

Jubaea



Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc. Newsletter

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FRIENDS OF
GEELONG
BOTANIC
GARDENS



Growers' Nursery Volunteers showing off the brand new Nursery Greenhouse

NEW GREENHOUSE FOR GROWERS' NURSERY

The Friends are proud to announce a new arrival in the Nursery; a wonderful greenhouse to replace the ageing igloo.

The Nursery Growers are delighted with the bigger, more efficient space in which to work and it was designed with a strong emphasis on safety for volunteers. The polycarbonate structure will accommodate newly potted plants before they are put out for sale on the tables. It has been designed in two sections: one half has shade-cloth sides and the other is fully polycarbonate. This allows the Growers to zone plants according to needs. An automatic vent opening system is another innovative feature.

Visitors will also notice that the tables in the Nursery have been realigned, with wider aisles to allow easier movement around the tables. The Nursery is now a safer and more attractive space for volunteers and patrons. The project was made possible with

a grant from the City of Greater Geelong's Community Facility Infrastructure Fund. The City provided two thirds of the cost and the Friends the remaining one third. The Friends sincerely thank the City for making this grant available and for making the process very easy to navigate.

Geelong company, *Sproutwell Greenhouses*, constructed the greenhouse and worked with the Friends on the design. Many thanks to Clayton and his crew for the very generous terms and assistance they gave the Friends. Thanks also to GBG Supervisor Phil Mulroyan and his staff for their assistance with the internal fit-out of the greenhouse to complete the project. Growers welcome everyone to come to the Nursery to admire the new addition of the greenhouse and to enjoy the new layout (and maybe enjoy some plant purchases too!).

Allison Martland

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REACHING EDEN

The Eden Project in Cornwall has to be on the 'bucket list' for many gardeners, as one of those glorious examples of ultimate gardening. Our visit to the UK in May 2017 had to include this marvel.



The Paddington to St Austell train (£108 pp return) arrived mid-afternoon and a few minutes later we jumped aboard the local bus for the 5 km trip to Eden. As we were arriving late, we had pre-booked the YHA Eden Project accommodation (en-suite shipping container Snoozebox, £60/night, sleeps 4) and the associated discounted Eden entry tickets (£22.50/person, unlimited entries for a year).



On one level the Eden Project is the modern version of a great botanic garden, using controlled climate enclosures to greatly expand the plant palette and wonderful artworks to enhance the visitor enjoyment. But the creators of this place aimed for much more - to draw visitors closer to nature and promote regard for the wide range of 'services' provided by the plant kingdom. The Project is impressive alone for the imagination, talent, drive and engineering that turned a 160 year old desolate clay pit into such a wonder.

Mains water is only used for cooking and hand-washing. All the other water needs are met by the harvesting of stormwater.

BIOMES

The Eden site is dominated by two massive geodesic domes (no internal supports!) which house substantial tropical and Mediterranean gardens. The domes are made of tough plastic film on tubular steel frames (the same technology is used in Southern Cross Station). While geodesic-domed gardens have been around since the '60s (the Climatron dome in the Missouri Botanical Gardens opened to the public in October 1960) this implementation is a stand-out because of its size and its siting in a mining crater.



The tropical biome, a 55 metre high, 1.56 ha (3.9 acres) biome, housing the 'largest tropical rainforest in captivity' with cute colourful free-range roul-roul partridges running around in it, has to be a winner. The canopy look-out is a must if you are to really appreciate the scale of the forest from the inside (although it is a climb and the humidity is particularly oppressive). Bananas, coffee, rubber and taro were just a few of the plants highlighted for their importance to humans.



The Mediterranean biome is 0.65ha (1.6 acres) and houses warm temperate and xerophytic plants. As appropriate for such important plants, pride of place was given to the olive, grape vines (and cork oak), citrus and numerous herbs. It was also pleasing to see the large Australian Garden with dozens of our

iconic plants, including many kangaroo paws, banksias, xanthorrhoeas, everlasting daisies and scaevolas. Succulents were well represented by sculptural aloes (including a tree aloe) and euphorbias, barrel cacti, aeoniums and kalanchoes. Possibly a **desert biome** can be created in the future.



