

Garden Highlights, November 2024

The **Indian Horse Chestnut** *Aesculus indica* flowers in November. In the following year its seeds mature inside of distinctive 'conkers'. Without treatment, the seeds are not eaten by people because of the range of bitter and potentially dangerous chemicals inside. In the lowlands (900 to 3,000 metres above sea-level) around the Himalayan Mountains, the local people feed leaves to their cattle.

The seeds are crushed to make small pieces. To remove the chemicals, including tannins, saponins (soapy components) and oxalates (that produce the tartness of the Oxalis weeds and Rhubarb), the pieces are put in a basket in running water and stirred daily. After this washing, the seed pieces are dried and ground into flour. After mixing this flour with wheat flour, they use it to prepare various foods, including chapattis and halva.

Commercial seed collection, for flour production, is thought to be contributing to a reduction in the number of wild trees. The common European Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*, often grown in big gardens, is likely to be challenged by heat from Climate Change. However, the Indian species from the lower foothills may survive better.



What's On in November 2024

Themed Guided Walk 'Out of Africa',
Sunday 10 November 2 pm,
Gold coin donation.

Friends Christmas Picnic,
Wednesday 27 November, 1 - 3 pm,
for Friends members and their guests.

Free Guided Walks:
Wednesdays 11 am, Sundays 2 pm.

Friends Nursery open:
Wednesdays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

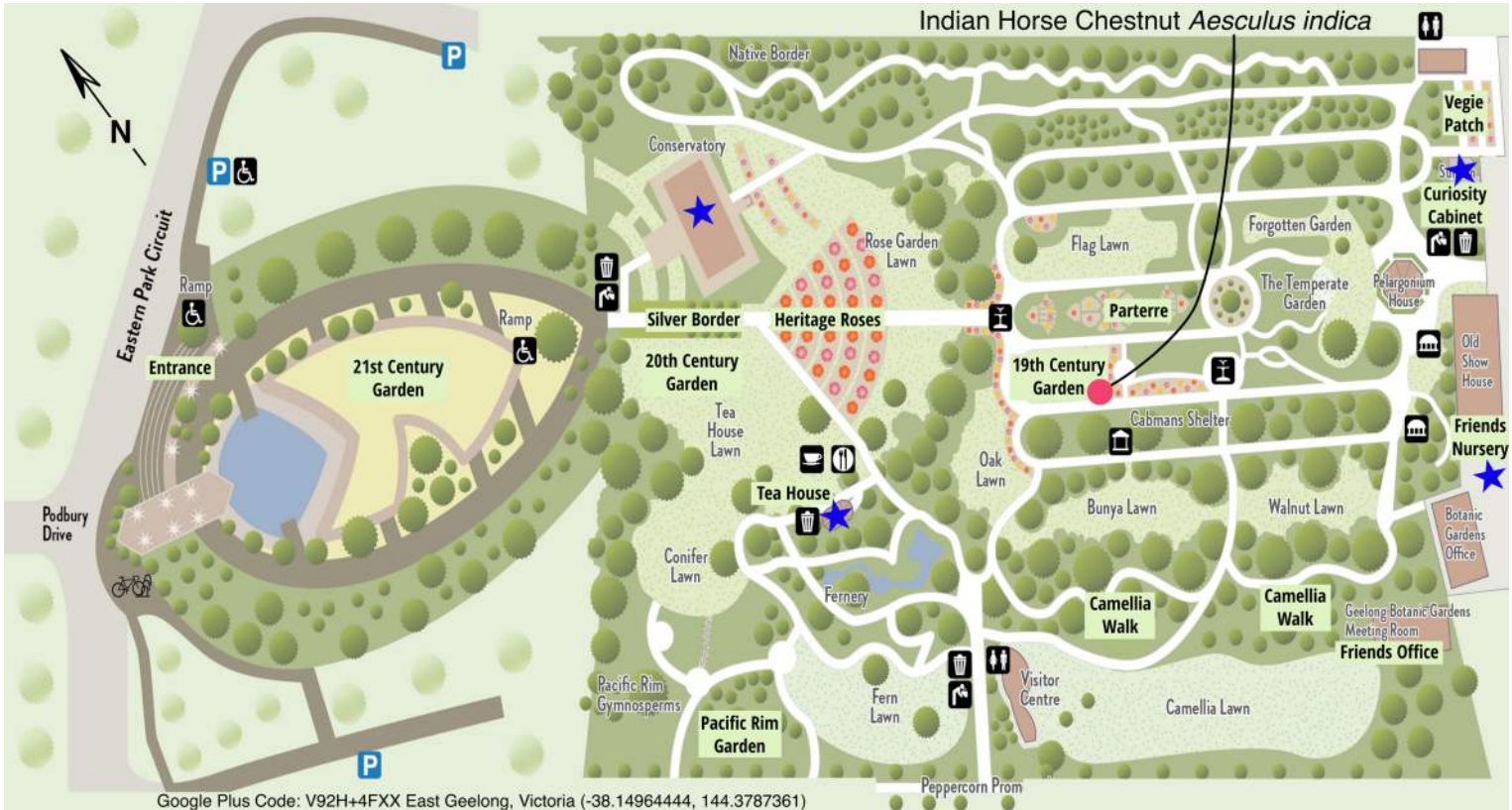
The Conservatory is open:
Weekdays 10 am - 4 pm.

WYM Café at the gardens
is open each day:
<https://www.wheretheyoumeet.com.au/>.

Contact Friends to join and for details:
Phone: 03 5229 0071
Email: info@friendsgbg.org.au
Web: www.friendsgbg.org.au

www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/

Geelong Botanic Gardens map



This information was developed by the Volunteer Guides
 Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens.
www.friendsgbg.org.au
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Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

EXPLORE GEEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS with a guide.

Discovery Walk: Meet your Guide at the front steps.

Guided Walks each Wednesday at 11 am and Sunday at 2 pm.

Once a month, the guides also lead a Themed Walk and a Discovery Table.

THE FRIENDS EVENTS SCHEDULE INCLUDES:

Winter Lunch with a guest speaker

Coach Tours to Significant Gardens in Victoria

Through the Garden Gates tour of local gardens

Film Nights, Bus Trips and Guest Speakers

Workshops and Demonstrations

Volunteer Week Luncheon

GEEELONG SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL ART

Term Classes and Workshops for students of all levels.

FRIENDS PLANT NURSERY

Open Wednesday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Seasonal Weekend Plant Sales

TO JOIN or CONTACT the FRIENDS

Office hours: Monday to Friday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Phone: 03 5229 0071

Email: info@friendsgbg.org.au

www.friendsgbg.org.au