

FRIENDS of GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS INC.

ABN: 21 699 253 561 INC NO. A13509G



FEBRUARY 2014 HIGHLIGHTS IN GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

1. The **Cycads** in the Gardens develop cones in late summer. Cycad plants have either male cones which produce pollen or female cones which develop seeds. Cycads are pollinated by beetles, thrips or weevils. When ready for pollination, the cones heat up to around 4 °C above ambient temperature. They then emit a fragrance which is irresistible to these insects. Sticky hairs capture the pollen they carry from the male plant.



#2. Cool Places and water

In summer, the Gardens offer cool respite from the heat. The plants have been enjoying a plentiful supply of recycled water throughout early summer from the Stormwater Harvesting Dam in Eastern Park

- Purple irrigation fittings in the Gardens indicate the use of reclaimed water
- An interpretive trail throughout the Gardens explains more about water use.
- The current exhibition in Curiosity Cabinet at the back of the Gardens has a water theme.



#3. The **Perennial border** is always a summer highlight: a stunning blaze of colour in hot shades of red and yellow. This year it has responded to the new GBG watering system with lush growth.

This wonderful display is maintained by a team of volunteers from the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens.



#4. Music in the Gardens

Music in the Gardens is a Geelong tradition. Every Sunday in February from 5pm – 7.30pm the Friends of the GBG host this popular community event. Bring your family & friends for a picnic on the lawns. Tickets may be purchased from the gate from 4pm each Sunday. (The gates are closed from 3pm-4pm to allow for event preparation).

For more details visit www.friendsgbg.org.au



Volunteer Guide on duty: Wednesdays 11am & Sundays 2pm to take you for a guided walk or answer your questions

Growing Friends Nursery – open every Wednesday morning 10am-12pm

