

Garden Highlights December 2014

1. Heritage Rose garden

The heritage roses are at their best when the warm summer weather arrives. The beds trace the breeding of roses from the original wild species like the *Rosa sweginzowii ssp. macrocarpa* at the bottom of the slope, up to recent long-flowering cultivars, such as those of Australia's premier rose breeder Alister Clark, whose 150th anniversary is celebrated this year.



2. Sago Palm

Observe the unrolling of new leaves on the **Sago Palm, *Cycas revoluta***. As the botanical name indicates, this plant is not a palm, but in fact a Cycad. Unlike palms, Cycads don't have flowers - only cones. Along from this Cycad there is a male Eastern Cape Cycad *Encephalartos altensteinii* with two cones.



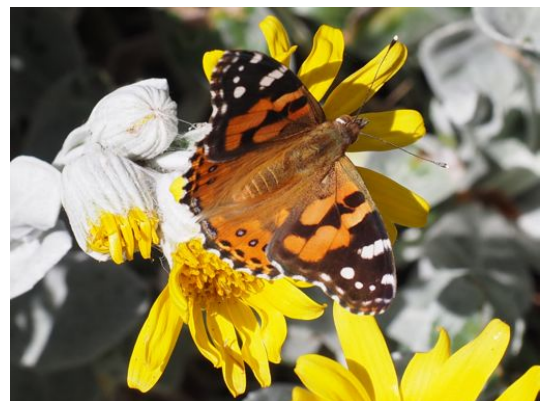
3. Coral tree

The vivid red flowers of the stately **Coral Tree *Erythrina caffra*** attract pollinating insects and birds. While admiring the flowers, note the more subtle leaves with three symmetrically-placed leaflets. This tree loses its leaves, not to survive cold, but to preserve precious water. In its home in the Eastern Cape of South Africa the winter months are dry.



4. Butterflies and moths

These gardens are a haven for butterflies because of the colourful, nectar-producing flowers and the lack of insecticides. You are most likely to see them on sunny days around the three beds marked on the map over the page. More than 12 species of butterflies have been seen in the gardens. The **Australian Painted Lady, *Vanessa kershawi***, shown here, likes the daisy bushes in the Silver Border.



What's on in December

- **Pelargoniums** flowering in the Pelargonium House.
- The Friends' **Nursery is open** each Wednesday, 9.30 – 12:30.
- **Discovery Table** Sunday 7th 1:30 pm.
- **Guided Walks** other Sundays 2:00 pm, Wednesdays 11:00 am, except 24 December.
- See the 'Sprout!' display in the **Curiosity Cabinet**.
- The **Tea House** is open every day.

Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



- 1. *Rosa sweginzowii* ssp. *Macrocarpa* in the Heritage Rose Garden
- 2a. Sago Palm *Cycas revoluta*
- 2b. Eastern Cape Cycad *Encephalartos altensteinii*
- 3. Coral Tree *Erythrina caffra*

- 4a. Silver Border (butterflies and moths)
- 4b. Perennial border (butterflies and moths)
- 4c. Vegetable garden (butterflies and moths)



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

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