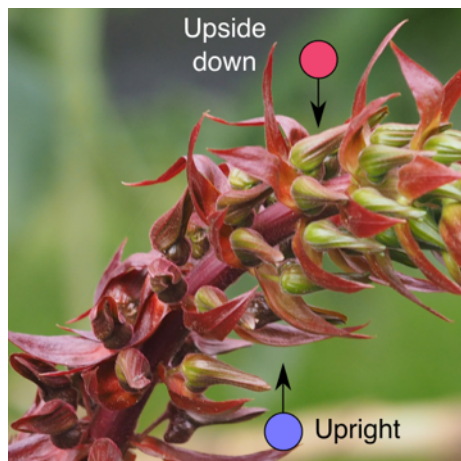


# Garden Highlights, September 2019



If you look closely at the striking deep red flowers of the **Giant Honey Flower *Melianthus major***, you may notice something unusual. The green flower buds at the top of the stem are 'upside down'. As they turn red and become ready for pollination, they rotate so their nectar cups can fill. The African sunbirds can only drink nectar when the flowers are the right way up. The birds carry pollen from one plant to another. This pollination starts the development of seed.

**Early Spiketail *Stachyurus praecox*** has masses of small, delicate flowers that resemble strings of pearls, hanging from bare branches. It grows naturally in mountain thickets and woodland of Japan.



Photos: Left: Giant Honey Flowers, green buds

Upside down, red flowers upright. Right: Early Spiketail flowers in profusion.

## What's On in September 2019

### Gold Leaf Art Workshop:

Weekend 28 - 29 September,  
9.30 am - 4.00 pm, \$160  
members, \$180 non-members.

**Discovery Table:** Sunday 15  
September 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

### Free Guided Walks:

Wednesdays 11:00 am,  
Sundays 2:00 pm.

### Friends Nursery open:

Wednesdays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

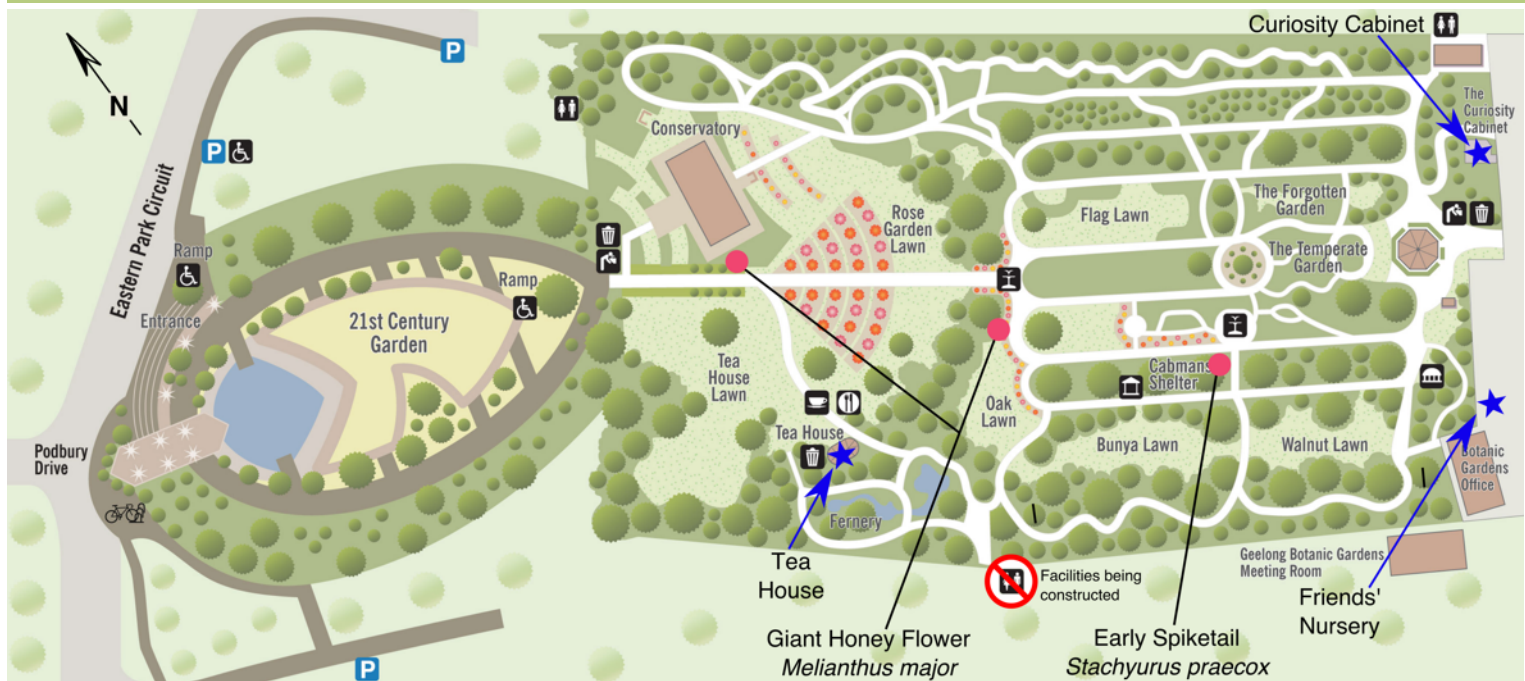
(For more details see the Friends website or phone the Friends.)

See the **Bromeliad Display**  
in the Curiosity Cabinet.

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



# Geelong Botanic Gardens map



Photos from the left: Giant Honey Flower: stem of flowers, upright flower, nectar cup at base of flower; Right: Early Spiketail individual flowers.

[www.friendsgbg.org.au](http://www.friendsgbg.org.au)  
[www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/](http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/)

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

