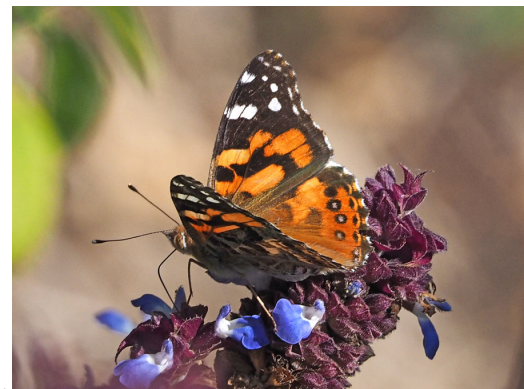


Garden Highlights, November 2015

1. Late spring and summer are good times to see animals attracted by flowers. These include butterflies like the **Australian Painted Lady *Vanessa kershawi*** shown here, dragon flies that have hatched in the garden ponds and dam, and bees that visit roses, salvias and many other plants.



1.

2. For the last few months the Central bed has been growing **Soup Plants**. These have been allowed to grow past harvest time, so they are flowering and setting seed. The yellow flowers all belong to the one species ***Brassica oleracea***, although over the last few thousand years people have bred them to become **cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, kale**, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, etc.



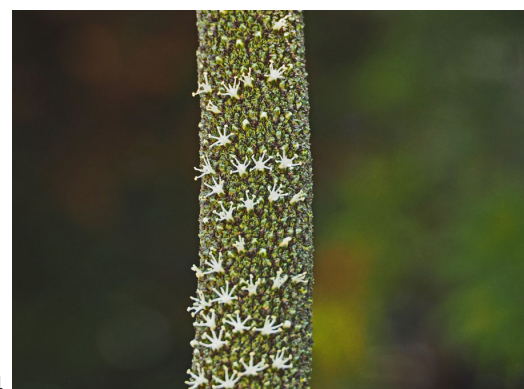
2.

3. **Bolivian Puya *Puya ferruginea*** is a Bromeliad from dry, high altitudes on poor, rocky slopes and grasslands from Ecuador south to Bolivia. Bromeliads are the most diverse of plant families. They vary from the tiny Spanish Moss *Tillandsia usneoides* to 10 m tall Queen of the Andes *Puya raimondii*. Bromeliads grow on trees in wet tropical forests and on the ground in dry deserts, and from sea level to 4,200 metres altitude. The Pineapple *Ananas comosus* is a Bromeliad.



3.

4. The **Grass trees *Xanthorrhoea* sp.** are endemic to Australia (ie. not found wild elsewhere). Flowers appear every few years, although flowering can be initiated by fire. The masses of minute white flowers often appear from the bottom, growing in spirals, with earlier flowering on the north side of the spike. You can't miss the 2-metre tall spire of flowers under the large Bunya tree.



4.

What's on in November

Self-drive **tour of four Bellarine gardens**, \$30 members, \$40 others, 9 November 10:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Book with the Friends office by Wednesday 4 November.

Discovery Walk: 'Roses Ancient and Modern'

Heritage roses in the gardens and modern roses in Pevensey Park
Sunday 22 November, 2:00 pm. Gold coin donation.

Discovery Table, Sunday 15 November 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

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

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

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

Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



1. **Butterflies** and bees are on their favourite flowers throughout the gardens.
Dragonflies seem to be constantly flying.
2. **Soup Plants** in the Central bed

- 3a. **Bolivian Puya** *Puya ferruginea*
- 3b. Other Bromeliads. Not all are in flower in November.
- 4a. Grass tree *Xanthorrhoea* species in flower.
- 4b. Other Grass trees.



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

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