

# Jubaea



Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc. Newsletter

June 2026 Volume 27 Issue 2



*Jan Cheyne, Councillor Rowan Story, James Stirton Exec. Director CoGG and Troy Edwards, CoGG*

## FROM SWAMP TO SANCTUARY

It's easy to take the Geelong Botanic Gardens for granted today but becoming a true "botanic garden" took years of local lobbying, committee meetings, and hard practical work. From the first calls for public walks and horticultural gardens through to fencing, surveying and a wait for expert leadership, the story from 1837 to 1857 shows how community ambition slowly turned an idea into a place.

On 21 August 1837, Governor Bourke issued directions to Surveyor General Robert Hoddle for a Geelong plan—an early administrative step in shaping the settlement. The Township of Geelong was proclaimed in November 1838. By July 1843 Port Phillip District moved toward separation from the Colony of New South Wales, setting the scene for the establishment of local government in Geelong. In early 1848 the Geelong Advertiser suggested that if "a petition were drawn up and respectably signed, by forwarding it to the proper quarters the grant of a piece of ground would be made by the government for the formation of public walks and horticultural gardens." The timing mattered: the Superintendent of Port Phillip, C. J. La Trobe—well known as a keen horticulturalist—was due in

Geelong within days. In the mid-19th century, botanic gardens were seen as public places for recreation, education and acclimatisation—symbols that a town had arrived. La Tribe first suggested a site around Western Gully (now Johnstone Park), but it was a swamp, used as a water source, and a dumping ground for animal waste.

On 6 September 1849, solicitor John Gregory delivered a public lecture on horticulture at the Presbyterian Church, renewing calls for a botanic garden. It was moved by the Reverend Mr Collins and seconded by Mr Nantes—"that an attempt be made to form a Botanical Gardens, in connection with, and under the influence of a Horticultural Society ... to be called the Geelong Horticultural Society." A preliminary meeting at Mack's Hotel determined to pursue both a botanical garden and a horticultural society. A committee was appointed to correspond with the Superintendent about a land grant. The chairman was the Reverend Mr Collins and John Gregory kept the correspondence, though he did not take meeting minutes—an early gap that later made the paper trail harder to follow.

Cont'd page 2

# FROM SWAMP TO SANCTUARY

Geelong officially became a town on 12 October 1849 and later a delegation representing residents met with La Trobe to review the Western Gully suggestion and inspect other possible locations. They sought an undertaking that money would be included in the 1850 budget for fencing and laying out the gardens. Geelong's municipal era began when the Geelong Council met for the first time in February 1850 at Mack's Hotel and later appointed a select committee, chaired by Mayor Alexander Thomson, "for the purposes of establishing a Botanic Garden," and to correspond with the community committee. There was communication between the two groups, including calls that any grants obtained should be vested with the mayor. Site selection proved pivotal. With no suitable ground available to the west of town, attention turned east to land near the lime kilns. The chosen area was considered dry, well exposed for recreation, and advantaged by soil, aspect and its undulating ground. After consultation—outlined by Mr Pettavel, there was unanimous backing for the site at Eastern Hill.



View of the Raddenberry shelter and old Custom's House

On 2 September 1850, Mayor Dr Thomson wrote to La Trobe applying for 200 acres for a public park and botanic garden. In 1851 the Geelong Advertiser reported that "The proposed site on Eastern Hill, for Botanical Gardens, has been secured for a "Town Park and Public Garden." Tenders for fencing were called, but before any contractor could proceed the land required surveying. Assistant Surveyor Alexander Skene undertook the work, measuring an area of 178 chains and 60 links. La Trobe provided £480 to help establish the new gardens, covering the cost of fencing Eastern Park and building a curator's cottage and suggested all future funds should come from the local community.

