

Garden Highlights, October 2017

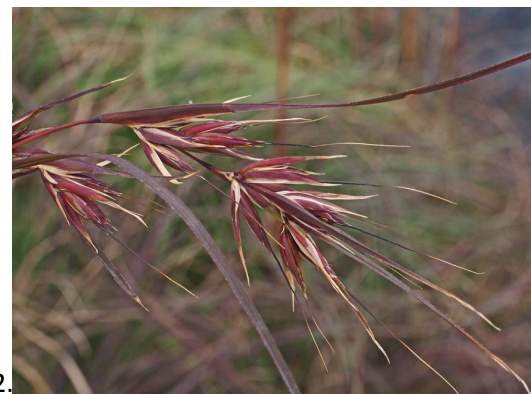
Grasslands are among the world's most endangered environments. The grasslands of Victoria are no different. Since Europeans arrived, many widespread species have become rare. To help address this problem the Geelong Botanic Gardens is working with Greening Australia to produce seed of some of these uncommon plants. The seed will be used to restore grasslands in protected areas. Visit the seed production beds to see some of these plants in flower.

1. Individual flowers of **Bulbine Lily** *Bulbine bulbosa* last a day, with flowers opening progressively up the flower spike. This plant is one of 3 growing in these beds that were eaten by Aborigines. Another is the Murnong *Microseris lanceolata*. The corms and tubers of both these plants were preferred cooked.



1.

2. **Kangaroo grass** *Themeda triandra* was used by Aborigines to make flour for baking. An aboriginal group has begun cultivating this grass to produce bread. Unlike most grains we eat, Kangaroo grass is perennial, surviving for many decades and with roots extending up to 2 metres into the soil. This month, a few seed heads remain from the last harvest. Flowering will begin again in December and January.



2.

4. Is it a sculpture or a dead plant? It is neither. It is a **Coral tree** *Erythrina*, so named for the coral shape of the branches. Coral trees are often pruned close to the trunk to control their size and promote dense growth. This pruning style, called pollarding, has been used for more than 2,000 years.



3.

What's on in October 2017

(More details on Friends or Gardens websites)

'Fern Fever' Discovery Walk, Sunday 8 October, 2:00 pm.
Gold coin donation.

Discovery Table, Sunday 15 October 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Spring Plant Sale, Friends Nursery,
Weekend 28-29 October 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.

'Inspired by Nature 5' **Botanical Art Exhibition**, Wintergarden Cafe,
51 McKillop Street, Geelong, till Sunday 29 October

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.



4.



Over page: Map showing plant locations

www.friendsgbg.org.au

Phone: 5222 6053

www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/

Geelong Botanic Gardens Map

