

Garden Highlights, May 2018

1. **Rabbit Ears** *Ruttya fruticosa* comes from the high country of tropical East Africa where the weather is not too different from Geelong. It is also called Jammy Mouth for its dark shiny 'mouth'. In Africa, the sweet nectar hidden inside attracts hovering sunbirds and insects. It is usually available in the Friends' Nursery.



2. **Dawn Redwood** *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* is one of only 20 species of conifers that lose their leaves. Leaves of this tree turn bronze-yellow and then brown before dropping, leaving the tall straight trunk with short thin branches. The Dawn Redwood was only discovered by botanists, in China, during the second world War.

1.

3. **Rose hips** develop from flowers that have been pollinated. The Heritage roses growing in the lower rose beds produce more hips than the more recent breeds in the beds up higher. Rose hips are used to make jellies and a range of drinks including rose hip tea, either on their own or in blends with other fruits, and in Cockta, the national soft drink of Slovakia. The rose hip in the photo was bred in France, c1879, and named **Rosa 'Honorine de Brabant'**.



2.

4. Today, plants face many threats in their native environments - including weeds, habitat destruction and loss of pollinators. Even garden plants need protection as many private gardens don't survive for more than one generation. Botanic Gardens conserve plants for future generations. These gardens grow a broad collection of **Salvias**. A lot of Salvias are easy to grow and reward the gardener with flowers for much of the year. You can find many of them in the Friends' Nursery.



3.

What's on in May 2018

(Booking and more details: Friends website or office)

Themed Guided Walk:

'The First Australians: Wathaurong Country'

Sunday 13 May 2:00 pm. Gold coin donation.

Discovery Table: Sundays 6 and 27 May 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Volunteer Week Lunch and Presentation

'Guerrilla Gardening' Wednesday 23 May.

Botanic Gardens Day, Sunday 27 May,

Activities for children and adults.

Free Guided Walks: Wednesday 11:00 am,

Saturday and Sunday 2:00 pm.

Friends Nursery is open

each Wednesday 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

See the **African Succulents display**

in the Curiosity Cabinet.

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



4.

Over page: Map showing plant locations



www.friendsgbg.org.au

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www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/

Geelong Botanic Gardens Map

