

Jubaea



FRIENDS OF
GEELONG
BOTANIC
GARDENS

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc. Newsletter

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Perennial Border Volunteers proving that dedication and hard work pays off beautifully

SUMMER IN THE GARDENS

Late Summer is possibly when Geelong Botanic Gardens is at its most inviting. By mid-afternoon the beach and water-ways can be too hot and conducive to sunburn. Lush lawns and majestic shady trees in the Gardens draw people to linger and relax in the cool surrounds. All come to enjoy this restful place: mothers with babies and toddlers, families on picnics, visitors local and international, young and elderly, able and disabled, even teenagers and young adults trying to capture the latest electronic 'elf'. Happy sounds and beautiful surroundings weave their special magic during the endless summer.

But since the week before Christmas, visitors to Geelong Botanic Gardens will also have been delighted to see that the screen fence around the Conservatory has been removed, revealing the landscaping and completely refurbished structure in all its glory. Although power supply problems have prevented the Conservatory being opened to the public yet, the Conservatory and surrounds are quite stunning, affording magnificent views across the Heritage Rose Garden to the flowering Jacaranda tree beyond. Visitors are encouraged to peep through the windows to catch a glimpse of the amazing

tropical plants inside. Surrounded by impressive hedging, the beautiful outdoor seating was hewn from timber sourced from trees that had to be removed from Eastern Park. They provide a restful space for the public and groups of children involved in the GBG Education Program. The Conservatory landscape area is truly a triumph that has been well worth the wait. Congratulations to Geelong City, Geelong Botanic Gardens Director Annette Zealley, Gardens staff and the designers of this inviting space.

The promise of summer colour brings many people to the Gardens. At this time of year the floral jewel in the crown is the Perennial Border, meandering along the central path. A colourful feast for the senses, the border is at its peak from early summer until mid-autumn. It is a continually evolving garden brimming with interest. The glorious dahlias in the border are exclusively sourced from Jan Parish's collection at 'Country Dahlias', Winchelsea. Bright pink 'Happy Mador', cerise variety 'Jenny's Choice' with its startling yellow centres and dainty yellow tree variety 'Conundrum', are just a few on display. Spires of yellow *Rudbeckia laciniata*, salmon pink *Canna*

'Summer in the Gardens' continued....

iridiflora and purple-stemmed pink *Eutrochium maculatum* 'Gateway' tower above to create a breathtaking display - summer in its full glory. The Silver Border Garden, edging the path along the teahouse lawn, commemorates the Friends' Silver Anniversary in 2010. Its tranquil palette is particularly restful in the heat of the day. Looking up the steps provides a wonderful backdrop for family photos.



By late summer the Heritage Rose Garden is preparing for its magnificent autumn display. The glorious spring show transitions to the stronger colours of autumn, flanked by carefully manicured Clematis and Nepeta.

The Friends' Nursery features plants propagated from the Gardens. In readiness for regular Wednesday morning sales and the March weekend plant sale, the benches are full of plants ripe for autumnal planting. Autumn is a wonderful time of year to regenerate the home garden.

The admiration and pleasure expressed by visitors is reward enough for the Friends' hands-on horticulture volunteers who work with the Gardens staff all year in the Nursery, Heritage Rose Garden, and Perennial and Silver Borders. To achieve such stunning results requires dedication and a true passion for working and volunteering in these special garden spaces. Those who have not visited for some time can be assured of being delighted by the charm of Geelong Botanic Gardens this summer and throughout autumn. Take time to treat yourself soon.

Allison Martland

INTRODUCING HEATH CHASEMORE

In August 2018, the City of Greater Geelong's Manager City Parks and Gardens, Grant Baverstock, began his 'new life' in retirement, after spending much of his working life involved with Geelong Botanic Gardens. As the City farewelled Grant it welcomed Geelong's new Manager City Parks and Gardens, Heath Chasemore. The Friends look forward to an equally positive and rewarding relationship and wish Heath and his family a very warm welcome to Geelong.

I commenced with the City of Greater Geelong in August last year as Manager City Parks and Gardens. I am thoroughly enjoying the Geelong lifestyle and working with a talented and committed team of staff.

My passion for horticulture was ignited in the 1980s at Numurkah High School. In year 9, I was taught by a wonderful gentleman who showed me the joys of growing food. He had an amazing ability to grow all sorts of fruit and vegetables in abundance.

