

# Garden Highlights, April 2016

1. Garden plants are conserved for future generations by being held in special collections. The **Salvias** growing here form one such collection. Many **Salvias** are easy to grow in Australian conditions and reward the gardener with flowers for much of the year. Several are available in the Friends' Nursery.

2. While you may associate **Hibiscus** with the tropics, there are a number that thrive in Geelong. April is a good time to visit the Hibiscus bed at the back of these gardens as many plants flower this month (see photo). In addition **Hibiscus insularis Phillip Island Hibiscus** from a small island off Norfolk Island is one of several Australian Hibiscus. Hibiscus plants may be available in the Friends' Nursery.

3. As the days become colder the **Winter Sweet Chimonanthus praecox** begins to flower on bare branches. Valued for its fragrant winter flowers in its native China, it has been cultivated for more than 1,000 years. Unfortunately wild plants are now vulnerable as a result of forest clearance.

4. A number of trees show colourful foliage after a couple of cold nights. Notable in the Botanic Gardens are the **Red Osier Dogwood Cornus sericea** (synonym. *C. stolonifera*) (see photo) and the **Persian ironwood Parrotia persica** with leaves that are streaked with red, yellow and green. In Eastern Park to the south and south west, close to the Botanic Gardens, are the **Red Maple Acer rubrum** and the avenue of **Claret Ash Fraxinus angustifolia 'Raywood'**. This variety of Ash originates from a single plant discovered in a nursery near Adelaide. It is now grown as grafted trees elsewhere in the world. *Cornus sericea* plants may be available in the Friends' Nursery.

## What's on in April 2016

Discovery Walk: 'A Tapestry of Trees', Sunday 10 April 2:00.  
Gold coin donation.

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

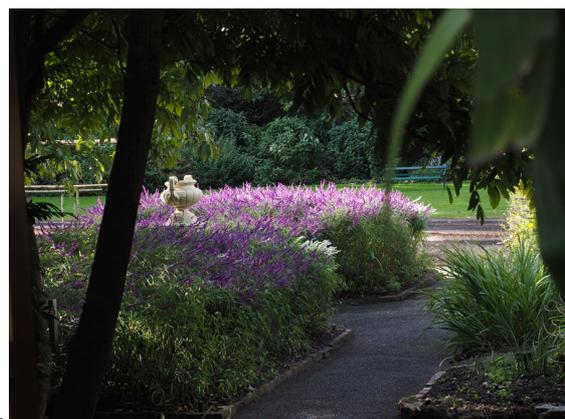
AAFBG Conference 2016, Friday to Sunday 29 Apr — 1 May.

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

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

The Curiosity Cabinet is displaying cactus and other arid-area plants.

The Tea House is open every day.



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