

Garden Highlights, October 2015

1. Many plants are flowering in the Shrubbery. The **Blue Mist Flowers** *Bartlettina sordida* (previously called *Eupatorium sordidum*) have a misty appearance from the mass of light purple 'petals'. They grow in high altitude misty cloud forests of Mexico. Like most daisies their seeds are carried on the wind by a little 'parachute'.

2. The common name for the tall flower of *Doryanthes excelsa* is **Gymea Lily**. 'Gymea' is an aboriginal word thought to mean 'little bird'. Why should this be? Small (and larger) Honey-eaters love the nectar of these big, crimson flowers. Feeding birds were ready prey to be cooked and eaten!

3. A large honey-eating bird that loves the nectar of the Gymea Lily is the **Red Wattlebird** *Anthochaera carunculata*. It collects the nectar by rapidly flicking its brush-tipped tongue into the flower. In addition, this bird eats insects, other small creatures and fruit. It is also known as the Barking Bird for its loud raucous call. The trees, bushes and flowers here are a haven for birds and other animals. 52 bird species have been seen in the gardens, and 80 in or above the whole of Eastern Park and the Botanic Gardens.

4. **Giant Redwood** *Sequoiadendron giganteum*: Despite its appearance, this is a small, young tree. It was planted in 1873, only 142 year ago and weighs only about 30 tonnes. The oldest of its kind are more than 3,000 years old and the largest weigh more than 2,000 tonnes. Like Eucalypts in Australia, these trees from Western US are adapted to fire. Their bark is fire resistant, but they need fire to open the cones to release seed and to clear undergrowth for the seed to germinate.

What's on in October

Art Exhibition, 'Inspired by Nature 4', Friends School of Botanic Art,
2 to 28 October 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, art@wintergarden
51 McKillop Street, Geelong

Discovery Walk : 'Fernery fashion at the GBG'
Sunday 11 October, 2:00 pm. Gold coin donation.

Discovery Table, Sunday 18 October 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

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

The Friends Plant Sale Saturday and Sunday 24-25 October,
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

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

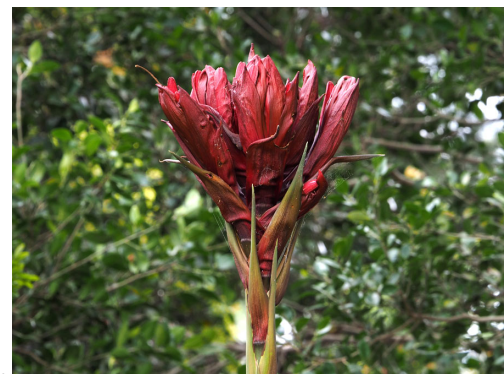
Play in the Park: Free event in the Botanic Gardens and Children's
Playspace, Tuesday 27 October 2015, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Visit the **Curiosity Cabinet** 'Soups of the Old World' display

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



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2.



3.



4.

Over page: Map showing these plants

Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



1. **Blue Mist Flowers** *Bartlettina sordida*
(previously called *Eupatorium sordidum*)
(Photo: James Gaither, Flickr.com, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)
2. **GyMEA Lily** *Doryanthes excelsa*

- ★ 3. **The Red Wattlebird** *Anthochaera carunculata*
ranges over most of the Botanic Gardens.
4. **Giant Redwood** *Sequoiadendron giganteum*



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

www.friendsgbg.org.au
www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/