

Garden Highlights, June 2016

The Geelong Gallery has an exhibition of 40 botanic art works celebrating the diversity of plants at the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Entitled '**Geelong Botanic Gardens revealed**', you can see the exhibition until Sunday 19 June, in Little Malop Street, Geelong, www.geelonggallery.org.au. These works, and a book of other botanic art, are available for purchase by contacting the office of the Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens. This month we highlight four plants from the gallery collection.

1. **Giant Spear Lilies *Doryanthes palmeri*** display spikes of red flowers up to 5 metres tall. Several spikes are developing next to the front gate. This plant and its relative the Gynea Lily *Doryanthes excelsa*, also in these gardens, do not require much water to thrive. The Gynea Lily may be available in the Friends' Nursery.

2. The **Bunya Pine *Araucaria bidwillii*** is a rainforest conifer that grows mostly in south-east Queensland, in areas where the soils are not so conducive to the growth of luxuriant forest. The *Araucaria* family was diverse and worldwide from about 200 Million years ago (Mya), but declined along with the dinosaurs 65 Mya. Despite Geelong's lower rainfall, we are lucky to have a number of these trees thriving both in the gardens and in Eastern Park. At intervals of about 5 years they produce many huge cones carrying large seed.

3. **Cotton or Petticoat Palms *Washingtonia filifera*** coming from the arid south-west of the USA are also plants that thrive on limited water. The avenue in the gardens, planted in 1960, is surrounded by a range of dry land plants with silver-grey foliage.

4. **Mountain Paw Paw *Vasconcellea pubescens*** (previously named *Carica pubescens*) is a small tree with an unusual shape (called pachycaul). It has a thick trunk for its height and few branches. In the 21st Century garden (see map) look out for plants with similar growth. These paw paws can be eaten raw, but are usually cooked.

What's on in June 2016

Discovery Walk: 'Seedy Matters - A Capsule of Life',
Sunday 12 June 2:00. Gold coin donation.

Discovery Table, Sunday 19 June 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Free Guided Walks, each Sunday 2:00 pm. No Wednesday walks.

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

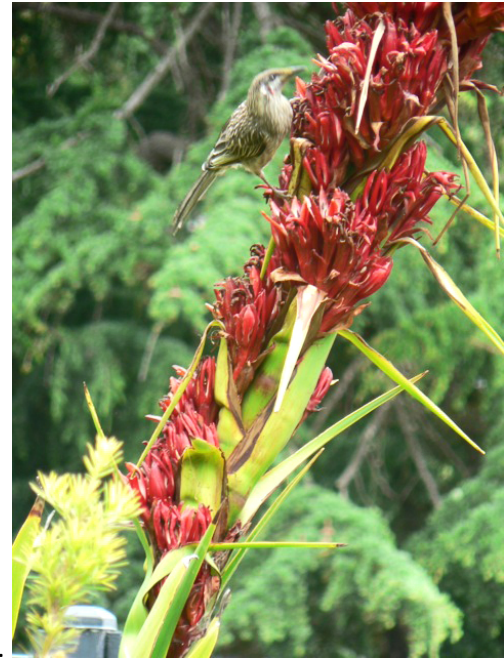
Winter Plant Sale, weekend 30-31 July.

Botanic Art Exhibition. See details in the first paragraph above.

School Holidays program and free trails. See GBG website.

The Curiosity Cabinet is displaying 'Superfoods' and pulses.

The Tea House is open every day.



1.



2.



3.



4.



Over page:
Map showing these plants

www.friendsgbg.org.au
Phone: 5222 6053
www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg

Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



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

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www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/