In 1852, the Committee of Management complained that smoke from nearby lime kilns was affecting newly planted trees in the Eastern Gardens—a concern later echoed in 1862 by curator Daniel Bunce, who reported damage to new plantings. Impatience grew at the lack of visible development. Debate flared around the proposed extension of Malop Street eastwards toward Point Henry as the gardens' southern boundary, with warnings that the road would effectively end in a swamp if routed that way.



The old Hansen Gates, the original entrance

In December 1853, tenders were called for a brick cottage and by 1854 the wide drives—intended as a defining feature of Eastern Park were surveyed. By 1855 the cottage had been built but initially occupied by the keeper of the powder magazine rather than a horticultural worker. Charles Nantes became honorary secretary of the Gardens Committee and established the first minute book, even as critics questioned the committee's expertise and pace.

An advertisement in the Geelong Advertiser sought "a working Bailiff for the public Gardens," specifying he "must have a knowledge of landscape gardening." A gardener was employed across Eastern Park and the Geelong Botanic Gardens, with responsibilities for maintenance and tree planting. By June 1856, the Botanical Gardens Reserve was almost entirely fenced, but governance had narrowed: only three trustees remained—the Mayor, Alexander Thomson, Mr Strachan and Mr Nantes.

By August 1857, visitors to Eastern Park were still asking a pointed question: "Where are the Botanical Gardens?" The answer, before the arrival of Daniel Bunce (appointed curator in 1857), was unflattering—"[an] unwooded, sterile looking piece of ground with a fence around it and a notice board at one or two of its corners." The project needed dedicated expertise and with Bunce's appointment Geelong finally had the specialist attention needed to turn a reserved patch of ground into the beginning of the living collection we recognise today.

*Luanne Thornton*



Path through the rose garden towards the Hitchcock Fountain

# EXPLORING BUNCE'S BOUNTY

In 2007 the Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens acquired a significant treasure at auction in the form of a leather-bound copy of Daniel Bunce's 1838 book *The Manual of Practical Gardening adapted to the climate of Van Diemen's Land*. Published in twelve monthly parts commencing July 1837, it contains 'plain and familiar directions for the management of the kitchen, fruit and flower garden, nursery, greenhouse and forcing department for every month of the year.'

The very first issue of the Geelong Advertiser, published on November 21<sup>st</sup> 1840 contained a 'for sale' advertisement placed by Daniel Bunce offering seeds and plant specimens - as well as copies of his Manual of Practical Gardening! As our original was in a fragile condition, and as a way to celebrate Daniel Bunce's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, becoming the first curator of the Geelong Botanic Gardens in 1857, the Friends released a facsimile edition of the book making it readily available.

Salsify, scorzonera, borecole, cardoons, sea kale, arrowroot, beans of all kinds, Welsh onions, six kinds of cucumbers, buckwheat and a wide assortment of berries, fruit and nut trees all sound like innovative ingredients set for a trendy restaurant menu or comprehensive listings from the latest seed catalogue. However, all these and more are mentioned in Bunce's 1838 fascinating manual.

Daniel Bunce was Victoria's first botanist, a Kew-trained gardener who migrated to Australia from Hertfordshire England in 1833 and operated a fruit and plant nursery in Hobart. In 1839 he moved to Melbourne and established a nursery in St Kilda and in February 1841 proposed the formation of a botanical garden in Melbourne under his supervision, but this was not accepted by authorities.

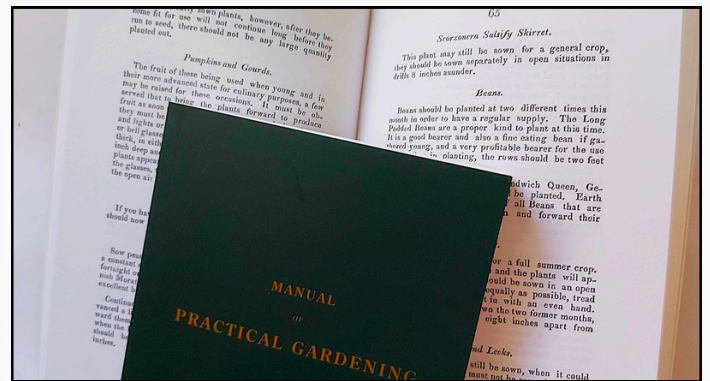


Photo: Gail Thomas 'The Manual of Practical Gardening'

