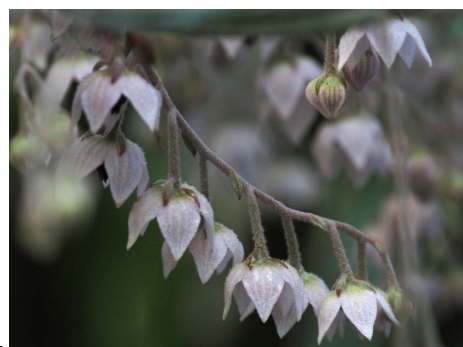


Garden Highlights, September 2017

Many Australian plants flower in late winter and early spring. While there are some Australian plants with bold flowers in these gardens, this month we highlight some subtle flowers and other features of Australian plants.

1. All species of **Thomasia** are native to the well-drained soils of south-west of WA, except one. If you look closely in the nearby beds you will see several of its close relatives in flower this month. They all have similar flowers, but some are quite tiny. *Thomasia* plants may be available in the Friends Nursery.



2. The **Sheoaks and Bull-oaks Allocasuarina** have separate male and female flowers. The male flowers are often in rusty orange tassels hanging from the ends of branches. The female flowers are smaller, but often vivid red as shown in the photo. Like legumes, Sheoak roots have nodules containing bacteria that take nitrogen from the air and make it available to improve the tree's growth in very poor soil. Listen for the murmur when wind blows through the Sheoak's distinctive leaves.



3. **Hop Goodenia Goodenia ovata** is native to the area around Geelong. It is growing in an area of these gardens devoted to plants from Buckley Falls, on the Barwon River, about 6km west of here.



4. **Palm Lily Cordyline fruticosa** (previously named *Cordyline terminalis*) is native to northern Cape York Peninsula, Southern Pacific and Indian Oceans. Its starchy rhizomes, which are very sweet when the plant is mature, were eaten as food or as medicine. The leaves were used for roof thatching and clothing.



5. The **Soft Tree Fern Dicksonia antarctica** grows in high rainfall areas and in well-watered valleys throughout Eastern Australia. Surprisingly for a plant with such delicate leaflets, this tree fern copes well with bushfire. After being scorched, it quickly begins to reshoot. If you look around this damp forest and fern garden you may see other ferns growing new fronds that gradually unroll from their crosiers.



What's on in September 2017 (More details on Friends or Gardens websites)

'What's New at the GBG? Seeds, Hedges and History' Discovery Walk,
Sunday 10 September 2:00 pm. Gold coin donation.

Discovery Table, Sunday 17 September 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Friends Bus Trip to Castlemaine, Thursday 28 September.

'Inspired by Nature 5' Botanical Art Exhibition, Wintergarden Cafe,
51 McKillop Street, Geelong, opens Friday 29 September

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

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

The Geelong Botanic Gardens offers a range of **Educational Programs**
for classes from Primary and Secondary Schools, and beyond.

See the display of **African Succulents,** in the Curiosity Cabinet.

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

Over page: Map showing plant locations



www.friendsgbg.org.au

Phone: 5222 6053

www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/

Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



Hop Goodenia
Goodenia ovata

Palm Lily
Cordyline fruticosa
(previously named
Cordyline terminalis)

Soft Tree Fern
Dicksonia antarctica
and other ferns

Australian plants

**Geelong Botanic Gardens
Highlights September 2017**

