

# Garden Highlights October 2014

1. Visit the Australian border this month to see several Australian plants showing their diverse flowers. Australia is lucky to have between 20,000 and 25,000 species of higher plants (predominantly flowering plants). In the south-west of Australia is one of the world's few hot-spots for plant diversity – with more than 20% of Australia's species. One of those species is the **Rose cone flower *Isopogon formosus***.

It is available for purchase in the nursery.

2. One of the most striking Australian plants, **Giant spear lily *Doryanthes palmeri*** grows in Northern NSW and on the Queensland coast. Each giant rosette of leaves flowers once in its lifetime, but, after flowering, the plant produces more rosettes. We are lucky to have several plants growing here so we don't have to wait 8 years before the small rosettes reach maturity and flower again.

This plant is available for purchase in the nursery.

3. Have a look at the fig ***Ficus coronata***, native to the East Gippsland and the east coast of Australia. Why is it called the **Sand-paper fig?** (Hint: Look at the leaves.) See the unusual place where some of the fruit grow on this tree.

Have you ever seen a fig flower? Next time you eat a fresh fig, take a bite, then look inside. There are the flowers.

4. Not far from the Australian border, plants in the shrubbery are beginning to flower. The **Blue Mist Flowers *Bartlettina sordida*** have a misty appearance from the mass of light purple 'petals'. They grow in high altitude misty cloud forests of Mexico. Like most daisies their seeds are carried on the wind by a little 'parachute'. The sign with this plant bears its old name *Eupatorium sordidum*.

## Events in the Gardens in October

- Discovery Walk: 'Billy Tea', Sun. 19 October, 2:00 pm, gold coin donation.
- 'Plant Hunt' in the Curiosity Cabinet.
- Friends' Nursery open Wednesdays, 9:30 – 12:30.
- Spring Plant Sale at the Friends' Nursery Sat & Sun 25, 26 Oct, 10:00 – 4:00.
- Open Gardens Australia at Aroha, 340 Shannon Ave, Newtown, Sat & Sun 25, 26 Oct, 10:00 - 4:30, \$8.00. Also sales of plants and refreshments.
- The Tea House is now open.



# Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



- 1. **Rose cone flower** *Isopogon formosus*
- 2a. **Giant spear lily** *Doryanthes palmeri* (flowering)
- 2b. *Doryanthes palmeri* (not flowering)

- 2c. Gynea lily *Doryanthes excelsa* (not flowering)
- 3. **Sand-paper fig** *Ficus coronata*
- 4. **Blue mist flower** *Bartlettina sordida* (*Eupatorium sordidum*)

- 5. Tea House



This information was developed by the Volunteer Guides  
Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

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