

Garden Highlights, August 2018



Milk Thistle
Sonchus arboreus



Canary Island Bell Flower
Canarina canariensis

With Spring approaching, many plants are flowering in the gardens this month. To the left of the main entrance is a bed showing plants from islands. Islands usually have many plants that don't grow wild anywhere else (ie. they are endemic). This month we feature two plants from the Canary Islands, off the coast of Africa in the Atlantic. Many parts of the Canary Islands receive no rain in the summer months, so the plants need ways of coping.

You may have seen Milk Thistles growing as weeds in lawns and gardens, but here is a Milk Thistle tree *Sonchus arboreus*. It is not a weed. It is a daisy that is closely related to lettuces. Like lettuces, it has milky white sap.

The Canary Island Bell Flower *Canarina canariensis* disappears into its underground tuberous roots in summer by dropping its leaves and stems. It looks similar to its cousins the Blue Bells *Campanula*, but has orange flowers.

What's on in August 2018

(Booking and more details: Friends website or office, Gardens website)

Themed Guided Walk: '**Flowers of the Islands**' Sunday 12 August 2:00 pm.

Gold coin donation.

Discovery Table: Sundays 5 and 26 August 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

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

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

See the African Succulents display in the **Curiosity Cabinet**.

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



Over page: Map showing plant locations

www.friendsgbg.org.au

Phone: 5222 6053

www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/

Geelong Botanic Gardens map



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