

Garden Highlights, November 2016

1. The **Princess Tree** *Paulownia tomentosa* is named for the Russian princess Anna Paulowna who became queen consort of the Netherlands at the end of the 18th century. This tree, from China and neighbouring countries, is widely grown for its light, durable timber that is used for musical instruments, boats, surfboards and building materials. In ideal conditions the timber can be cut after only 8 years of growth. In Australia this, and government tax incentives, encouraged a number of forestry schemes. Investors in unsuccessful ones lost more than \$1 billion.

1.



2. November is the best month for rose flowers. The **Heritage rose garden** traces the development of roses from the original wild species through to a modern favourite, the white 'Iceberg'. As many wild roses originate from China it is not surprising that the Chinese began improving the flowers a very long time ago. Roses have been prized for millennia. They feature in a palace frieze on Crete from 1,600 BC.

Begin at the lowest beds where you can see some wild species and the results of early breeders. As you walk up the beds, it is interesting to note the development of the flowers, beginning with 5 petals, increasing to 10, then onwards to 20 or more. Look at the prickles! The breeders have made it easier for us to cut the flowers and prune the plants. If you return in later months, you may also notice that many of the wild and early roses have finished, but the more recent ones are still flowering.

2a.



Don't forget about the fragrance. You may notice that some breeders didn't or couldn't preserve this feature we so treasure. Towards the middle you will see some roses from Australia's most famous breeder, Alister Clarke, of Bulla, near Melbourne. His roses thrive in our hot summers. If you would like to see yet more modern roses, visit Pevensey Park on Malop Street and Pevensey Crescent, about 600 m west of the Botanic Gardens entrance.

What's on in November 2016 (More details on Friends website)

Botanical Art Workshop 'The Year of the Fern', Weekend

5 - 6 November, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Booking: Friends office.

Through the Garden Gates, Monday 7 November, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Tickets: Friends office.

2b.



Discovery Table, Sunday 20 November 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Discovery Walk : 'The First Australians', Sunday 27 November, 2:00 pm.

Gold coin donation.

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

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

The Curiosity Cabinet is displaying 'Super foods' and pulses

The Tea House is open every day.

2c.



Over page: Map showing these plants and rose names

Geelong Botanic Gardens Map

