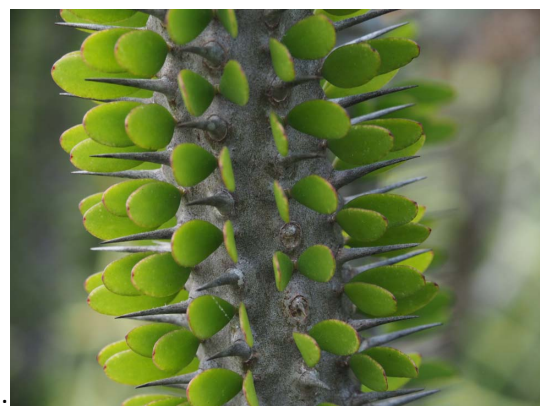


Garden Highlights, February 2018

1. The **Spiral Thorn Tree** *Alluaudia procera* is one of the many unique plants of Madagascar. They grow in the hot dry Spiny Forest of South West Madagascar, where the rainfall is similar to Geelong's but the temperature is much higher, straddling the Tropic of Capricorn. Some species of lemur climb the thorns to eat the leaves and even rest in the clefts between branches, protected from birds of prey by the thorns.



1.

2. The **Cycad** *Cycas taiwaniana* (photo), from mainland China, and other Cycads have well-developed female cones: Burrawang *Macrozamia communis* and Pineapple Zamia *Lepidozamia peroffskyana* from the coastal forests of Eastern Australia, and Eastern Cape Cycad *Encephalartos altensteinii* from South Africa. Although many Cycads look like palms, they are very different. Cycads first grew long before there were any flowering plants like palms. Their closest relative is the Maiden Hair Tree *Ginkgo biloba*.



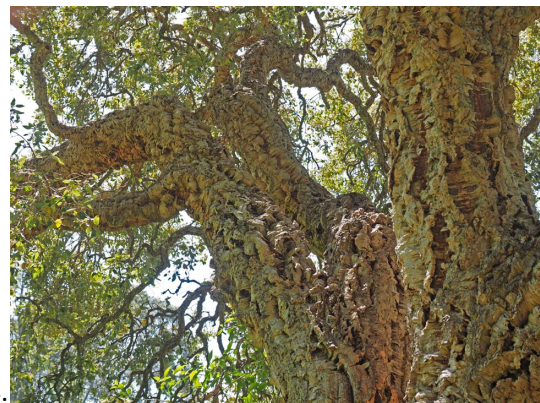
2.

3. **Palm Lily** *Cordyline fruticosa* (photo) was introduced to New Zealand and Hawaii by Polynesian settlers so they could eat its starchy roots. It is another plant that looks like a palm. However it is in the Asparagus family, along with the Pony Tail Palm *Beaucarnea recurvata* and Spice Lily *Manfreda maculosa* both growing in these gardens.



3.

4. **Cork Oak** *Quercus suber* grows thick layers of dead cells in the outer part of its bark. These layers of corky bark are harvested to produce cork wine stoppers, flooring, shoes and other products. To ensure the tree is not harmed, the cork must be harvested, manually, in the correct weather conditions. Thick cork is clearly visible on the tree in these gardens.



4.

What's on in February 2018

(Booking and more details on Friends website or office)

Painting the modern garden: Monet to Matisse, Fundraiser film night, Tuesday 6 February 7:00 pm. Book at Friends Office.

Our Multi-Cultural Garden, Themed guided walk, Sunday 11 February 2:00 pm, Gold coin donation.

The History of Botanical Art with Dolores Skowronski-Malloni, Monday 26 February 5:30 for 6:00 pm. \$5 members, \$10 others. Book by 21 February.

Discovery Table, Sundays 4 and 18 February 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Free Guided Walks,

each Wednesday 11:00am, Saturday and Sunday 2:00pm.

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

Of the plants highlighted, *Ginkgo* and *Cordyline* may be available at the Friends Nursery.

See the **African Succulents** display 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