The outside gardens cover an area very much greater than that under the biomes and feature the cool temperate plants familiar to European gardeners and much more. The massed flowering lupins, grassland and lavender swathes, expansive flowerbeds and large vegetable patches were particularly eye-catching.



ART

Garden artworks abound in Eden. It seemed that around every corner there was another installation to please the eye. Notables included the giant bee made from recycled materials, the WEEE man made of 3.3 tonnes of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment, the numerous raw steel figures cavorting in the grapevines representing a Dionysian cult, the driftwood horses and the wooden goats in the Mediterranean biome and other giant figures throughout the gardens.



The Eden Trust is a registered charity, with donations and the monies raised through entry fees and events such as musical festivals used to develop educational resources informing visitors about the inter-dependence of plants and people.

For more information a good place to start is <http://www.edenproject.com/> and 'Eden: The Whole Inspiring Story of the Eden Project' by Tim Smit ISBN 9781905811274



VISIT TO THE AUSTRALIAN GARDENS AT RBGV CRANBOURNE

An early start on a beautiful day in March saw a large contingent of Friends board the 'Queenscliff to Sorrento' ferry at 9.00 am for a smooth sail across the Rip to Sorrento. The Cranbourne Gardens tour had been booked out for some weeks, but a few cancellations allowed a couple of those on the waiting list to join in.

What a perfect day it was. We were all in high spirits as we disembarked to a waiting coach at Sorrento and then the drive to Cranbourne. The staff waiting for us at the carpark were outstanding and showed us to the visitor centre where more volunteer guides were ready to show us around.

We had two walking tours booked; 'Snapshots of Australia', highlighting some of the amazing plants and landscapes Cranbourne have created to demonstrate the diversity and use of Australian plants. As there were 57 of us, we were split into three to four groups to be guided by their very capable and friendly volunteers.



After lunch we were taken across to the nursery where plants were for sale and some were keen to purchase. It was great to see that our Friends' Nursery can stand up to any of those we have seen to date.



We then hurried back for our second walking tour which was 'Plants for your Place'. This tour displayed more of the incredible diversity of plants and landscapes on display at Cranbourne. We

walked through the water saving garden and the children's garden and then on to The Lifestyle Gardens via several other landscapes. These were brilliant at showing just how, for any style of home or lifestyle, the Australian garden can be adapted to be either rustic and relaxed, architectural, and practical or modern and avant-garde. The collection of gardens created a memorable demonstration of the opportunities that bringing the garden experience into the house can create.



The gardens in their entire 363 hectares, are a masterpiece of landscape design and we all agreed that after spending a day there, we had only touched on the surface – there was still so much more to explore and learn about, including heathlands, wetlands, and more woodlands. The Gondwana Garden and the rest of the Australian Garden are a must we were told.

Exhausted and ready to relax back on the bus, we took off to make it back to Sorrento for the return ferry. We arrived in time for the earlier ferry as the holdups that were expected somehow didn't eventuate. So, with some sprinting and some dragging up the rear and very friendly ferry crew who made sure they waited the couple of minutes required, we made it back up to the café deck and off back across the bay to Queenscliff. Thanks to Allison's marvellous afternoon tea efforts (again), we all indulged in well earned treats to go with our drinks. The ferry trip was fantastic; the café, seating and amenities were spot on. Special mention must be made about the staff's helpfulness in getting messages to people and providing us with an excellent ticket price.

The Torquay Probus people who joined us were very keen to be advised of future trips as they too enjoyed the day immensely.

Kate Kirkhope

OUT OF THE WOODS: CELEBRATING TREES IN PUBLIC GARDENS

American Society of Botanical Artists

The Third New York Botanical Garden Triennial seeks to highlight the role of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta around the world in educating the public about the importance of trees, and the need to conserve these beautiful and vital resources. ASBA members worldwide were invited to select a tree growing in a public garden which inspired them and to submit an image of the completed artwork for consideration. *Aesculus indica* (commonly known as Indian Horse Chestnut) from the Geelong Botanic Gardens was my chosen subject and I depicted the young seedling with various stages of fruit and the flower.



