

Garden Highlights March 2015

1. Ivory Curl *Buckinghamia celsissima* is a member of the *Protea* family, along with *Grevillea*, *Banksia*, *Macadamia* and *Hakea*. It is one of many Australian plants whose flowers produce nectar prolifically. The nectar attracts insects and birds that pollinate the flowers.

2. Pony Tail palm *Nolina recurvata* is not really a palm, but is a member of the *Asparagus* family. It can store a year's supply of water in its stem and roots. Of the two plants in the 21st Century Garden, one is in flower and the other has some 'fruit' from last year. These, and the Anchor plant, were moved from the older part of the garden in 2002.

3. Anchor plant *Colletia paradoxa* is also adapted to dry areas. It protects its precious water with a spine on the end of each succulent leaf-like flattened stem. These 'leaves' look like migrating geese. Like legumes and wattles, this plant can form root nodules using symbiosis with the bacteria *Frankia* in order to use nitrogen from the air to enrich the soil around the plant.

4. Highveld Cabbagetree *Cussonia paniculata* ssp. *sinuata* is a small tree with blue-green leaves and a single large complex flower head containing many minute pale lime-green flowers. In southern Africa, the timber from this tree was once used for the brake-blocks on wagons. At the rear of the gardens, an Australian close relative, the **Umbrella tree *Schefflera actinophylla*** is also in flower, but with a vivid red flower head. This *Cussonia* may be available in the Friends' Nursery.

What's on in March

Autumn Plant Sale at the Friends' Plant Nursery

Saturday and Sunday 28 and 29 March 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

The **Friends' Nursery** also open Wednesdays 9.30 am – 12.30 pm.

Discovery Walk, **The Flower Garden** Sunday 15 March 2.00 pm.

Gold coin donation.

Discovery Table Sunday 22 March, 1.00 - 3:00 pm.

Guided Walks other Sundays 2.00 pm, Wednesdays 11.00 am.

Play in the Park Monday 23 March 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Free activities at the Gardens and the Playspace.

Details: www.geelongaustralia.com.au,

click 'Events Geelong', Search for 'Play'

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

Open Gardens in Geelong 7 and 8 March:

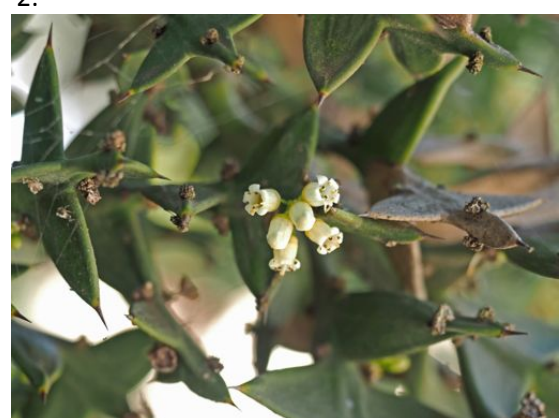
Details: friendsgbg.org.au/events-activities/whats-on



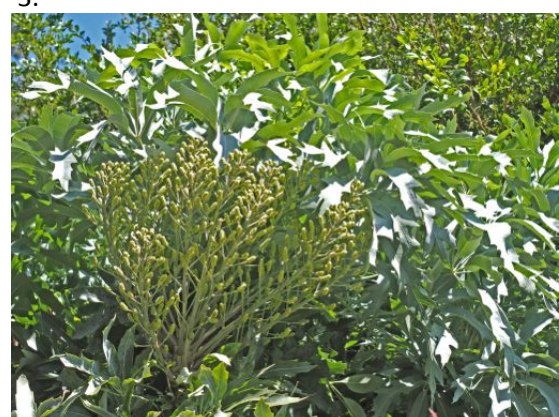
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2.



3.



4.

Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



1. Ivory Curl *Buckinghamia celsissima*
2. Pony Tail palm *Nolina recurvata*
3. Anchor plant *Colletia paradoxa*

- 4a. Highveld Cabbagetree *Cussonia paniculata ssp sinuate*
- 4b. Umbrella tree *Schefflera actinophylla*



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

www.friendsgbg.org.au
www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/