In 1846/47 he participated as a naturalist in two expeditions into the interior with Dr Ludwig Leichhardt and was a prolific writer with his papers and books being extensively published including *Travels with Dr Leichhardt in Australia* (1859), and *Language of the Aborigines in the Colony of Victoria* (Melbourne 1851). He married three times - his second wife Pelanomona was the daughter of John Batman.

Today, many of our Gardens' National Trust registered trees including the Chilean wine palm, ginkgo and majestic bunyas reflect the legacy of his work. Daniel Bunce died at the Geelong Gardens in 1872 and is buried in a family grave at Geelong's Eastern Cemetery.

Having been written in Tasmania, the manual contains information relative to Australia's seasons on all aspects from pruning and espaliering fruit trees to recommending, 'all new planted trees should be well secured from the violence of the wind by stakes fastened with hay or straw bands.' There are also details on 'Shipping plants for a Sea Voyage', recipes for obliterating insects, directions on destroying rats in seed houses and more.

Gail Thomas



Autumn under the Ginkgo in the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Photo S. Bird



The central path of the Heritage Rose Garden

## AUTUMN IN THE ROSE GARDEN

In Autumn the rose garden presents a somewhat different picture from its Spring exuberance, but there is still lots to admire. The Tea roses in particular have a second flush of blooms, and often their autumn flowers are lovelier and more abundant than their spring offering.

Tea roses (or as they were first called 'Tea-scented China Roses') were developed during the 19th century, as a result of crosses using roses from China, which were discovered and introduced into Europe in the late 18th century. These China roses as they became known had a feature which European roses lacked, they repeat flowered, with a second flowering in autumn. Two of these, Hume's Blush China and Park's Yellow Tea-scented China, were crossed with many existing groups, especially Bourbons and Noisettes, to produce a huge variety of colours from pure whites to soft pinks, deep crimson, creamy yellow, deep golden and bright yellows. They often have slender pointed buds, and their flower heads droop attractively



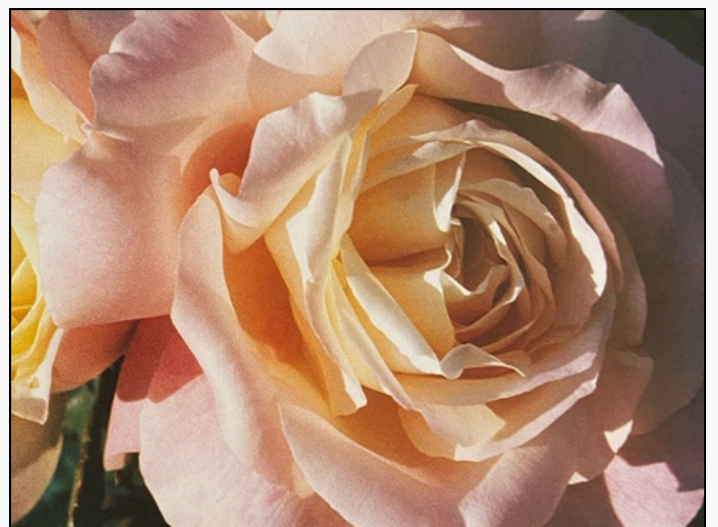
Lady Hillingdon

The name Tea Rose arose because their fragrance was supposed to be like that of a freshly opened chest of tea, though an alternative explanation is that they were conveyed to Europe on ships of the East India Company along with tea from India and China.

