including South Africa, Sri Lanka and Nepal. This will be his fourth Chelsea Flower Show now as leader, indeed the gardens in this history have been selected from overseas experiences.



Day 1 - Friday, 26 May
DISCOVERY/NEWSPAPER
Join your Singapore Airlines flight board for Singapore. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Day 2 - Saturday, 06 May
(SINGAPORE HIGHTECHING)
This morning you will enjoy a City orientation tour of Singapore. The afternoon is at leisure; you may choose to relax, laze around the pool or go shopping in this beautiful city. American Breakfast.

Day 3 – Sunday, 27 May
SINGAPORE/LONDON

Another free day to explore Singapore, known throughout the world as "The Garden City". Perhaps a visit to the lovely Botanic Gardens and the famous Joo Choo Park or a complete tour stop by visiting Chinatown or Raffles City. Time for some last minute Day Free shopping before our last evening transfer to Changi Airport to connect with our Singapore Airlines flight home to London Heathrow. Goodnight, Singapore!

Day 4 - Monday, 30 May
ARRIVE LONDON
After clearing Customs and Immigration you will be met by our Trafalgar Tours Representative. Our on-board sightseeing tour focuses Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and more. The year finishes in your hotel and then London is yours to explore: why not catch a taxi from Westminster down the River Thames to visit the Tower of London and Tower Bridge. Call us at Madrid Taxis and you'll be on your way around the shopping department stores on Oxford Street.

Day 2 - Tuesday, 29 May
LONDON AT LEISURE

Today is at leisure. Visit the famous Houses of Parliament and the many landmarks of Whitehall. Don't miss "The Changing of the Guard" at Buckingham Palace. Or cruise down the river in Greenwich, home of the Royal Maritime Museum and the Cutty Sark. Perhaps take an optional excursion to Windsor Castle and Hampton Court. Continental Breakfast.

Day 6 - Wednesday, 10 May
LONDON-DOVER
Leaving London this morning we drive into Kent - the 'Garden of England', stopping to inspect the ancient promenade The Peasants in Possession Walk. After lunch we visit Houshurst Castle Garden, created in the 1930's in the grounds of what remains of an Elizabethan mansion. On the way to Dover we visit a beautiful example of a 15th century half-timbered manor house with a Great Hall of unique construction. In a truly 'English' garden setting. Very hedges, copse and garden buildings create a delightful setting for flower borders. This is the home of

Christopher Lloyd, gardening writer for "Country Life." We travel in an i-Driver and our overnight hotel, Continental Breakfast and Dream.

Day 7 - Thursday, 11 May
DOVER-AMSTERDAM
The White Cliffs of Dover are seen as we commence a short Channel crossing to Calais in France. Continue by coach through Belgian countryside to the lowlands of Holland, commencing in Amsterdam. English breakfast.

May 8 - Friday, 12 May
AMSTERDAM

The "Venice of the North" is built upon piles driven into the water, so a canal cruise highlights our engineering. See the Town of Towns, the Royal Palace, then Square. Holland is known as "the flower in the lapel of Europe"; their pride exhibition, in Keukenhof, so often seen in publicity photographs. In 40 acres of tulips, forget-me-nots, daffodils and many more spring flowers are the showcase for about 80 built projects shown on showing their latest and best. Whilst in Amsterdam we shall see a diamond polishing factory. Continental Breakfast.

Day 9 - Saturday, 13 May
AMSTERDAM#HOLLAND
Cross into Germany after Arnhem, scene of World War II action, stopping in Cologne to see the 300-foot-long Gothic Cathedral. Continue past Bonn, capital of Germany, embarking at Boppard for a Rhinecland cruise on the river's most scenic stretch. Cruising castles and towns everywhere from the banks to St. Isaac. Disembark here, enjoying the south to continue to the heart of Continental, Brabant and Diocese.

Day 10 – Sunday 14 May
RHINELAND-MUNICH
First is the charming riverside city of Boppard on the Rhine, the Rhine, where ornate stone bridges perfectly preserved fortifications, colorful streets and half-timbered houses. On days in Boppard Museum where ornate stone bridges, the massive Olympic stadium and ancient Maximilian – the city's main square, with its clocktower and clock. Unspoiled Rhine.