When I requested year 10 work experience at the Melbourne Zoo, the Zoo was undertaking a major redevelopment of the Gorilla exhibit, and I recall spending most of the two weeks planting in this enclosure.

In 1993 I was successful in getting a gardening apprenticeship with the City of Shepparton. In those days we had a nursery and grew a lot of annual seedlings for bedding displays across Shepparton. My first six months was spent in the potting shed, transplanting seedlings to larger trays ready to be planted in roundabouts and garden beds to beautify the town.

During the following fifteen years I completed a wide variety of horticulture and supervisory training, and also took different roles in Parks and Gardens with Council.

In 2008 I left local government to become Gardens and Grounds manager at Notre Dame College in Shepparton. Notre Dame College is a Catholic high school with 1,500 students. The college was about to embark on an exciting expansion project to build a

new campus in North Shepparton. This included significant landscaping and sports field construction.

After three years and the completion of this development, I accepted a role back at Greater Shepparton City Council, managing the arboriculture team. This coincided with Council appointing a new CEO with an agenda to transform the organisation. The changes were quite dramatic but none the less very exciting: I was brought into the world of managing service delivery and change management very quickly.

During this period of change, a number of staff, including my



manager at the time, left the organisation for a variety of reasons. After many job changes in a short period of time, in 2013 I was appointed Manager Parks, Sport & Recreation with the Greater Shepparton City Council. This role including managing sixty-five staff in maintenance of open spaces, strategic planning and facility management. I'm particularly proud to have developed for Council an Urban Forest strategy in 2017, and also led a masterplan development for Victoria Park lake precinct which will facilitate the development of a new \$50m

Shepparton Art Museum.

On a personal note, I'm married with six children: four girls and two boys from 22 to 9 years old.

Heath Chasemore, Manager City Parks and Gardens

COLAC OTWAYS BUS TOUR

Thursday 18 October started cloudy and cool but that didn't deter a fine group of Friends of GBG and Probus friends from climbing onboard the bus for a great day out.



We headed off, picking up a few of the Torquay Probus members at Moriac Hotel on the way. The first garden of the day was 'Wanawong Gardens and Retreat'. Janet and David Hopkins have turned this one-hectare garden, high up in the Otway Ranges, into a verdant display of deciduous specimen trees, cool climate plants including spectacular rhododendrons, azaleas, alpine and bulbs including tulips. Roses, lilies and clematis along with perennial beds, are terraced down the hillside with pathways weaving through hidden foliage arches and greenery.

The soft drizzle expected here at the wettest location in Victoria, didn't dampen our enthusiasm, particularly when morning tea was served with home-picked asparagus served as savoury rolls and some hot pastries.



Just down the road from Wanawong, our next stop was 'IshShoes Handcrafted Footwear'. Here Margot and Max have a colourful gallery and workshop, making custom footwear. This was something completely different for our group and it was fascinating to learn the footwear making process while walking through their workshop. The on-farm gallery has a fine

display of footwear of every colour. A lot of us left with a new pair of comfortable shoes!

From IshShoes it was only a short drive to Kawarren Reserve. Here the old 1920s school building has been converted into a community house called "Echidna House". We were treated to beautiful basket lunches, which were enjoyed in the light filled and spacious hall. A signed nature walk surrounds the buildings, covering approximately seven acres. We were able to walk among magnificent eucalypts, grassy flats and pockets of wildflowers, seeing where the Beechy Rail Trail passes through the reserve ... a great way to walk off lunch.



The last stop of the day was in Colac at 'Hanami Garden' on the outskirts of town. Melanie and Troy Rodger have established nearly one hectare of formal and semi-formal cottage garden which is used for weddings, functions and Open Gardens. The roses weren't fully out but the wisteria, iris, some tulips, and spectacular borders were in full spring flower. There was a good collection of plants to buy and discuss with Melanie and Troy who were very happy to share information and chat. Devonshire teas were enjoyed here in the garden pavilion which is used for functions and for those variable weather days like this one.

At last it was time to board our bus for home, arriving back at the GBG at five o'clock, after a day well spent with friends in the countryside.

From the feedback, it was a resounding success.