There is a book, *Tea Roses, Old Roses for a Warm Climate* which is very detailed and lavishly illustrated. It was compiled by a group from the WA branch of Heritage Roses (dubbed of course the tea ladies) if you would like to read more of this diverse group

In our garden, just by the centre path, two bushes of Mrs Dudley Cross have delighted us with luscious blooms, sometimes soft pink tinged with cream and sometimes cream tinged with pink. On the other side of the path, Marie Van Houtte has been covered with blooms and as we dead-head them it seems hundreds! Just nearby, Lady Hillingdon flowers more sparsely, but her rich golden pointed buds and drooping flowers are just as wonderful. Over by the cafe, the vigorous bush of General Gallieni with his strong scarlet muddled blooms carries flowers well into pruning time.

Marg Ward



Mrs Dudley Cross

# QUANDONGS

As a child I was fortunate enough to taste Wild Peach Pie, made by my grandmother, from dried quandong flesh posted to her from her sister-in law, in Kimba, on the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia. Delicious! Quandong – *Santalum acuminatum* - still grows prolifically there.

When I came to Geelong in 2005, I decided to try growing a quandong, and asked my brother, then living near Menindee New South Wales, if he could find me some seeds. About twenty arrived shortly after, along with the gob of emu poo in which he had found them.

Knowing they are hemiparasites, that is using a host plant for water and nutrients, I took care to plant them near plants with good root systems: a slender agonis, a golden wattle, and a casuarina. To my delight, eventually a seedling emerged!

Mark Trengove mentioned that in the distant past quandongs had grown across Victoria, almost down to Geelong. Indeed, there is a district called Quandong, about halfway between Melton and Little River. Now, none exist anywhere nearer than the Wimmera District.

Daniel Bunce, the first curator of the Geelong Botanic Gardens, grew quandongs. The Advertiser of 3rd November 1866, reported that in his nursery: 'the quandong of the Mallee scrub is flourishing apace.' Obviously, they were not from local seed, but from Bunce's explorations of the interior.

Bernie Lingham, of the Geelong Field Naturalists Club, connected me to the Atlas of Living Australia records, which lists two preserved quandong in the National Herbarium of Victoria from southern Victoria. One was supplied to the Herbarium in 1884 from near Meredith, but was not identified until 1966, by J H Willis. A second came from the Lerderderg area, 10 miles SE of Blackwood and was collected by J H Willis, but a date is not recorded.

My quandong has a lovely upright habit and is now more than three metres tall. In full bloom, the flowers are small and green. The fruit takes many months to develop, but by October some

are approaching golf-ball size, bright red and shiny. They ripen over about six weeks, and I eat them raw with my muesli, because I know they have lots of nutrients, but the flavour is ... not much. The rest I take to dry and when cooked, they are something else!

A couple of years ago I identified some little plants nearby as quandong suckers! I checked with the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, and learned they often sucker.

Last October, some Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens visited my garden. One couple I did not know approached me. 'You've got a Quandong!' they exclaimed with astonishment. 'We have too!' They explained that they have had a farm out at Wurdiboluc for about thirty years. About 20 years ago they put in a plantation of indigenous trees as a windbreak. They obtained a variety of indigenous trees from a native nursery near Bamba.

A few years later they saw strange little trees coming up within the plantation. 'They are quandongs!' she said. She knew, because she had grown up at Kimba, in South Australia! They invited me to visit them and I did so. The plantation now looks like a mature patch of bush.

The quandongs were still in fruit. The first one I saw had a lovely weeping habit. I collected some of the fruit, and the stones are uniformly smaller than the stones from my tree. The trees that had been planted in the plantation had not included quandongs. About thirty metres away was another, this time of the same upright habit as mine. The fruit from this tree produced the same varied sized stones as my tree, generally larger than those on the first tree.

It seems likely to me that the original seeds of these trees had been lying dormant in the paddock for many years, until the conditions for survival changed and open woodland enabled them to thrive.

PS. If anyone would like to try growing quandongs, I still have plenty of seeds from last year's harvest. Perhaps a handful of aged chook poo might substitute for our now-extinct emus' contribution.

