

# Garden Highlights, September 2022



***Puya ferruginea*** is native to Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador, in the South American tropics, where it grows at high latitude. These flowers are pollinated at night, by bats. To attract bats they have pale colours, more visible at night, and are on long stems away from the plant allowing the bat to locate it by sonar without the clutter of plant leaves. The individual flowers are on short stalks so they don't sway too much, and are tubular to suit the shape of the bat's mouth. They are easy for a bat to reach when it is hanging from the main flower stem, as the flowers hang down. Bird pollinated flowers usually stand more upright.

At night, a flower on each main stem opens wide, making it easier for bats to find it with sonar. It also produces a bat-attracting odour and rewards a visiting bat with rich, sweet nectar. After flowering, the flower rolls up tightly. This may help bats to avoid wasting energy visiting flowers that no longer offer a reward.

Later in the year, **Sapphire Tower *Puya alpestris***, display turquoise flowers in other parts of the gardens.

## What's On in September 2022

### Guided Walk: 'Chinese Plants in our Garden'

Sunday 11 September 2 pm, gold coin donation.

### Discovery Table:

Sunday

18 September 1 - 3 pm.

### Free Guided Walks:

Wednesdays 11 am,  
Sundays 2 pm.

### Friends Nursery open:

Wednesdays  
9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

### The Conservatory is open:

10 am - 4 pm every day.

(For more details about  
What's On:

Friends website or phone.)

Bookings: [www.friendsgbg.org.au](http://www.friendsgbg.org.au)

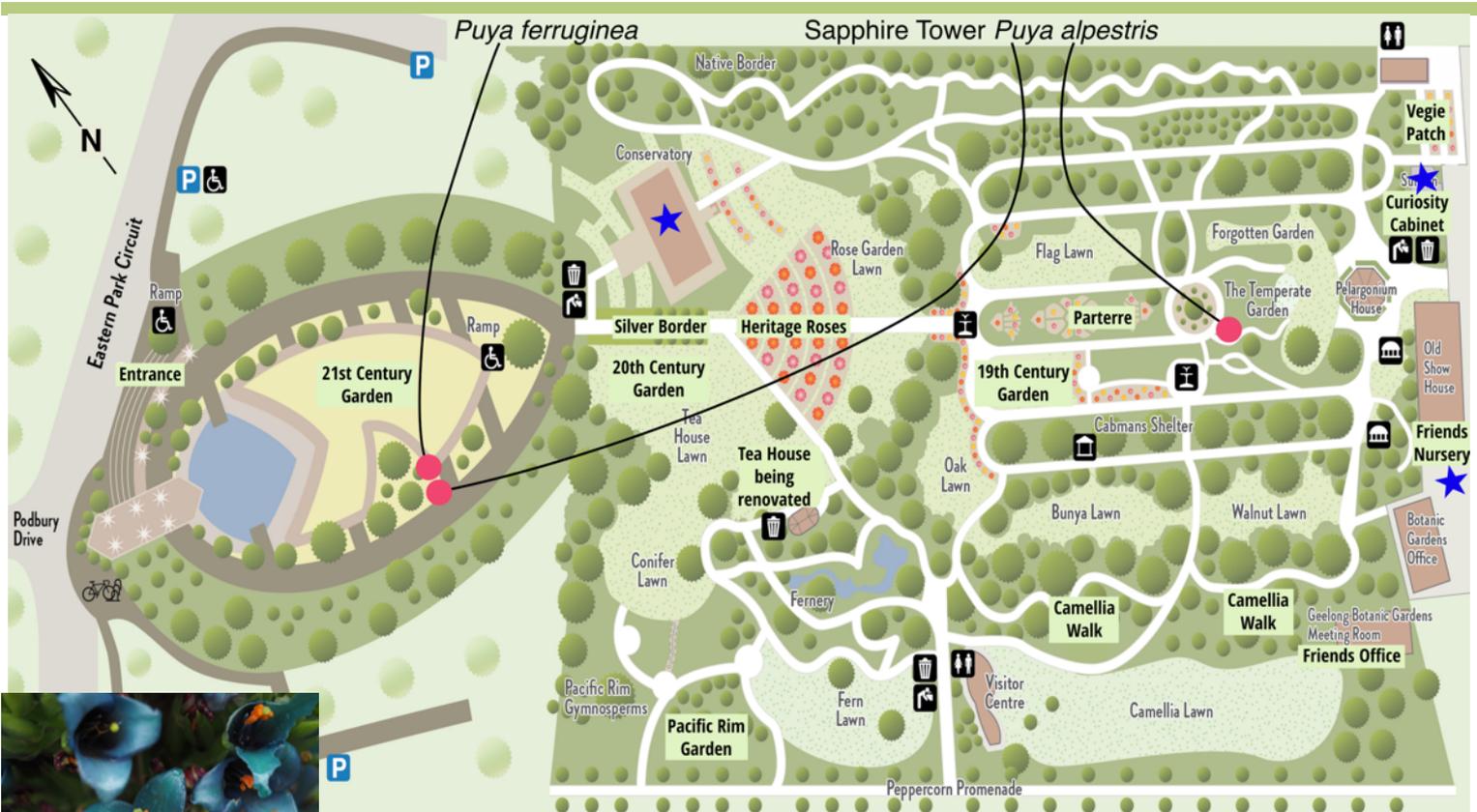
Phone: 5222 6053

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

Over page: Map showing plant locations



# Geelong Botanic Gardens map



Sapphire Tower  
*Puya alpestris*  
in flower later in the year.

This information was developed by the Volunteer Guides  
Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens.  
[www.friendsgbg.org.au](http://www.friendsgbg.org.au)  
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