Kate Kirkhope



HANDS ON VOLUNTEERS

THE ROSE GROWERS work on the first and third Mondays monthly from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. During the peak flowering periods of spring and summer, into early autumn, dead-heading of spent blooms was our main task. At the same time we dealt with pruning off damaged growth or die-back, or branches sprawling dangerously onto pathways, threatening the public with their thorns! Having become disenchanted with the upper beds full of Iceberg roses, we had GBG staff dig these out, and replace them with 'Carabella' (an Australian cultivar) which has proved to be a great success. One of our members, Jenny Hine, grew nearly all from cuttings!

We also noted rose bushes that had outgrown their allotted place, had Gardens staff remove these, and chose more suitable roses which the Gardens staff then planted for us.

It's becoming quite difficult to source old roses, and a few we bought proved sickly and needed removal. In all seven new roses have been put in. For the Botanic Gardens Open Day, Jenny made several display signs highlighting each bed's roses, and these were so popular that they have been re-erected for current viewing while the roses are out.



Finally, the in-ground watering system has begun to operate. Already we note less black spot disease.

During June we worked every Monday, as the full-on pruning took place, and we were thrilled to have a new volunteer, a Friends' Member, come along and assist in this arduous job. We'd love more such help this year! Maree from the Perennial Border group has undertaken to weed for us; extremely welcome!

Gardens staff have had to take over two tasks for us; trimming the box balls and the Nepeta, which we can no longer manage.

From the entry "our" roses look stunning, set off as they are by the beautiful silver border which introduces them.

Lyn Lang

The GROWERS' year began well with the replacement of our ancient 'igloo' at the Friends' Nursery with a new combination hothouse/shadehouse facility. Our thanks go to the City and the Friends' Committee for funding this much-needed structure, and to Alison, Ian and team for their many hours of work in facilitating the project.

It was a great shock when our leader, Roz Hill, needed surgery, followed by a long period of recovery. We battled on without her, and then were devastated by the sudden death of Gweldda Owen, who had played a pivotal role in the nursery over many years.

A small group of Growers developed a Nursery Handbook as a reference for all Nursery Volunteers. This clarified nursery procedures and highlighted some areas which needed attention. As a result, we have had productive meetings with Garden staff to facilitate improved collaboration for propagation, training and plant maintenance. Training programs have been introduced for current Growers and we will now be in a better position to take on new volunteers. Thank you so much to Liz Moss and Leanne Barnes, who stepped in as coordinators during Roz's absence and kept us all organised; Leanne, Liz and Roz now work as a team of coordinators for the Friends Nursery.

We have had three very successful seasonal plant sales, as well as increasing numbers of Wednesday buyers, some travelling from Melbourne, Ballarat and Werribee as well as our local Geelong, Bellarine and Surf Coast regulars. Our customers appreciate the many unusual species, all propagated from Geelong Botanic Gardens, and we continue to be a major fundraiser for the Friends and through them, for the Gardens

Leanne Barnes



PERENNIAL BORDER. 2018 has been another good year. We have a dedicated team of eleven volunteers led by Jimmie Morrison. It is excellent to have so many volunteers, allowing for holidays, grannie duties and various ailments to happen without causing major disruptions. There have been the usual removals and occasional deaths of plants. Twenty three new plants, some in multiples have



been introduced in 2018. Our outstanding addition this year has been Jan Cheney. She brings with her thirty years of experience with the Melbourne Botanic Gardens Growers, a keen eye and fresh suggestions.

The Botanic Gardens Day @ GBG was an interesting exercise for the Border team, as it was during the dormant season for plants. Some empty spaces were filled with photos of the usual inhabitants. Four of us manned the table and enjoyed the afternoon, whilst showing off our work.

We are extremely fortunate to have generous water available – it does make a huge difference.
Heather Boyd

GUIDES. After successful U3A and Guide Training programs in 2017, we began the year with a full complement of guides, ready to promote our gardens with the public. We expanded our programs to include free guided walks on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, as well as setting up the popular Discovery Tables twice a month.

The monthly Themed Walks have been well advertised and have attracted many people, especially in the warmer months. Winter remains uncertain, as sometimes the Gardens are almost empty, but the guide on duty faithfully patrols to welcome visitors and answer questions.

The removal of the fences from the landscaped Conservatory area has created great interest and we look forward to the grand opening of the Conservatory soon.

A revitalized program of professional development has inspired guides to learn more about Geelong Botanic Gardens plants, and to practise a professional approach to guiding. Thank you to Cherry and David for so much work in this area. And thanks are also due to all guides who put in so many hours of preparation and presentation.

