

Garden Highlights, November 2017

1. November is the best month for rose flowers. The **Heritage rose garden** traces the development of roses from the original wild species through to twentieth century varieties. 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 the Mediterranean Island of 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.

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 Clark, 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.

2. The small flowers of the **Ligiri Tree *Idesia polycarpa*** hang like a bunch of grapes. The tree here is male. If both sexes had been planted, the female flowers would have been followed by bunches of striking red, edible berries.

3. There are two Horse Chestnut trees in these gardens. The **Red Horse Chestnut *Aesculus × carnea*** (3) is a garden hybrid. The photo shows its red flowers inherited from one parent. Like its other parent, the Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*, the scars left on twigs after leaves have fallen show a distinctive horseshoe shape, complete with seven "nails". The **Indian Horse Chestnut *Aesculus indica***, is rare in Victorian gardens. Despite their name, the Horse Chestnuts are only very distant relatives of the edible Sweet Chestnut and the nuts of the Horse Chestnut varieties are poisonous.

What's on in November 2017 (More details on Friends website)

'Through the Garden Gates' tour of 4 gardens, Monday 6 November, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, \$30, \$40. Booking essential.

'Heritage Trees and the Artists' view' Discovery Walk, Sunday 12 November 2:00 pm. Gold coin donation.

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

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

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

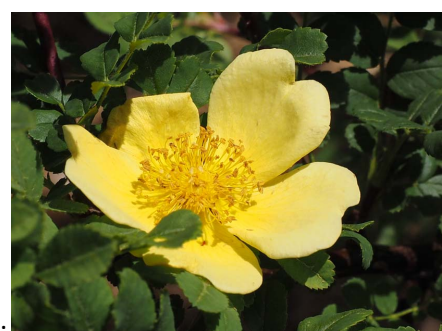
'Geelong Botanic Gardens – a local treasure' University of the Third Age (U3A) course, advance notice, February 2018.

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

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



1a.



1b.



2.



3.

Over page: Map showing plant locations

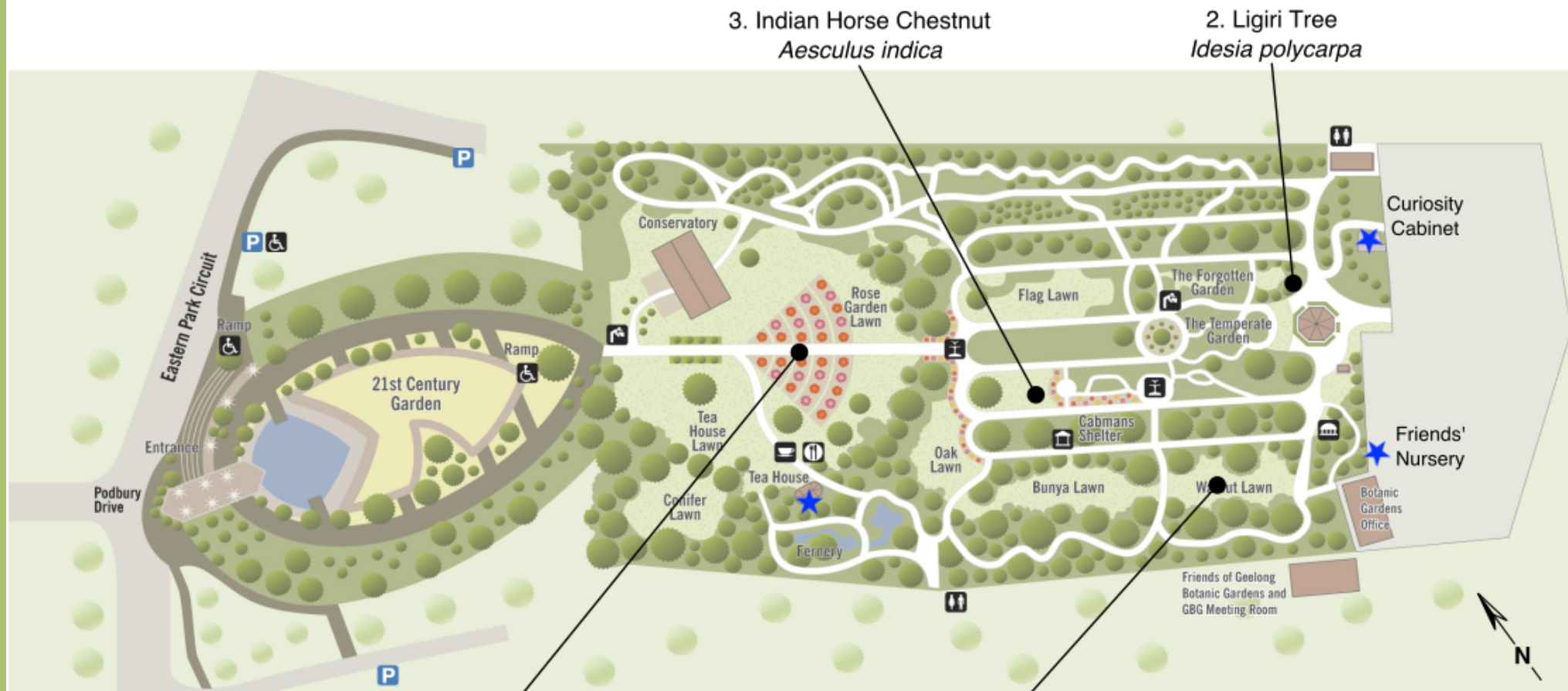


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Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



- Heritage Rose Garden (10 beds)
 1a. Rosa 'Lordly Oberon' (Breeder: David Austin 1983)
 1b. Rosa 'Canary Bird' (Breeder unknown c1900)

3. Red Horse Chestnut
Aesculus x carnea

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