

Garden Highlights, August 2017



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1. **Canary Island Bell-flower** *Canarina canariensis* only grows wild in the cloud forests of the Canary Islands, 100km west of Morocco, Africa (ie. is endemic). It has tubers that help it survive 6 months with almost no rain, in summer. It grows and flowers in winter and early spring. Like most islands, this archipelago has many endemic plants - 700 across the Canaries.

2. Another island endemic plant is **Barker's Koromiko or Chatham Island Tree Hebe** *Hebe barkeri*. It has 2 common names, the original Mori name Koromiko and the botanical name Hebe. As the name indicates, it is native to Chatham Islands 840 km east of Christchurch, NZ. Fifty species of plants are endemic to Chatham.

3. The star-shaped pods and seeds of Chinese Star Anise *Illicium verum* are processed to make spice and oil, for flavouring food, perfuming personal products and making Tamiflu flu medicine. In these gardens the **Japanese Star Anise** *Illicium anisatum* bears fragrant flowers. The pods and seed of the Japanese Star Anise are poisonous.

4. Being plants of Eurasian temperate woodlands, **Hellebores** *Helleborus* love to be in the shade in the warm weather and then be in full sun for winter and spring. The Copper Beech tree provides dark shade in summer, but in winter the soil underneath is carpeted with flowering Helleborus enjoying the sun. Hellebore plants produce a poison, to prevent being eaten by rabbits and deer. The toxin irritates the skin of some gardeners and is dangerous if eaten.

Several *Salvia*, *Hebe*, *Helleborus*, *Camellia* and plants from the Canary Islands, are available for purchase from the Friends Nursery.

What's on in August 2017 (More details on Friends or Gardens websites)

'Useful, Beautiful, Weed or all three?' Discovery Walk, Sunday 13 August 2:00 pm. Gold coin donation.

Discovery Table, Sunday 20 August 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Free Guided Walks, each Sunday 2:00pm, Wednesday 11:00am.

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

The Geelong Botanic Gardens offers a range of **Educational Programs** for classes from Primary and Secondary Schools, and beyond.

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

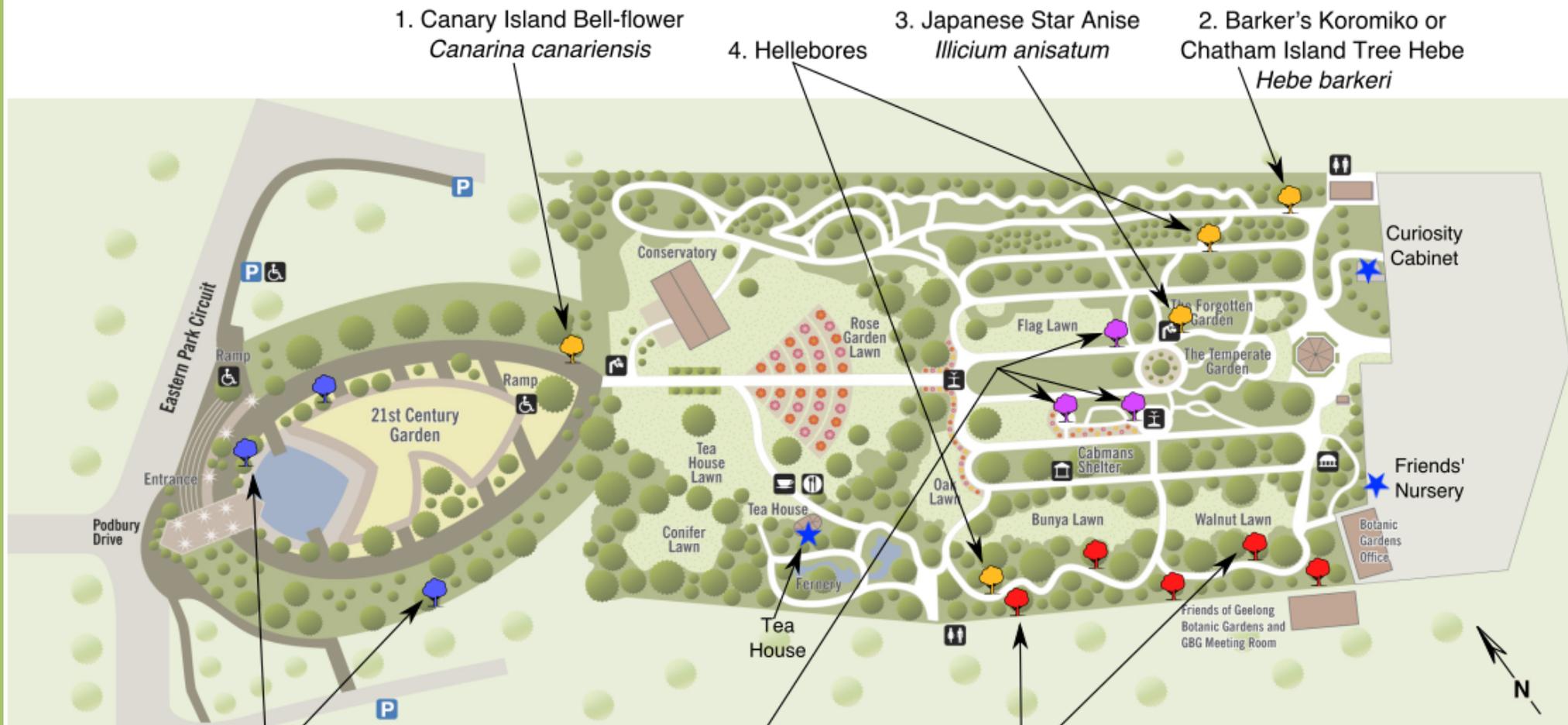
The **Tea House** is open every day.



4.

Over page: Map showing plant locations

Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



Australian plants

Salvias

Camellias
along Camellia Walk

**Some of the plants in flower
this month**

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

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