We continue to produce a monthly 'Garden Highlights' publication which is very popular with visitors. Our Self-Guided Walks are always in demand at the gates, and we now offer three: Introduction to Geelong Botanic Gardens, Heritage Trees and Geelong's 21st Century Garden.

Our U3A course is in such demand that we are offering both morning and afternoon sessions in first term 2019. This will be followed by a Guide Training program midyear. Guide training is open to all, and we warmly welcome new members to our group.

This year, several of our guides will attend the Australasian Botanic *Guides Conference* in Perth, where we will learn and be inspired to offer even better service to Geelong Botanic Gardens.

We are grateful to Cherry Collins for two years of inspiring leadership, and to Gwen Anderson, who has taken on the role of Guide Coordinator for 2019.
Liz Bennetto



LIBRARY. Over the past year the library volunteers have been kept busy. As well as maintaining the book collection, there have been some additions by donation and /or purchase and there always seems more to do. Towards the end of the year, acting on suggestions from our tutors, we have purchased a number of books pertaining to Botanical Art, and these will be available for loan by students.

George Jones left the Friends his wonderful collection of books and other material. The collection filled numerous removalists' boxes



and we have gradually gone through them all. Many were added to the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Friends libraries, whilst some duplicates were given to other Friends' Groups and gardens staff. Many others of a general nature have been sold to benefit the Friends at our seasonal plant sales. George was a prodigious keeper of information, which he typed, sometimes with multiple copies. Meralyn and Nadia have been going through all this material, removing duplicates and filing material of interest by subject in folders. As well, for the future there are many boxes of slides to look through. There has been movement towards a detailed history of the Friends and as a start Annie McGeachy compiled a timeline from 1985 to 2010. This has been extended to date and the plan is for volunteers to write short articles on a number of subjects with images to accompany this for publication. Altogether 2018 has been a happy and productive one and I thank Meralyn and Nadia for their continuing support.
Luanne Thornton

INTRODUCING NEW TUTOR DEB CHIRNSIDE

Deb Chirnside completed a Bachelor of Education, Secondary Art and Crafts in 1980. Upon graduating she embarked on a teaching career and taught a variety of art subjects including graphic communication, ceramics and painting. Her botanical art career began after being inspired by a talk by Jenny Phillips at one of the Winter Lunches held by the Friends of the Botanic Gardens in Geelong. Fortuitously Margaret Muffet began botanical art classes at the Geelong Gardens at this time. This was the beginning of a love of botanical art that has continued to this day.



Banksia serrata Old Man Banksia

Deb has gone on to practise as a botanical artist since 2003. She has participated in exhibitions both nationally and internationally. These include the 13th International Exhibition at The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation in Pittsburgh, USA, the 16th, 19th and 20th ASBA Annual International Exhibition in New York and the 19th International Botanical Conference in Shenzhen, China.

GIFT FUND

The Gift Fund currently has \$435,153.00 and we look forward to continuing support for projects in the Geelong Botanic Gardens with these funds. Details of our past support are on the Friends' website.

Our continuing thanks for all donations; recent donations have been received from Seniors Festival Walk and Morning Tea, Owen Griffin, and Rosalie Kelly.

She was represented in the Capturing Flora, 300 years of Australian Botanical Art Exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ballarat, Victoria. Last year Deb participated in BASA's Botanic Art Worldwide Exhibition in Canberra.

Cyathea dealbata
Silver Fern



Deb's work is in the Florilegium collection of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, NSW and the State Botanical Collection at the National Herbarium in Melbourne, Victoria and she has received two Celia Rosser Honourable Mention Awards at The Art of Botanical Illustration exhibitions 2010 and 2018 in Melbourne.

Deb continues to explore and develop this wonderful art form through classes and workshops that are available throughout Australia and is looking forward to contributing to the wonderful teaching program available at the Geelong Botanic Art School.

Deb Chirnside



NEW GUIDE TRAINING IN 2019

Have you ever considered becoming a voluntary guide at the Geelong Botanic Gardens?

We are offering an introductory training course for new guides this year. You would be warmly welcome. The training involves two phases.

First, there will be **four classes on 3, 17, 24 June and 1 July on Monday afternoons from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm**. Second, the formal class phase will be followed by more flexible practice at key guiding tasks with each trainee guide working with an experienced mentor guide. There will also be a rounding off session on the afternoon of Monday October 21.

