

Garden Highlights, September 2015

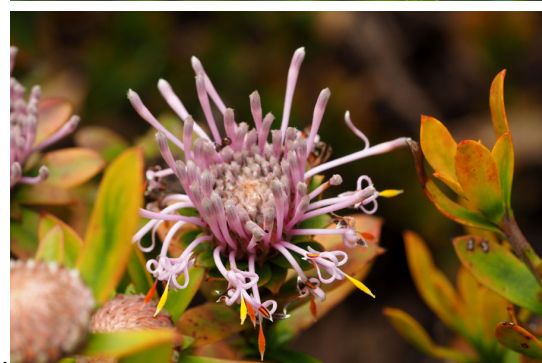
Many of the plants in the Australian Border are in flower now. Some have a large flush of flowers, while others spread their flowering over several months.

1. Emu bush *Eremophila* sp., from arid areas of Australia are pollinated by birds and insects. Those with red, orange, yellow or green flowers point slightly downwards and have long projecting stamens and stigma that suit birds. The blue, purple and white ones have protruding lower lips providing a landing area for insects. You will see a variety of colours in these beds. Several *Eremophila* species may be available in the FGBG Nursery.



1.

2. Cone flowers *Isopogon* sp. are found throughout Australia. However 27 of the 35 species come from the world biodiversity hotspot in south-western Australia. There are 35 recognised such hotspots, including the South African Cape, New Caledonia, New Zealand and Madagascar. Rose Cone flower *Isopogon formosus* may be available in the FGBG Nursery.



2.

3. The new fronds of ferns are tipped with spiral croziers, large and tiny. The **Dwarf Tree *Blechnum gibbum***, pictured here, is from New Caledonia and other Pacific islands. The *Blechnums* differ from most ferns in having separate sterile and fertile (reproductive) fronds on the same plant. The slender reproductive fronds with dark brown spore cases appear later.



3.

4. At this time of the year, many plants in the Perennial border are resting or hiding. However, the **Early Bergenia *Bergenia crassifolia***, coming from Siberia, Mongolia and Chinese mountains, thrives in cold weather. It was a popular plant in the early 20th Century.



4.

5. In the centre of the garden there is a display of **vegetables suitable for making into soup**. The soup theme is picked up by the display in the **Curiosity Cabinet** at the back of the gardens. Learn how soup was the main meal and saviour of many hungry peoples.



5.

What's on in August

Discovery Walk : **'Pumpkin, peas or polenta'**

Sunday 6 September 2.00 pm. Gold coin donation.

Discovery Walk : **'Australian plants in flower'**

Sunday 13 September 2.00 pm. Gold coin donation.

Discovery Table, Sunday 20 September 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

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

Bus trip to Camperdown, Monday 28 September, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. Booking by 23 September essential. See Friends website.

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

The **Tea House** is open every day.



Over page: Map showing these plants

www.friendsgbg.org.au

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Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



1. Emu Bush *Eremophila* sp., several species
2. Cone Flower *Isopogon* sp. two species

3. Dwarf Tree Fern *Blechnum gibbum*
4. Early Bergenia *Bergenia crassifolia*
5. Soup garden
6. Fernery



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

www.friendsgbg.org.au
www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/