

# Garden Highlights January 2015

To celebrate our National Day, this month we highlight some Australian plants. You may see the trees planted in streets.

**1. The Flame Tree, Kurrajong and their relatives, *Brachychiton*,** are well-represented in these gardens. Two examples with spectacular pink flowers are the Pink Flame Tree *Brachychiton x roseus* and the Queensland Lacebark *Brachychiton discolor* (top photo). Both large specimens are National Trust registered trees. More subtle, are the flowers of the young Queensland Bottle Trees *Brachychiton rupestris*.



1

**2. The Spotted Gum *Corymbia maculata*** is a large National Trust registered tree planted next to the Pink Flame Tree. Spotted gums grow in the coastal hills from far East Victoria into NSW. Proceeding further north in NSW and southern Queensland these tree morph into their relative the Lemon-scented Gums *Corymbia citriodora*.



2

**3. The Kanooka or Water Gum *Tristaniopsis laurina*** usually grows as a small street tree, like the ones in these gardens. In forest it can be much taller. They are related to Eucalyptus and Corymbia, but, unlike these relatives, the Kanooka doesn't lose its petals when the flowers open. It grows from Gippsland to the Brisbane River.



3

**4. The Rounded Noon Flower *Disphyma crassifolium*** is a low succulent shrub planted en masse in the centre of the 21st Century Garden. It is native to New Zealand, Australia and South Africa although the South African sub-species is a little different. You will see it growing in salty areas including coastal dunes and flats like the nearby Cheetham Wetlands. It can be purchased in the Friends' Nursery.



4

## What's on in January

- **Pelargoniums** flowering in the Pelargonium House.
- The Friends' **Nursery is open** each Wednesday, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm.
- **Discovery Table** Sundays 18 and 25 January, 1.00 pm.
- **Guided Walks** other Sundays 2.00 pm, Wednesdays 11.00 am.
- Come and see '**Alice in Never Never Land**' at the Gardens on Friday 2 January 5.00 pm and Saturday 3 January at 10.30 am. Booking essential : <http://shakespeareaustralia.com.au/alice-in-never-neverland/>
- Shakespeare's play '**As You Like It**' 17 and 18 January 4.00 pm. Bookings: <http://www.ozact.com> or 0419 330 516
- In the **Curiosity Cabinet** see the **Mad Hatter's Tea Party**.
- Follow the **Butterfly Trail** around the gardens.
- The **Tea House** is open every day.

# Geelong Botanic Gardens Map



- 1a. Pink Flame Tree *Brachychiton x roseus*
- 1b. Queensland Lacebark *Brachychiton discolor*
- 1c. Queensland Bottle Trees *Brachychiton rupestris*

- 2. Spotted Gum *Corymbia maculata*
- 3. Kanooka or Water Gum *Tristanopsis laurina* x 2
- 4. Rounded Noon Flower *Disphyma crassifolium*



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This information was developed by the Volunteer Guides  
Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

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