If you would like to discuss becoming a guide, do phone the FGBG Office and one of the Guide Training Team will be delighted to call you back.

THROUGH THE GARDEN GATES 2018

Green-fingered enthusiasts braved a rainy November day to tour six very different gardens.

First up was the Malkins' property in Andersons Road, Drysdale, featuring spectacular art structures made from recycled metal items. Here, one could meander among indigenous and exotic plants and marvel at a fairy garden laid out for their grandchildren. Super-large pencils and similar objects fired up the imagination. The roses were spectacular and there were many other flowering shrubs, too numerous to mention. Not far away was the second property, Iron Jungle, highlighting creative sculptures scattered among numerous succulents. Owner Justin Zahra is a talented artist who worked with Roraima Nursery's owner to landscape the low-water, low-maintenance three-acre property.



Justin recycles materials to create individual pieces which are available throughout Victoria. Certainly a must-see attraction. The Springdale Community Gardens on Jetty Road was established to feed the Church community with fruit and vegetables. The scenic Rail Trail passes nearby and the gardens are near Curlewis Golf Club. This borrowed landscape provides a wonderful backdrop for the gardens.



We travelled to Portarlington to view the fourth garden, Candover Cottage. This cottage garden on a suburban block is a colourful mass of roses, salvias, crab apples and other perennials and annuals. The cottage was relocated from Candover Street, Geelong West, in 2001. Owner Kylie restored it herself, adding special effects using an old wagon and period features to enhance the overall appearance. It is a real treat to the eye.



The fifth property, in High Ridge Drive, Drysdale, is an exceptional example of ingenuity. The extensive fernery provides a great venue for entertaining. Owners Mick and Joy are proud of their efforts to produce a garden that has evolved over the years and is backed by a great vista overlooking Corio Bay. The gardens are a labour of love and made for sharing.



The weather improved significantly in the afternoon, which added to the friendly atmosphere for our visit to the last garden, Arundel, in Ryrie Street, Geelong. This historic garden features beehives and a circular drive. The visit also provided an opportunity to enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea and delve into a plant stall. A barista made delicious coffee served with a plentiful array of gourmet cakes as we relaxed on a picnic lawn or under the verandahs while listening to an eloquent description of the property.

Lucy Pope

PLANT IN FOCUS: *Dodonaea viscosa*

Dodonaea viscosa, commonly called 'Sticky Hop Bush', is a member of the Sapindaceae family. Dodonaeas are known as Hop Bush as they were used in making beer by early European Australians. *Dodonaea viscosa* has also been traditionally used by Aboriginal Australians to treat toothache, cuts and stingray stings.

Dodonaea viscosa can be found in every state and territory of Australia. However, it is highly variable and consequently has seven sub-species recognised. It is best to plant the sub-species found in the local area, which will have adapted to local environmental conditions.



In general, *Dodonaea viscosa* is an extremely hardy species and is able to resprout from the base. The stand-out horticultural feature of this species is the brilliant colour of the capsules. Other desirable features include its successful use as a hedge due to the dense habit. There is also a popular non-native form with purple foliage.

Dodonaea viscosa flowers are small and inconspicuous, with no petals. The pollen is wind dispersed. Capsules change colour from a green or cream colour through to a brilliant red.

Propagation

Dodonaea viscosa can be easily propagated from both cuttings and seeds. Cuttings are often preferred to guarantee a female plant with the colourful capsules. The optimum cutting material is young growth that has just firmed. If seeds are used for propagation, a treatment of soaking in very hot water prior to sowing will assist germination.

This species prefers well-drained soils and requires a well-lit area. It tolerates part shade, but the capsules will not be as spectacular in colour if shaded. It can tolerate dry conditions and some frosts. Little maintenance is necessary. However, regular tip pruning will promote growth and branching.

Cultivation and uses

Dodonaea viscosa can be a relatively fast growing shrub with an ability to pioneer degraded sites. Many of the subspecies are extremely frost and drought tolerant and are also considered a valuable source of pollen by apiculturalists.

The wood is very dense, hard and durable. This species is killed

by fire and caution is recommended when cultivating it due to its potential for weediness.

Botanical name origin:

Dodonaea: named after a Flemish botanist of the 16th century, Rembert Dodoens.

viscosa: from the Latin term viscosus meaning sticky.