Lynne Clarke

## References:

Occurrence record: MEL: MEL 2227221A. Preserved specimen of *Santalum acuminatum* (R.Br.) A.D.C. Sweet Quandong recorded in 1884, Atlas of Living Australia.  
Occurrence record: MEL: MEL 1563344A. Preserved specimen of *Santalum acuminatum* (R.Br.) A.D.C. Sweet Quandong, Atlas of Living Australia.  
Jones, George, Growing Together, 1984, self published, page 60.



Photo : Quandong in fruit



Photo : Quandong in bloom

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Friends groups are the lifeblood of botanic gardens everywhere. Across Australia these dedicated community champions provide not only hands-on horticultural support, but also advocacy, fundraising, education and a powerful connection between gardens and their communities. Their passion strengthens conservation outcomes, enriches visitor experiences, and ensures our gardens continue to thrive for generations to come. (BGANZ)

The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens are actively looking for more members to volunteer and fill a range of positions, not only in the Gardens, but requiring different skills eg. marketing, events, communications, computer technician.

If you are enthusiastic and willing to work as part of a friendly team we would welcome an enquiry.

**Please contact our office for additional information. Tel: 5229 0071 or email: [info@friendsgbg.org.au](mailto:info@friendsgbg.org.au)**

## SKIRRET

Skirret –sounds like it may be the latest designer furry pet!

I first came across a reference to skirret when reading Daniel Bunce's 1838 'The Manual of Practical Gardening' and it immediately prompted my interest.

Skirret (*Sium sisarum*) is a hardy perennial vegetable native to China and Japan and a member of the carrot and parsley family. Dating back centuries, it was enjoyed widely in Europe in the fifteenth century but over the years gradually fell out of favour.

Said to have been cultivated in Britain as a winter vegetable for over four centuries its name is derived from the Dutch 'suikerwortel' meaning sugar root, the Scottish called it 'crummock'. It even gets a mention in Shakespeare's 'Merry Wives of Windsor' and was praised by agriculturalist John Worlidge in 1677 as 'the sweetest, whitest and most pleasant of roots.'

Skirret is hardy, grows to around 60cm -1m, preferring full sun but tolerates light shade. It is savoured for its fleshy tuberous sweet white roots which form in a bunch from a crown. It does best in cooler areas and can be propagated from seed but needs moist soil as the seed is hard and slow to germinate. It produces delicate sparse foliage and umbels of white flowers.

The edible roots should be lifted as required during winter and it is said to be sweeter after the first frosts. The roots form in prongs and the plant can be propagated in spring before growth begins by taking off the side roots which have an 'eye' or bud.

A light soil deeply cultivated and enriched with plenty of manure or compost is best. Seedlings can be planted out about 30cm apart when the fourth or fifth sets of leaves have developed.

With a taste similar to parsnip, carrot and parsley skirret can be simply scrubbed before cooking. It can be used similarly to salsify or scorzonera, boiled, in a stew, baked, braised or creamed with mashed potato as well as added to soups and curries or even grated raw into salads and served with a vinaigrette dressing. The root can be roasted as a coffee substitute and is said to cleanse the bladder, treat jaundice and other liver disorders.

*Gail Thomas*



Skirret *Sium sisarum* root

Photo: Gail Thomas

# NEWS FROM THE GBG

A Glastonbury Thorn has a new home. This month Jack, the grounds supervisor from Geelong's Christian College, reached out to the Geelong garden to ask where he could find a *Crataegus monogyna 'Biflora'* to replace one that used to grow in the school grounds when it was Glastonbury orphanage. We agreed to donate one. It is the same age and slightly shorter than the one planted in 2025 behind the meeting room building to celebrate 40 years of the Friends. We look forward to receiving updates from Jack about the tree's progress. It will be planted in the same garden where their original specimen grew. Pictured here is staff member Julie handing the plant to Jack, sharing knowledge about its upkeep and the history of this tree.



