

# Garden Highlights July 2014

1. You may think that spring and summer are the seasons for flowers, but many plants are not deterred by the winter chill. Good rains in the last two months have given plants extra zest. Visit the **Camellia Walk** to see Azaleas, varieties of Camellias and also *Gordonia axillaris* (pictured). Camellias and Gordonias are in the family called Theaceae. Why is it called Theaceae? (See Curiosity Cabinet below.)



2. **Curiosity cabinet:** Visit the sunken glass-house to see plants that give us spices to flavour drinks and food. The Gardens' theme 'TeaTotal' continues to focus on drinks that don't contain alcohol, never the less, many pack a flavour-filled punch. Chai tea is composed of diverse spices and tea leaves from the plant *Camellia sinensis*. Tea gives its name (in Botanical Latin) to the family that includes the Camellias - Theaceae.



3. **Fruit and seed:** At this time of the year many plants show colourful 'fruit'. *Cycas Taiwanensis* (pictured) has seed hidden in the large cone of the female plant. The remains of the pollen cone of the male plant are next door. Nearby the huge green cone on the female *Lepidozamia peroffskyana* is still developing and *Cordyline terminalis* have small red berries. At the far end of the gardens, look up for the red fruit of the NZ Puriri tree *Vitex lucens*.



4. **Cloud pruning**, or **Niwaki**, is a Japanese method of pruning garden trees and shrubs that makes them appear like giant bonsai. In fact Niwaki means *garden tree*. You can see two shrubs in this style in the gardens: *Camellia sasanqua* in flower and *Cupressus macrocarpa* 'Greenstead Magnificent', a blue-green, miniature form of Monterey Cypress (pictured).



## Events in the Gardens in July

**School Holiday Program** 'Fairies and Dragons' 1 – 10 July, booking essential,  
<http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/calendar/item/8d1585da11b52ac.aspx>

**Discovery Walk** 'Winter Wonders' Sun 20 July 2:00 pm, gold coin donation.

**Winter Plant Sale** Sat 26 and Sun 27 July 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Plant sales also on Wednesdays 9:00 – 12:00.



[www.friendsgbg.org.au](http://www.friendsgbg.org.au)

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# Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



1a. Camellia Walk  
1b. *Gordonia axillaris*

2. Curiosity cabinet and 'TeaTotal'

3a. *Cycas Taiwanensis*  
3b. *Lepidozamia peroffskyana*  
3c. *Cordyline terminalis*  
3d. Puriri tree, *Vitex lucens*

4a. Cloud pruning,  
*Camellia sasanqua*  
4b. Cloud pruning,  
*Cupressus macrocarpa*