Out of the Woods: Celebrating Trees in Public Gardens is a touring exhibition covering five cities in the US throughout this year, including the Huntingdon Library, San Marino, CA from 19 May to 27 August 2018. A distinguished judging panel including Dr Shirley Sherwood OAM selected 44 works for inclusion in the exhibition which opened at the NYBG in November 2017.



Aesculus indica
Indian Horse Chestnut
Geelong Botanic Gardens

Below is an interview which appeared on the ASBA website outlining reasons for my choice of subject and response to the project brief.

Aesculus indica, Indian Horse Chestnut, is commonly found growing along the Himalayan Lowlands between Kashmir and Western Nepal at elevations between 900 and 3000 metres. While related to the common Horse Chestnut (*A. hippocastanum*), it differs in being a slightly smaller tree which flowers later and also has grey-green rather than red-brown bark. The seeds are also smaller, making it less popular for the conker player.

My fascination for this particular tree began when I first discovered about 200 young seedlings, at various stages of development, growing beneath the canopy of the magnificent mature specimen tree in the Geelong Botanic Gardens. These beautiful gardens are considered amongst the best regional Gardens in Australia. What amazed me most was the way the root, having forced its way through a split in the skin of the chestnut, burrowed its way into the soil and dragged the nut underground with it. Only then did the primary shoot appear followed soon after by the first delicate leaves, reminiscent of butterfly wings as they unfurled.

This work was started a few years ago when I selected a seedling to begin with and added the other elements of the composition over subsequent seasons, culminating in the striking inflorescence which was completed earlier this year. The painting has recently returned from an exhibition at Fairy Lake Botanical Garden in Shenzhen, China, held to coincide with the 19th International Botanical Congress in July 2017.

Some years ago I painted these horse chestnuts in their outer casing along with a dried autumn leaf from the same tree. What intrigued me then was how the deeply-colored skin of the chestnut has an exquisite pattern formed where the veins of the outer casing press on the seed during its development. On closer examination, the pattern looks to my mind like the henna tattoos used to adorn a bride's hands for her wedding ceremony in India.

Something else which struck me as remarkable about this tree, was the way my seedling subject remained alive in a jar of water for well over a year, by feeding from nutrients supplied solely from the nut. This in turn inspired another artwork to draw attention to Climate Change, using the analogy of the earth nourishing us and all life on the planet. I painted a view of the planet from space, in place of the chestnut, with a seedling tree and roots encompassing it. I borrowed the following quote to accompany the painting which is titled 'Life Support'.

"...and those who care for the earth with sincerity may wait long 'ere the pendulum swings back to her again".

Howard's End by E M Forster 1910

www.asba-art.org/exhibitions/out-woods

Artist's Note:

I have been attending botanical art classes at Geelong Botanic Gardens since 2002 and greatly appreciate having access to such a wonderful array of plants to paint in such a special setting.

I would also like to thank long-standing tutor, John Pastoriza-Piñol for expanding my artistic horizons, and his unfailing encouragement and support.

Rosemary Donnelly



CREATIVE INSPIRATION FROM THE HISTORY OF BOTANICAL ART

After compiling a brief and concise History of Botanical Art, I thought that it would be interesting and beneficial for students to look at examples from the past and base their compositions on their research.

I would like to show how the Friday Beginners to Intermediate class students have interpreted the first chapter of this ongoing project based on the History of Botanical Art.

CHAPTER 1 - BACKGROUND RESEARCH

From the earliest time humans have depicted animals and plants that were important to them.

Egyptians decorated their walls with paintings of papyrus, waterlilies and other plants.

Some of the first plant illustrations were recorded in Byzantine manuscripts dating around the sixth century.

Between 1488 and 1508 the beautifully illustrated Flemish 'BOOK OF HOURS' appeared.

The borders were illustrated with flowers such as violets, roses, pansies, pinks and daisies, wallflowers, strawberries, red or black berries, insects and birds.



