



Garden Highlights

April 2014

1. Ivory Curl flower (*Buckinghamia celsissima*)

This tree grows to about 25 metres in its native Queensland rainforest, but in the cooler southern states it will only reach the size of a medium shrub. The long creamy re-curved flowers have a wonderful fragrance and attract birds and bees. The *Buckinghamia* in the 21st Century Garden is already in full bloom, while the plant in the Native Border will come into flower later in the month.



2. Bananas in flower

Many of the bananas in the Gardens are in flower. The largest of these is the flower on the *Ensete ventricosum* (Abyssinian banana). This flower stalk will continue to grow over the coming months.

Oddly, the flower and fruit of this banana are the only parts that are not used by humans. The starchy stems and rhizomes are a staple crop in Ethiopia.



3. Q: When is chocolate not chocolate?

A: When it is carob

Our climate is too cold for growing cocoa (*Theobroma cacao*) outside, but perfect for carob which comes from the Mediterranean region.

Carob powder, from the ground seed of carob pods (*Ceratonia siliqua*) is used as a chocolate substitute. Carob powder is free of caffeine and contains less fat and more sugar than Cocoa.



4. Watch out for Tea Total@GBG – a celebration of tea and other plant-based beverages

- Visit the **Curiosity Cabinet** for the display: The Dose Makes the Poison.
- View the **Central Bed** display of plants used to make tea
- Join our Tea Total themed **Discovery Walks**



In the Gardens in April

Bat Watch – April 8, 10 and 15 from 6.00 -7.00 pm Eastern Park. Bookings 5272 4126

Story time @GBG – drop into our free “In Garden Library” weekdays on the Teahouse lawn

This information was developed by the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens volunteer guides.

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