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Lucy Pope



A MESS OF EGG THINGS

My gardening is haphazard at best, and 2018 was no exception. What with the cold, dry spring, interspersed with bursts of heat, my vegies didn't get the attention they deserved. Cabbage White butterflies, *Pieris rapae*, danced above my sprouting broccoli without pause. I endeavoured to rub off the eggs, and remove their little green grubs when I was picking for dinner, but who can find them all?

In due course, growth and the season defeated me, and both the broccoli and silver beet went wildly to seed. I continued to pick little bits off them, just enough for dinner.

A couple of weeks before Christmas, I brought in some of the very last little silver beet leaves, only to find some odd, slimy-looking little egg-like things, not orderly, but all tumbled together. Whatever else was living in my garden?

Being a Growing Friend of the Geelong Botanic Gardens, I know that Geoff Davis, also a Growing Friend, is an entomologist, who had told us all about the mosquitoes in the Gardens. I carried my bit of silver beet with its attendant mysteries to the nursery, in a plastic container, for his inspection.

"Whatever are these eggs, Geoff?" I asked him.

He took a good look. "They're not eggs, they're pupae," he stated authoritatively. "They are parasitic wasps, in the *Braconidae* family. It is a huge family, so I can't tell you precisely which one."

"They're so tiny to be wasps!" I said, amazed.

"Yes. You must have some brassicas growing nearby. The mother laid her eggs in the larva of a Cabbage White, and they grew within the grub, eating it out. When this grub decided to pupate, it crawled off to the underside of a quiet leaf. But instead of pupating, it died there, leaving behind all these little wasp pupae that had developed inside." There must have been about twenty of them.

"They will emerge in a few days and go looking for more Cabbage Whites to lay eggs in. You have a war going on in your garden. A very slow war, but a war, nevertheless."

I had heard of this phenomenon, but never before seen it. He handed the container back to me, then removed it again from my hand.

"On second thoughts, I'll confiscate this. I'm doing a talk on beneficial insects here next week, and I'll use them as an illustration."

The following week, a number of us gathered around Geoff, including Mark of the Gardens staff, wanting to learn from his expertise. Geoff waved the container.

"See these wasps? They are ready to fly off to lay eggs in Cabbage White grubs." The container was buzzing with tiny black creatures, each hardly bigger than a midge.

Geoff had brought some very strange-looking green maggots found on a thistle. These larvae, he told us, of hoverflies in the family *Syrphidae*, are most happy to consume as many aphids, thrips, and other plant suckers, as they can find.

We walked first to the vegetable section of the Gardens where Geoff released the newly emerged parasitic wasps, which very rapidly disappeared from sight.

When we reached the roses, Geoff showed us that as well as ladybirds and their larvae working on aphids sucking the new rose growth, they were also being protected by another, much

smaller wasp. Many macabre remains of previously parasitised aphids, called 'mummies', still clung there.

We passed a shrub smothered in bright yellow daisies, attracting many insects.

"Look at all the bees!" someone said.

"They're not all bees," Geoff explained. "See, these ones haven't stored pollen in hairs on their legs, and they only have one pair of wings. If you look closely you will see that their antennae are very different from the simple bee antennae, which are long and graceful. These are short and stubby, with a lobe at the base, and a complex hair coming out of each one. They are called *aristate* antennae."

"They look almost identical to those bees: they're even behaving the same way," someone else commented.

"Yes, but that is superficial. They are a large hoverfly, in the *Syrphidae* family," Geoff told us. "They pollinate just as bees do, though."



A braconidae wasp similar to the species which parasitises cabbage white caterpillars

The lignum near the front gate in the 21st century garden was being attacked by both whitish larvae and pale-grey adults of a sap-sucking bug. They in turn were being predated by green lacewing larvae, in the *Chrysopidae* family, cunningly disguised as mobile piles of what appeared to be dead insects, looking like so much white fluff. On closer examination, we could see the slim outline of this predator with its large pincers, which capture and then suck the fluids out of its prey, then impale the remains on spines on its back. "The dorsal surface," Geoff said. "Usually there's no need to spray. You'll kill the good insects as well as the destroyers. Control *will* occur - slowly," he said. "Just let nature take its course."

"Yes, that's what we do here," said Mark. We all wandered back in the sunshine, very happy in this lovely, well cared for place, rich with fabulous insects, and grateful to Geoff for opening our eyes to more of them.

Maybe my gardening is not so bad, after all.