Jack and Julie with the tree

Winter crops – Staff member Dave has planted the centre bed with all different shades of green, red and purple in an ornamental Kale and cabbage display. Liam is busy fending off the bugs in the veggie patch; too bad you can't get kids to love broccoli as much as the caterpillars!



Centre bed and veggie patch



North Boarder spruce up – In the last 2 months the horticulture team has been working hard to bring the north boarder back up to scratch. A big thanks goes out to the weeders who cleared it out before new mulch was laid. ... more coming on this



Our dormant *Amorphophallus titanium* corms were replotted this week. While they were out and about horticulturalist Lucy weighed them and made some observations. "In March 2024 one corm (who flowered in November 2024) weighed 9.9kg but when measured was physically bigger." the other corm, who is yet to flower weighed 9.3kg in March 2024 and is now a whopping 17.76kg!

Cairns Botanic Gardens have had numerous *A. titanium* blooms and comment "The blooming process heavily depletes the plant's stored reserves. A corm can lose several kilograms of weight during the brief flowering cycle, relying completely on the energy built up in the corm to sustain its growth and foul-smelling scent. After the flower collapses, the corm goes dormant again and produces a new leaf to rebuild its lost weight."

Johanna Vanwetten



**SUNDAY 5 JULY 10.00 AM - 4.00 PM**

**TUTOR :AMANDA BLAKE-SUTTERBY**

**Held in the Large Meeting Room at the Geelong Botanic gardens**

Discover the beauty of Hellebores in this Botanic Art Workshop with Amanda Blake-Sutterby. Learn to capture their nodding blooms, rich tones, and lasting “petals” in a workshop suitable for beginners to intermediate students, this is a rewarding creative challenge focused on the pleasure of the process.

Hellebores are shade-loving perennial plants, and they are prized for their elegant nodding blooms, leathery green foliage and their ability to brighten up our winter gardens. The petals are actually sepals, which is why the blooms last so long. The true petals are the tiny nectar producing structures inside the flower. Hellebores have for generations been very popular in Botanical Illustration and make a perfect winter workshop subject.

Morning Tea, and a complimentary frame provided to complete your finished artwork.

Members: \$165 Non members: \$195

Book at the office or [online](#)



Details: [info@friendsgbg.org.au](mailto:info@friendsgbg.org.au) or 03 5229 0071

## TERM 3 DATES

### MONDAY CLASS – In Person

\$365 members or \$395 non-members

Tutor: Amanda Blake Sutterby

9.30 am to 4.00 pm

Large-Scale Flower Studies

27 July

3 August

14, 28 September

### FRIDAY CLASS – In Person

\$390 members or \$420 non-members

Tutor: Craig Lidgerwood

9.30 am to 4.00 pm

Intermediate

31 July

14, 28 August

11 September

### FRIDAY CLASS – In Person

\$405 members or \$435 non-members

Tutor: Amanda Ahmed

10.00 am to 3.30 pm

Beginners Botanical Art with Watercolour

24 July

7, 21 August

4, 18 September

### SATURDAY CLASSES – In Person

\$465 members or \$495 non-members

Tutor: John Pastoriza-Pinol

9.30 am to 4.00 pm

Advanced to Semi-Professional

18 July

1, 15, 29 August

12 September

# 175th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

On Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup> the Friends will join with the City of Greater Geelong and the staff of the Botanic Gardens to help celebrate the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Geelong Botanic Gardens. In 1851, 200 acres of land on Eastern Hill was secured and surveyed as the site for the Gardens.

There will be stalls, food, music and entertainment around the gardens on the day.

The Friends will have plants and gardening books for sale as well as a display and sale of botanic art and cards and the botanic art diary for 2027 will be available.

Our Guides will take walks and the Discovery Table will show all sorts of plant material for members of the public to view and ask questions.

So put this in your calendar to come and join in the fun. More information in the next Jubaea.



