

Self-guided Walk

Introduction to Geelong Botanic Gardens

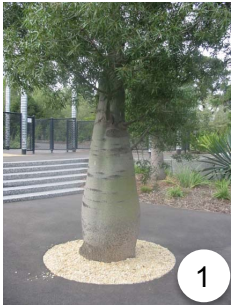
Begin from the front steps, looking at the map (over page) and pictures as you walk.

Geelong Botanic Gardens (GBG), established in 1851, is the fourth oldest botanic garden in Australia. Both the GBG and surrounding Eastern Park are heritage listed: the whole area contains 32 heritage listed trees. You are about to see three distinctive landscapes.

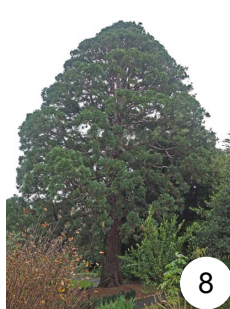
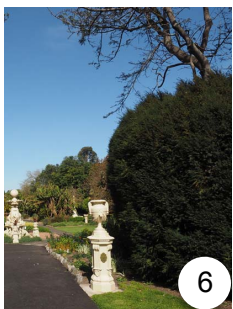
Landscape 1: 21st Century Garden. The contemporary 21st Century Garden is designed to showcase plants adapted to dry conditions, including some local species.

A modern sculpture and nautical theme links the gardens to Corio Bay. Boat-shaped beds line the approach drive, and a "boat deck" is set close to the **(1) Bottle Trees (*Brachychiton rupestris*)** from Queensland).

Look straight ahead to see the dramatic sand bowl setting off the **(2) Dragon Tree (*Dracaena draco*)** from the Canary Islands), planted by the first curator in the 1850s and moved from outside the Garden gates to the current site in 2002. **(3) Agaves and cacti** on the right are desert plants from the Americas: plants on the left are mainly Australian, including local regional indigenous species on the inside of the path.



Landscape 2: 20th Century Garden. Walk through the wrought iron gates to see well-established trees, fountains, roses and green lawns to the right ... a grand vista. The **(4) colourful bollards** depict the first curator of the gardens and a lady visitor. To your left is the Conservatory. Walk down through the Silver Border until you come to steps and the **(5) Heritage Rose Garden**. More heritage trees are to left and right and the Tea House is across the lawn. Now smell the fragrant roses and move down into the next landscape which is the oldest part of Geelong Botanic Gardens.



Landscape 3: 19th Century Garden. An **(6) old European Yew Tree (*Taxus baccata*)** on your right marks the original entrance to the 19th Century Garden. As you walk down the path you will see a **(7) colourful Perennial Border** maintained by FGBG volunteers.

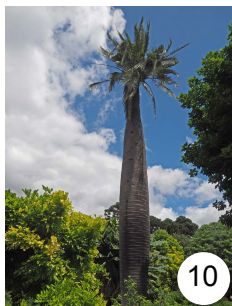
Take a few steps left and look upwards to see the **(8) remarkable Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)** from California) planted in 1873. Note the **(6 & 7) Hitchcock Fountain**, now dry, which was relocated from Market Square in 1912. Walk around the central area now used for changing educational displays. Once a **(9) huge Lattice Fernery** existed here: imagine ladies in crinolines and men in hats and gloves enjoying a pleasant stroll.



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

www.friendsgbg.org.au
Phone: 5222 6053
www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/

Note the **(10)** ageing **Chilean Wine Palm (*Jubaea chilensis*)**. In this older part of the gardens there are more historic trees and a significant collection of *Salvias*.



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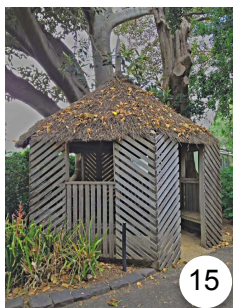
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As you walk past another fountain take one of the shady paths which lead to the Temperate Garden. In this cool and quiet place, you will see:

- **(11)** distinctive **Japanese bronze sculptures** which were brought to Geelong in the 1870s for the wealthy owner of the St Albans Stud.
- **(12)** the famous **Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*)** from China) with its unique growth pattern.
- **(13)** the **Old Customs Office**, one of Victoria's oldest buildings, prefabricated in Sydney in 1838.
- **(14)** the **Pelargonium House**, with its huge array of colourful plants.
- **(15)** the **Raddenberry Summer House** (based on the original from the 19th Century).



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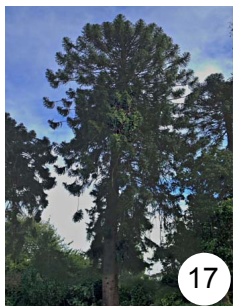


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On the way back to the Teahouse, look for a restored wooden shelter, the **(16) Cabmen's Shelter**, erected in Geelong in 1905 and moved to Eastern Park when trams were introduced. On your left is a row of **(17)** giant old **Bunya Bunyas (*Araucaria bidwillii*)** from Queensland).



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To extend this walk, other paths lead to more delights such as the **(18) Camellia Walk**, the **(19) Otway Forest Glade** and the **(20) Australian Border**. A separate self-guided walk gives detailed information on **Heritage Trees**.