Book of Hours
Images

PROJECT - CREATING A BOOK MARK

The illustrated borders of this book inspired the students to compose and design their own version of borders. With this in mind the designs were used as Book Marks.



Contemporary
Bookmark
Illustrations

Dolores Skowronski-Malloni

BREAKING NEWS

PELARGONIUM SALE



A large variety of unusual Regal Pelargoniums (former stock plants) are currently for sale at \$6.00 each in the Friends' Nursery...while stocks last

As well as these Regals, our Friends' Nursery also has new season Zonals and Stellars at regular prices, including:

Stellars: Pelargonium Scarlet Star, Pelargonium Coral Star, Pelargonium Cerise Star, Pelargonium Chieko

Zonals: Pelargonium Both's Double Salmon, Pelargonium Tangerine Elf, Pelargonium Happy Thought, Pelargonium Miss Mappin

Open Wednesdays 9.30 am -12.30 pm

ONLY WHILE STOCKS LAST

NO PLASTIC BAGS in the GROWERS' NURSERY

Following on from last month's Update, in which members were advised that the Friends will be phasing out plastic bag usage in the Nursery, several volunteers held a sewing bee to make fabric bags.

Thanks to Libby Hogg, Meralyn Roberts, Maree Parrington and Graeme Loffel for contributing the time to make bags which, during the phasing out period in June, will be for sale to Nursery customers who forget to bring their own bags. There is still plenty of fabric for those who might like to become involved in this project.



Perennial Border Volunteers
Looking After the Planet

PLANT IN FOCUS: *Leptospermum laevigatum* - Coastal Tea Tree

Leptospermum laevigatum, commonly known as Coastal Tea Tree, is a salt resistant and hardy, woody shrub or tree that is native to South Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria and, at some stage, was introduced to Western Australia. There are approximately 83 species of *Leptospermum*, of which 19 are found in Victoria. Many grow in wet conditions, but they are usually associated with saline soils on coastal dune scrub, dune grassland and coastal dune woodland.



All tea trees have 5 petalled flowers (mostly white, sometimes pink) and small roundish fruit capsules with slits on top which open to release the seeds. Coastal tea tree is a nectar plant for butterflies and its often twisted and gnarled trunk is a sculptural feature along the coast.

Flowering time is usually from August and through spring. Leaves are grey-green in an alternate arrangement. The bark flakes in thin greyish strips and was used by Wathaurong people to make nets.

L. laevigatum can become an environmental weed, where it invades local indigenous habitat such as in western Victoria and northern New South Wales. In some inland locations it has hybridised with *L. myrsinoides*.



The *L. laevigatum* here in Geelong Botanic Gardens is a very old tree and it is possibly part of the natural landscape. This tree's sprawling, gnarled limbs create a beautiful sculpture. If you look closely at its trunk you can see the rough texture and the subtle colours of grey, white and pale brown (like milky tea). Other plants (even one of its own seeds) have made a home in the grooves and hollows of its trunk, along with lichen.

This is a tree to treasure.

Summary

Family: Myrtaceae

Genus: *Leptospermum*

Species: *L. laevigatum*

Location in GBG: In the eastern corner of the 19th Century Garden, near the old toilet.

References

Agriculture Victoria, Resources online.

Coombs, A. J. '*The A-Z of Plant Names*', Timber Press inc., U.S. 2012.

Costermans, L. F. '*Trees of Victoria*', published by the author, 1981.

Swan Bay Catchment Management Project, 2006, '*Coastal Plants of the Bellarine Peninsula*'.

Patricia Brideson, Volunteer Guide

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2018-19

Your membership renewal notice will be posted to your mailing address in early June and we hope that you will continue your support for the Friends.

Individual	\$35
Family	\$50
Concession	\$25

GIFT FUND

The Gift Fund currently has \$145,849.95 and we look forward to continuing support for projects in the Geelong Botanic Gardens with these funds. Details of past support are on our website.

Our continuing thanks for all donations: recent donations have been received from David Williams.

NEW GREENHOUSE FOR GROWERS' NURSERY continued from front page

The Friends gratefully acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong for their support in providing a grant from the Community Infrastructure Fund to facilitate the Nursery Greenhouse project.