**ANNUAL WINTER LUNCH**  
 TUESDAY 16 JUNE, 12.00PM FOR 12.30 PM START- 3.00 PM  
 MOUNT DUNEED ESTATE  
**GUEST SPEAKER: Richard Barley MBE**  
 We warmly invite you and your friends to the FGBG Annual Winter Lunch at Mt Duneed Estate. Enjoy a relaxed afternoon in the cosy Vineyard Room, with sweeping views across the vines to the Barrabool Hills. Head Chef Daniel Duve will serve a gourmet two-course lunch, followed by tea or coffee, with drinks available at the bar.

Our guest speaker, Richard Barley MBE FCIH CHort FLS, will share highlights from his time as Director of Horticulture at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Born in Ballarat and educated in Geelong, Richard has enjoyed a distinguished career in Australia and the UK, including leadership roles at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and Open Gardens Australia. After 12 years at Kew, he returned to Victoria in 2025 and now works as a consultant, continuing to contribute his expertise to horticulture.

**MEMBERS \$95 AND NON MEMBERS \$105**

Bookings are essential and due by June 9, 2026  
 Inform the Friends office of any dietary requirements  
 Please contact the Friends' Office on 5229 0071  
 or book online at [www.friendsgbg.org.au](http://www.friendsgbg.org.au)

FRIENDS OF THE GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS PRESENTS

# MOVIE NIGHT

"The Rose Maker" starts with a French Bastille Day-inspired supper

Newcomb Library Bellarine Highway,  
 Wilsons Rd, Geelong VIC 3219, Australia

Members \$35 Non-members \$45

**TUESDAY, 14 JULY 2026 | at 5.30PM**

# SENIORS MORNING TEA



Allison Martland, Gwen Anderson, Norma Shepherd



Photos: E. Jackson

# 175 YEARS OF THE GBG



175th Celebration Morning Tea



Jan Cheyne, Mayor Stretch Kontelj, Cr Rowan Story, James Stirton, CoGG, Luanne Thornton

# VOLUNTEER SOUP LUNCH



Soup Lunch with Volunteers Nadia Zacchigna, Norma Shepherd and Jan Cheyne



Daniel Cornwell, GBG staff and Volunteers

## FGBG GIFT FUND

The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund is registered with the Australian Taxation Office to receive donations, which are tax-deductible. The Gift Fund currently has \$420,433.31. The Fund may only be used to support special projects and programs within Geelong Botanic Gardens. It may not be used to support the Friends or Friends activities.

With distributions made this Financial Year so far:

\$393 for plants for Perennial Border,

\$6,520 for development of the Food Bowl Garden – expansion for school groups.

\$7865 for the Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Assessment to enable progress for approval for the proposed Gate 3 Development.

\$346.70 for roses for the Heritage Rose Garden,

\$2728.78 for new edging in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Garden and

\$1155.00 for new trees for GBG.

The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens appreciate your generous donations to the Gift Fund and would like to thank you.

To make a donation: [GIFT FUND online](#)  
Or contact the Friends' Office [info@friendsgbg.org.au](mailto:info@friendsgbg.org.au)



80 pine cones were removed by arborists from the Bunya Bunya Pine Trees in the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park, the largest weighing just over 9kg.

Photo: S.Bird



This Phillip Island Hibiscus *Hibiscus insularis* is a critically endangered species is only known to grow naturally on Phillip Island. This species is said to take up to 18 years before flowering.

Photo : James Stirton



### Editorial Team:

Luanne Thornton, Anne Bourke.

