

JANUARY 2014 HIGHLIGHTS IN GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

What's a frog without a pond? What's a Garden without water?

1. The Stormwater Harvesting Dam in Eastern Park collects run-off water from East Geelong. This water is filtered and treated before being pumped to storage tanks for use in the Gardens. Using recycled water reduces the Gardens reliance on town water.

For more information about water use in the GBG lookout for the information panels around the Gardens.



#2. Native grasses such as Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) once covered large areas of western Victoria. Thomas Mitchell named the region *Australia Felix* on account of the lush pastures he encountered there. Sheep and cattle also enjoyed these grasslands and less than 1% remain today. You can see kangaroo grass and other native plants of the Western Plains grasslands in the Gardens, along Podbury Crescent and around the dam. These areas do not need additional water to thrive.



#3. The Perennial Border is at its most colourful over summer. This year it will benefit from the new Garden's watering system which is being installed over winter from 2013-15. The new system is expected to reduce water consumption by up to 40% by delivering water more effectively to the plants that need it.



#4. The Traill Fountain has been part of the soundscape of the Gardens for over 100 years. Originally situated in Market Square, it was relocated to the Botanic Gardens in 1912. In summer, the flowers of the Queensland lace-bark (*Brachichiton discolor*) carpet the nearby paths and often find their way into the water.



Discovery Walk: Australia Day at the Gardens – Sunday January 26 at 2 pm

Hop In for school holiday activities. Weekdays in January

Growing Friends Nursery – open every Wednesday morning 10am-12pm