FGBG activities @GBG and beyond



JUBAEA SUBMISSIONS for the Spring Edition are due by Wednesday 1 August 2018.
All articles including high resolution photos (jpeg files) can be sent to the FGBG Office via email or USB.

JUNE 2018

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'SPICES, TASTES AND FLAVOURS'

Sunday 10 June, 2.00 pm

While some plants provide our staple grains and pulses, other plants have been cultivated for millennia to make those staples more interesting and attractive. Using these plants to improve our eating experience enhances our daily lives. On this walk we shall take a look at plants with a history of culinary value in the kitchens of the rich and the poor. Meet your Guide at the front Steps of the GBG.

FUND RAISER FILM NIGHT 'A MAN CALLED PEARL'

Monday 25 June, 6.00 pm Supper, 6.45 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 open now, at the Friends' Office. \$18 members or \$20 non-members, delicious supper included before the movie.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2018-19

Your membership renewal forms will be mailed to you at the end of June. If you would like a membership card please indicate at time of payment. Membership discounts apply to GSBA classes and workshops, FGBG events, tours and outings, as well as plant sales from the Growers' Nursery.

JULY 2018

TWO DAY WORKSHOP – 'BOTANIC ART MERCHANDISE AND FRAMING'

Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 July, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm (During School Holidays). Tutor, Dolores Sk-Malloni. \$140 members or \$150 non-members. Focusing on the advantage of scanning art work to produce merchandise

- * Email, downloads, professional scans, USB
- * Duplicating, cropping, adjusting exposure and colour
- * Use of online Photoshop
- * Designing and producing your merchandise
- * Printing companies

The second segment of the workshop will be looking at the different possibilities for a successful framing so bring some unframed artwork to discuss problem solving.

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'EXPLORE EASTERN PARK'

Sunday 8 July, 2.00 pm

Eastern Park is a fine example of a mid-Victorian Park recognised and protected by the National Trust and Heritage Victoria, reflecting Geelong's history. Meet your Guide at the GBG main entrance steps where you will be introduced to some outstanding tree specimens.

WINTER WEEKEND PLANT SALE

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 July, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Featuring a wide selection of Australian plants, colourful perennials, hardy shrubs, pelargoniums and salvias, sourced from the Geelong Botanic Gardens. The Friends' Nursery and Carpark is located at the rear of the Gardens. **Please note: the gates of the rear carpark near the Nursery will close at 4.00 pm sharp.**

AUGUST 2018

WINTER LUNCHEON with GUEST SPEAKER DR PINA MILNE

Monday 6 August, 12.00 noon, ROYAL GEELONG YACHT CLUB

Join the Friends at The Royal Geelong Yacht Club, located on the Geelong waterfront, with stunning views of the Marina and Corio Bay. Guest speaker Dr Pina Milne will give an illustrated talk on her experiences as Manager of Collections in the National Herbarium at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. Hear about the personal stories of von Mueller and his global network of collectors.

DISCOVERY WALK – 'FLOWERS OF THE ISLANDS'

Sunday 12 August, 2.00 pm. Gold Coin Donation.

A presentation of the Geelong Botanic Gardens' collection of flora from various islands such as the Canary Islands, New Caledonia and Lord Howe Island. Meet your Guide at the GBG main entrance steps.

FGBG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 27 August, 5.30 for a 6.00 pm start

All Members are invited to attend our AGM with a light supper in the GBG Meeting Room. Parking is at the rear of the gardens. Our guest speaker, FGBG Guide Liz Bennetto, will talk about our local Aboriginal people, the Wathaurong, and their use of plants in all facets of their culture and lives.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES with the FRIENDS

Guided Walks: Guides are on duty Wednesdays 11.00 am and Saturdays and Sundays 2.00 pm to take you for a guided walk or answer your questions. Meet your Guide at the GBG main entrance steps.

Plant Sales: The Friends' Nursery at the rear of the Gardens is open every Wednesday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm offering a wide selection of plants sourced from the Geelong Botanic Gardens, including the Pelargonium and Salvia collections.

MONTHLY 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.

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