Lynne Clarke

KATE and JENNY'S CULTURAL WALKING TOUR in SOUTHERN TUSCANY – SEPTEMBER 2018

Tuscany is one of the world's most fascinating travel destinations, attracting lovers of art, nature, food, wine and walking.

Here we were totally immersed in the natural and cultural experience of the true Tuscan country life where centuries old traditions permeate daily life.



A Typical Tuscan Courtyard

stay learnt the traditional way of making Napoli pizza – being the super thin crusted pizza of that region.

Our tour commenced in Rome where we were given an in-depth tour, noting the Stone Pines standing as solid umbrella-like sentinels over the landscape. From Rome we headed northward to Pitigliano, landing on the day of the Settembre Vino Festival – so not much sleep that night! Our tour here introduced us to its rich Etruscan history going back to the



One of the locals keeping the village garden in shape

We walked through beautiful chestnut woods, vineyards, olive groves and other fruit trees, passing through many little medieval towns which are dotted through the hillsides. Each town has its own history and local stories. We stayed in small family run hotels and farm stays, learning about the local food, wine and traditions, and at one

Bronze Age since 2300 BC – tombs, artefacts etc. From here we walked the 'Via Cave' to Sante Fiora. These cave-like routes were carved down into the 'Toufa' or pumice stone that the area is made of – being both light and strong. In the depths of these open topped tunnels, the Etruscans were protected from marauders.

Each day we explored, learning the particular history and culture of the area where we stayed. Typically, the Tuscan countryside is dotted with olives, vineyards, open fields of wheat or other grain, forested valleys where mushroom foraging is part of the daily ritual, pencil pine lined driveways and lanes, gravel gardens with potted plants, vines and water features. These gardens are perfect for the climate where rain is scarce, and temperatures are extreme. I came home having learnt

some good lessons about how we need to adapt our gardening to less lawn and more of these gravel spaces with sheltered beds and potted plants suited to the climate.



Abbey of Sant'Antimo dates back to Charlemagne's reign in 12th Century

The other absolute enchantment and enjoyment was the culture of slow food – food grown, foraged and eaten in season. Always washed down by local wine and usually eaten somewhere where the countryside was close at hand. The connection between the people, their place, their food, plants, animals and absolute being is like the blood or essence that binds them together and makes the region so special.

We concluded our tour in Florence with a day walking cultural tour with a local historian who took us back into the depths of Florence's colourful history. Our tour was taken with 'Women's Own Adventures' – a small group company based in Sydney.

Kate Kirkhope

FROM the FRIENDS' GALLERY



Redwood – Linking Arms



A first look into the Conservatory



Volunteers working hard at the Perennial Border



Cooking Demonstration with Gwen Anderson



Inside the Conservatory

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES with the FRIENDS

FREE DISCOVERY WALKS

Every Wednesday at 11.00 am and Sunday at 2.00 pm.

THEMED WALKS

Second Sunday of every month at 2.00 pm. Meet your guide at the front steps. Gold coin Donation

Check the Friends' website for theme and date.

For more information, or to make a booking, contact the Friends' office on 5222 6053 between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm Monday to Friday.

DISCOVERY TABLE in the Gardens

Third Sunday of Every Month, 1.00 – 3.00 pm

Meet the Friends' Guides for interesting information and direction to key plants and seasonal change. Copies of the Self-guided Walks and information sheets are available at the Discovery Table and the Teahouse

WEEKLY PLANT SALES

The Friends' Plant Nursery is **open every Wednesday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm** showcasing a wide selection of plants sourced from the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Located at the rear of GBG.

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FGBG activities @GBG and beyond



JUBAEA SUBMISSIONS for the Spring Edition are due by 1 May 2019.
All articles including high resolution photos (jpeg files) can be sent to the FGBG Office via email or USB.

FEBRUARY 2019

TWO DAY WORKSHOP – 'INTRODUCTION TO BOTANIC ART'

Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 February, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm

Tutor, John Pastoriza-Pinol

Students will learn the basics of botanical art including: drawing to composition, painting techniques and introduction to colour theory. Students who enrol in this introductory workshop may have completed some level of art but may wish to learn more about botanical art. \$140 members or \$150 non-members. Payments due by Friday 25 January 2019.

FEBRUARY THEMED GUIDED WALK

'Cabbage and Jelly – A Garden Rich in Palms'

Sunday 10 February, 2.00 pm. Gold coin donation.

