

Garden Highlights, December 2017



1.

This month we highlight some plants from Africa.

1. Many species of ***Pelargonium*** come from southern Africa. The plants that are commonly called Geraniums, have the botanical name *Pelargonium*. Plants covered with blooms are on display in the Pelargonium House. Don't miss the nearby beds that display various species of *Pelargonium* with numerous smaller flower heads. In the 21st Century garden there is a small collection of deciduous *Pelargoniums*, with small flowers, from dry areas of Africa.



2.

2. The **Forest Bell *Mackaya bella***, from the summer rainfall evergreen forests of southern Africa grows well in deep shade.

3. The large tree in the centre of oldest part of these gardens is an **African Coral Tree *Erythrina caffra***. Coming from the east coast of southern Africa, where rain falls in summer, it sheds its leaves in the cool weather and has a lush cloak of leaves in summer. Its red pea flowers often appear before the leaves, but may also open when leaves are present. There are examples of smaller species of *Erythrina* in the garden beds nearby. They do not all flower at the same time.



3.

What's on in December 2017 (More details on Friends website)

The **Friends Nursery** is open on Wednesdays 9:30am - 12:30pm. *Pelargonium* plants for sale.

Mackaya plants may also be available.

Christmas Fair: Artwork, Prints, Books, Cards, and flowering Pelargoniums for sale.

Weekend 2 - 3 December 2017, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Meeting Room, Rear of the GBG.

Discovery Table, Sunday 17 December 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Free Guided Walks, each Sunday 2:00pm, Wednesday 11:00am (except 24, 27 and 31 December).

'Geelong Botanic Gardens – a local treasure' University of the Third Age (U3A) course, advance notice, February 2018.

See the display of **African Succulents**, in the Curiosity Cabinet.

The **Tea House** is open every day.



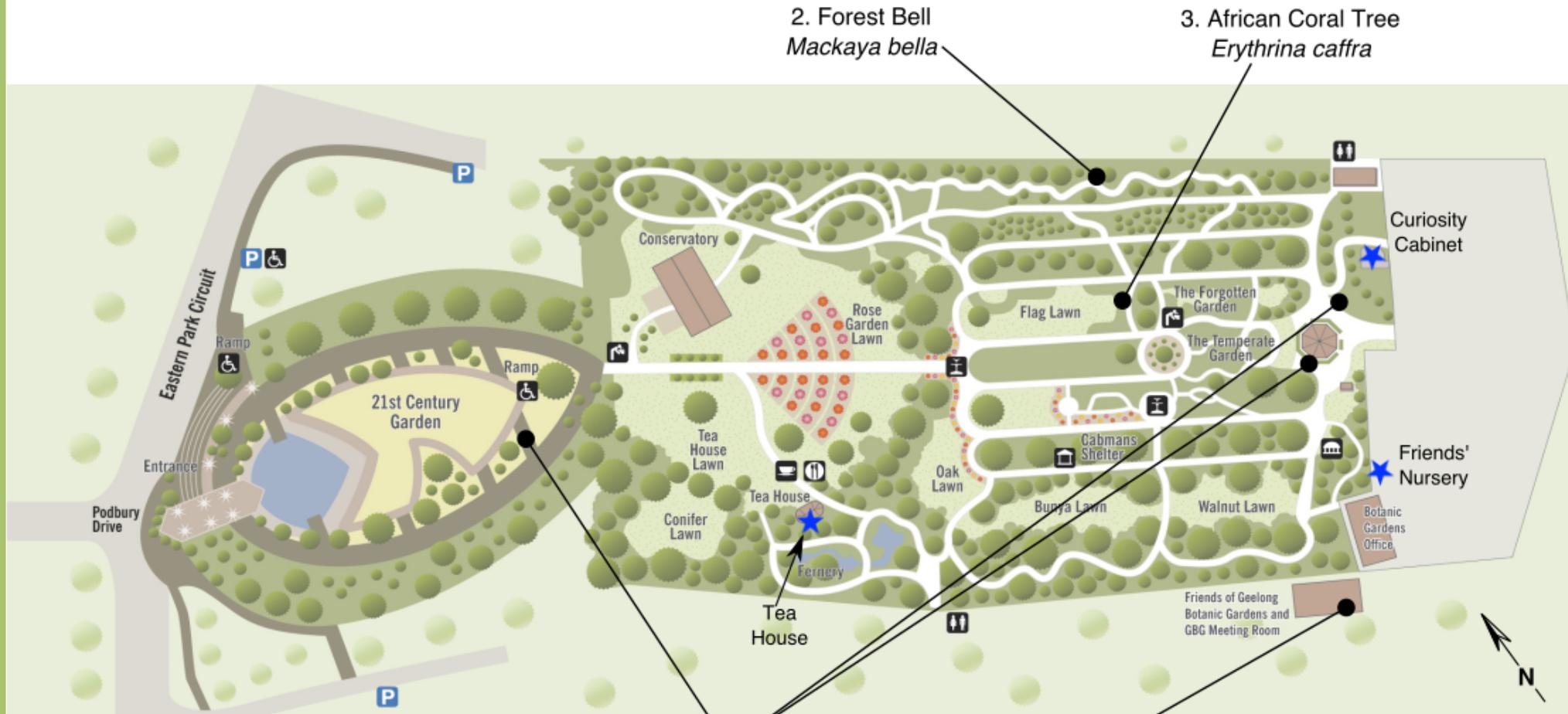
Over page: Map showing plant locations

www.friendsgbg.org.au

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www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/

Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



2. Forest Bell
Mackaya bella

3. African Coral Tree
Erythrina caffra

1. *Pelargonium*

Christmas Fair
in Meeting Room

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