Day 13, Monday, 18 May
MUNICH VENGEANCE
(Our first stop is Innsbruck, where reconstruction shows us the Golden Roof, the ancient medieval centre and the Hofburg. Across the Ebnau Bridge and Deutscher Platz into Italy. En route we visit the north of Verona to see the Roman Arena and Juliet's balcony before arriving in magical Venice. Conventual Basilica and Doge's

Day 12 - Tuesday, 16 May
VENICE NIGHTS/DEER
Savour the atmosphere of this Byzantine jewel on an included canal cruise by private boat to St. Mark's Square, viewing the Bridge of Sighs. Visit

a glass blowing factory, then you're at leisure to sleep or explore. Perhaps take a boat ride to the island of Beano, for a fantastic seafood dinner. **Continental Breakfast**

Day 13 - Wednesday, 17 May
VENICE/FLORENCE
First stop this morning is Padua (Pavia) where we inspect Franco's oldest University (Basilica) Gardens which were founded in 1545. On then to the musical city of Florence, first at Palazzo de

Day 14 - Thursday, 05 May
DISCOVERY: ITALIAN LAKES
Leaving Florence, roads of the Renaissance and former stronghold of the Medici family, we head to Pisa to visit the extraordinary Leaning Tower. Up the coast past Genoa, hometown of Christopher Columbus before we cross the Apennine Mountains and on to the Italian Lakes. Concomitant Breakfast and Dinner.

Day 15 - Friday, 06 May
ITALIAN LAKES: LINA TROPE
The shores of Lake Maggiore, Italy, are

the region of Lake Maggiore, across Italy's borders. From the pleasant town of Stresa we set off inland looking somewhere like a great ship. This is Villa Helia, once Mussolini's Italian Palace with its beautiful gardens. We go by boat to inspect the Palace and admire the grounds. One day will also include a visit to the famous Villa Taranto gardens, owned by Captain McEwen, richly planted with many rare and unusual plants. Continued Breakfast and Drive.

Day 10 - Saturday, 20 May
STAYAN, LAKEN, LE FORNE

A day of incredible scenery begins with a stop in the historic town of Lanesville, a spot so fascinating by a story (think that it is haunted with stories all your own). Then we drive through the St. Lawrence River and across the Alps in Lanesville, where centuries (including a visit to the famed Lion Monument, in memory of Louis XVI's Swiss Guard). Later, you will enjoy a historical visit to the historic ruins of the medieval Old Town. We then drive to Fagundes, using a

Day 17 • Tuesday, 21 May
LUXEMBOURG
Over the French border, past Baillou and on through wine-producing Burgundy and medieval houses to the beauty of Paris. This evening enjoy an "illumination drive" through the city.
Continental Breakfast

Day 18 - Monday, 22 May
PARIS AT LEISURE
A full day at leisure, why not take a Seine River cruise by Bateau Mouché. Perhaps stop in Les Halles or to the boulangers, visit the Pompidou Centre, and take a stroll in the Bois de Boulogne.



Thank you George



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FGBG activities @GBG and beyond



JUBAEA SUBMISSIONS for the Spring Edition are due by 28 August 2020.
All articles including high resolution photos (jpeg files) can be sent to the FGBG Office via email or USB.

2020 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Friends and their guests can look forward to a wonderful program of events when we are able to resume events and activities.

Depending on how soon Covid-19 restrictions are eased, and what restrictions remain in place during 2020, we are hopeful that these events MAY include:

- Movie night at St Mary's, featuring the movie '2040', an optimistic Australian documentary investigating innovative projects around the world to mitigate climate change.
- Silent plant auction and social evening, giving members the opportunity to silently bid on a range of spectacular plants, while enjoying drinks and nibbles.
- Self-drive tour of historic homes and gardens in the Geelong area, with plant sale and afternoon tea.
- Annual Luncheon and Guest Speaker at Truffleduck
- Annual General Meeting of Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens
- Christmas Drinks for members



Another way to support the Friends is by following us on Facebook and Instagram

The Friends are regularly updating garden-related photos and videos on our website, Instagram and Facebook. It is well worthwhile spending a little time browsing these sites:

Website:

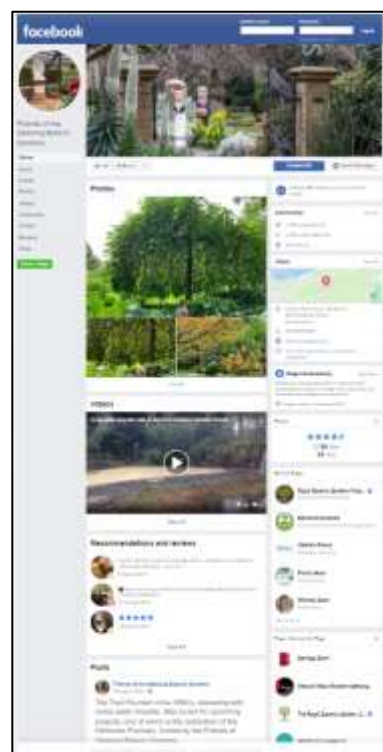
www.friendsgbg.org.au

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Geelong-Botanic-Gardens-180627925306403/>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/friendsgeelongbotanicgardens/?hl=en>



The Gift Fund currently has \$433,865.92 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, Jan Cheyne, Denise Feldman, Peggy Muntz, Barrie Satchell.

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

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