

Garden Highlights, July 2016

This month, deciduous trees are losing their leaves and shrubs have been pruned. This gives us a chance to see the structure of trees and their branches.

1. **Dawn Redwood** *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* is one of only 20 species of conifers that lose their leaves. Others are Swamp, Pond and Bald Cypressess and Larches. In cold climates the ferny leaves of Dawn Redwoods change copper-red before dropping. Being not so cold here in Geelong, this tree drops brown leaves, leaving the tall straight trunk with short thin branches, that we see this month.

2. The large **Maiden Hair Tree** *Ginkgo biloba* has turned yellow and loses its leaves during July. The 2 smaller trees lose their leaves earlier. Look at the twigs. Leaves and cones grow from unusual short right-angled twigs. (See photo) These twigs grow about 1 mm per year. Branches grow faster from separate buds near their tip. The tree has an unusual random array of branches. A *Ginkgo* may be available in the Friends Nursery.

3. **Corkscrew Hazel** *Corylus avellana* 'Contorted Hazel' is a shrub with a mass of twisted branches. It is a garden cultivar that was discovered in an English hedgerow in the mid 1800s. Although this version of the widely grown Common Hazelnut has both male and female flowers, it bears no nuts, so must be propagated by cuttings or grafting.

4. Two **Camellias**, although not deciduous, show their structure by the way they are pruned. This style, which originated in Japan, is called **Cloud Pruning or Niwaki**. It is a Japanese method of pruning garden trees and shrubs that makes them appear like giant bonsai. In fact Niwaki means *garden tree*. Look out for other examples of oriental style in these gardens (pruning, sculpture, patterns raked in gravel). Various Camellias may be available in the Friends Nursery

What's on in July 2016

Discovery Table, Sunday 17 July 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

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

Winter Plant Sale: Weekend 30-31 July 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Free Guided Walks, each Sunday 2:00 pm. No Wednesday walks in July.

Friends Botanical Art classes and workshops for Term 3 begin in July.

See the Friends website for the range of options.

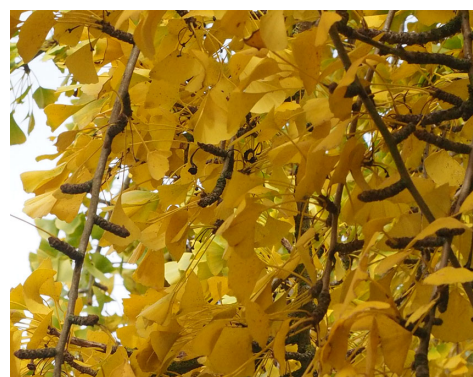
The Curiosity Cabinet is displaying 'Super foods' and pulses.

Fairies and Dragons School Holiday Program, \$7.20 per child, 5 and 7 July 2016, 10:00 am. Book on the GBG website 'Learn@GBG'.

The Tea House is open every day.



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Geelong Botanic Gardens Map