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Friends' Office Hours: Mon-Frid 9.00 am to 2.00 pm



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### FGBG Committee 2025-26:

President: Jan Cheyne

Vice Presidents: Anne Bourke and Carol Richardson

Treasurer: Judy Fyfe

Secretary: Luanne Thornton

Committee Members: Tilly Brunton, Chris Balaam, Pammi Pryor, Lynne Clarke, Barrie Satchell

Patron: Stephen Ryan

Phone: 03 5229 0071

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# DIARY DATES AT A GLANCE



**JUBAEA SUBMISSIONS** for the next Edition are due by 16 October 2026.  
All articles including mid to high resolution photos (jpeg) can be sent to the FGBG Office

## JUNE

### **WINTER LUNCH at MT DUNEED WINERY GUEST SPEAKER – RICHARD BARLEY MBE**

**Tuesday 16 June, 12.00 am – 3.00 pm.**

Our Guest, Richard Barley was Director of Horticulture at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew for 12 years. Join the Friends for a gourmet meal, followed by Richards's fascinating talk on 'Reinvigorating the historic Kew Gardens landscape'

\$95 members \$105 non-members. Bookings Essential, and are required by June 9.

### **THEMED GUIDED WALK 'STORM WATER HARVESTING SYSTEM'**

**Sunday 21 June, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates**

A guided tour to explore the Stormwater Harvesting Project in Easter Park and how it has evolved over the years. The stormwater dam has created a natural wetland promoting diverse plant and animal life, providing valuable water for Geelong Botanic Gardens. Join your Guide at the entrance of the Gardens as we explore both. Gold coin donation appreciated.

## JULY

### **THEMED GUIDED WALK 'PACIFIC RIM'**

**Sunday 12 July, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates**

Take a stroll through the newest area in the GBG which was constructed during Covid 2020. Unique plants & trees are the key feature of this beautifully landscaped section. Many of these specimens from the region of the Pacific are endangered due to the threat of deforestation & climate change. A place for contemplation with seats to enjoy the gardens as well as rocks to invite children to play happily.

### **MOVIE NIGHT 'THE ROSE MAKER' AND BASTILLE DAY THEMED SUPPER**

**Tuesday 14 July, 5.30 pm to 8.00 pm**

As the 14 July is 'Bastille Day' the Friends are going to celebrate with a French Supper and a movie, 'The Rose maker'. At the Newcomb Library Theatre (upstairs from the Newcomb Library, there is a lift for easy access) the corner of Queenscliff and Wilsons Rd. Members \$34 and non-members \$45

For Catering Purposes Please – Bookings due by Friday 11 July

Inform the Friends office of any dietary requirements

## AUGUST

### **THEMED GUIDED WALK 'NATIVE PLANT AND THEIR POLLINATORS'**

**Sunday 9 August, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates**

The pollination of plants is integral to their reproduction and survival. Come and hear about the differing ways native plants are pollinated. They provide habitat for local native fauna to encourage pollinators such as small birds, butterflies, native bees, lizards, frogs and bats. Gold coin donation appreciated

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday 31 August, 5.15PM – 8.00 PM - 4.00 pm**

Come and meet the newly elected Committee of Management, enjoying supper after the AGM and guest speaker Tim Sansom, RBG Executive Director of Living Collections and Environment.

AGM at 5.30, Guest Speaker at 6.15 pm and Supper at 7.00 pm. Free Event.

## SEPTEMBER

### **THEMED GUIDED WALK 'CHINESE PLANT IN OUR GARDENS'**

**Sunday 13 September, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates**

China had the first Botanical Garden in 138 BC, an enormous park with 2,000 different plants and hot houses. 2<sup>nd</sup> emperor Yang Di in Sui dynasty (581-618AD) built the largest gardens in history and searched far and wide for rare and beautiful plants.

### **FREE DISCOVERY WALKS**

**Every Wednesday at 11.00 am and Sunday at 2.00 pm**

Meet your guide at the front steps of the gardens.

### **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.

### **WEEKLY PLANT SALES**

**Every Wednesday** at the Friends' nursery at the rear of the Gardens 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

For more information and bookings please go to [www.friendsgbg.org.au](http://www.friendsgbg.org.au)  
or contact the Friends' Office on 03 5229 0071 [info@friendsgbg.org.au](mailto:info@friendsgbg.org.au)