Palms capture the essence of the warm lands discovered by Europeans in the 19th Century, coinciding with the establishment of the Geelong Botanical Gardens.

Meet your Guide at the GBG front steps.

FUND RAISER FILM NIGHT 'THIS BEAUTIFUL FANTASTIC'

Tuesday 12 February, 6.30 pm Supper, 7.00 pm Screening

The Shirley Mills "Plaza Theatre" is located in St Mary of the Angels Parish and seats an intimate group of 37. Bookings are essential and now open at the Friends' Office. \$18 members or \$20 non-members, delicious supper included before the movie.

GUEST SPEAKER BETH ROSS 'REVEGETATION and RESTORATION of the BELLARINE'

Monday 25 February, 5.30 pm for a 6.00 pm start.

Join the Friends to hear Beth Ross, a teacher in Conservation and horticulture at The Gordon. An active member at Bellarine Landcare Group, Beth works with three local Friends' groups and provides free consultation with Parks Victoria. Beth also has a small seed collecting contract with Australian Ecosystems. Beth will cover her role in the Bellarine Landcare Group, the Bellarine Secondary College Landcare Nursery and discuss some examples of local wildflowers and their special significance.

Meeting room \$5 members or \$10 non-members.

MARCH 2019

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'PERENNIALS AND THE SILVER BORDER'

Sunday 10 March, 2.00 pm. Gold coin donation.

Come and join your guide to learn why such enduring plants in the perennial and silver borders will help to transform the garden in the summer months. Meet your Guide at the GBG front steps

LARA-WERRIBEE BUS TOUR

Monday 25 March, 8.45 am to 5.00 pm

We visit the 5 acre Yarrabee Native Garden, near Lara for morning tea. Next The Kevin Hoffman Walk on Hovell's Creek in Lara for a stroll along this scenic 800 metre trail. We then travel to NatureWest at the old Werribee Homestead at Werribee Park with a walk through the State Rose Garden. Finally to Roraima Nursery and Display Gardens and the Flame Tree Café.

\$75 members or \$85 non-members. Morning tea and lunch are included. Bookings and payment by Wednesday 20 March.

AUTUMN WEEKEND PLANT SALE

Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 March, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Featuring a wide selection of plants, sourced from the Geelong Botanic Gardens. The Friends' Nursery and Carpark is located at the rear of the Gardens.

The gates of the rear carpark near the Nursery will close at 4.05 pm sharp.

APRIL 2019

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'THE FIRST AUSTRALIANS'

Sunday 14 April, 2.00 pm

Aboriginal people have lived on this continent for 60,000 years, depending on native plants and animals for all necessities and managing the limited resources well. Learn about the ways they used plants for food, fibre, medicine, weapons, transport, musical instruments and religious ceremonies. Meet your Guide at the GBG front steps.

EASTER LONG WEEKEND

The Friends' Office will be closed on Good Friday 19 April and Easter Monday 22 April.

MAY 2019

PERMACULTURE WORKSHOP in WEST GEELONG with BEN SHAW

Thursday 2 May, 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

The 2 hour workshop will cover urban garden design, garden bed preparation, building great soil, integrated pest management, planting strategies, fruit trees - what, where, and other tips including espaliering, building diversity into your garden, chooks and gardens. Morning tea is included.

\$45 members and \$55 non-members.

Bookings and payment by Friday 26 April.

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'KIWI COLOUR FEST'

Sunday 5 May, 2.00 pm. Gold coin donation.

The rain-shrouded hills and cool climate of New Zealand produce a luxuriant kaleidoscope of every shade of green foliage. From dripping ferns in sun-dappled gullies to majestic kauri trees. Meet your Guide at the GBG front steps.

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON WITH GUEST SPEAKER MATT CRAWLEY

Wednesday 22 May, 12.30 pm

Friends Volunteers are invited to join us for a special luncheon in appreciation of our wonderful volunteers. Special guest Matt Crawley will present an illustrated talk 'Flora and Fauna on the Bellarine'.

Lunch at 12.30 and Presentation at 1.00-2.00 pm in the meeting room.

This is a free event for Friends' volunteers.

NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS DAY 2019

Geelong Botanic Gardens

Sunday 26 May

Connect with plants as you explore this amazing regional garden. A program of activities in the Gardens will be available soon on the Friends' website closer to the time.