

Jubaea

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc. Newsletter

June 2024 Volume 24 Issue 2



FRIENDS OF
GEELONG
BOTANIC
GARDENS



Some of the dynamic Weeders Team

VOLUNTEER WEEDER'S TEAM MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Weeders is the newest volunteer group of the Friends. Established a little over two years ago, we are a lively group, dedicated to maintaining and keeping the Geelong Botanic Gardens tidy. The group currently has 9 members, and our four-legged mascot Errol (pictured) is a regular attendee. The group meets every Wednesday morning. The first mission of the day is to check the board to see what location and task our GBG Supervisor has allocated for us. Although our main role is to support the GBG staff with weed management, other duties can include pruning, harvesting vegetables and assisting other

volunteer groups when requested. Our work involves liaising closely with the staff and there is satisfaction in knowing that our efforts enable them to focus on other horticultural activities and projects within the gardens.

It's Wednesday morning, what will today's location and task be? The tradescantia that is enveloping the Native Border has been selected again. With garden implements in hand and under the watchful eye of Errol, it's down to work. After two hours a mountain of the pesky weed has been removed and a coffee at the Teahouse beckons.

Marg Oats

21st CENTURY GARDEN - A REVIEW IN TIME

Following an invitation from the Friends, I returned to the lovely Geelong Botanic Gardens on 1 May to speak to volunteers and GBG staff about my design work for the 21st Century Garden and surrounds.

In large part this address enabled me to determine how well my work had stood up after twenty years of active use. I should say that informally I have been a frequent visitor because of my professional involvement and because I really enjoy being there.

Generally speaking, I am pleased with both the design and implementation of the plan for these works. This is in large part due to thorough research, stakeholder consultation and clear established design principles, which preceded conceptual design work. A number of these design principles are set out below and then measured against what has been built on the ground.



Placing the *Dracaena draco* Dragon Tree April 2002



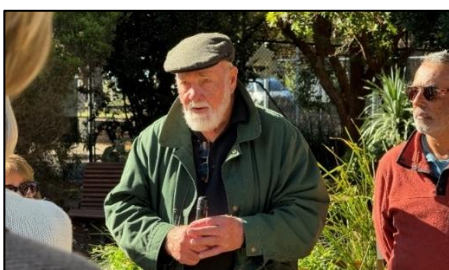
The entrance of Geelong Botanic Gardens December 2002



Creation of the steel sculptures off site March 2002



Aerial view of the 21st Century Garden April 2003



Designer of the 21st Century Garden
Chris Dance
May 2024

Design Principles

1. "The new gardens should be clearly visible from Eastern Beach Road and Garden Street and should be recognized as a major cultural element in the Public Domain of Geelong." What has been built surpasses that requirement; Podbury Driveway constitutes an entry progression culminating at the 21st Century entry steps, dramatic bottle trees and steel sculptures. The Podbury Drive landscape is eye catching and contrasts sharply with the surrounding parkland.

2. "The new extended gardens need to interconnect with the foreshore open space network and visually link to Corio Bay" This objective has been met.

3. "The 21st Century Garden landscape should both contrast with, yet complement, the neighbouring 19th Century Gardens." In my judgement this goal is well met by the new sunken garden. It is manifestly Australian in its use of local materials, spatial design and landscape character; it is perhaps the antithesis of the 19th Century (English Landscape School) gardens.

I take this opportunity to thank the Friends and the GBG staff for their dedication and hard work without which this important cultural destination would barely exist.

Chris Dance

GARDEN CAFÉ - CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

My name is Kira, and I am the proud independent owner of WYM, the newest café to operate in the Botanic Gardens.

When the opportunity first appeared, I was immediately drawn to the potential to operate within such a recognisable space... it had me captured. However, I didn't wholly appreciate or realise the significant history and stories it contains. From the founding of the Friends' Teahouse by volunteers, to the other independent tenants over the more recent years, who have been involved throughout the journey. We feel so lucky with to be welcomed and supported in this new venture by the community.



Kira in front of the old teahouse now called 'Where You Meet' Cafe

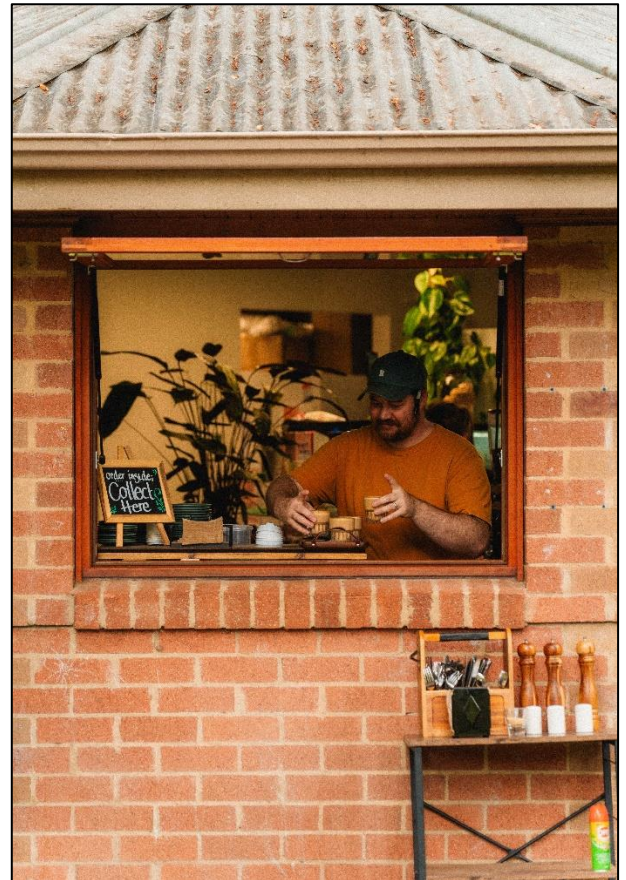
In fact, the community is my favourite aspect of this whole experience. We have already got to know many of the Gardens' regulars, and we hope that we've helped to grow the community by bringing in others to discover and appreciate the beautiful Gardens too. It fills me with pride to be a part of it all and I'm excited for WYM to continue to develop into a place that enriches everyone's experience here.

Like all good ventures, they are rarely undertaken alone, and this is certainly the case here. WYM has a small and dedicated team driving it with over 90 years of experience collectively in the hospitality world. From specialty coffee training to head-chefing, cocktail bartending to owning/managing cafes, bars, pubs and restaurants alike. Consider it another stroke of luck that we have established such an amazing team to help build WYM to be the best it can be.

Even the connections we've made along our journeys have allowed us to source some of the best local suppliers. These friends include:

- La Madre Bakery and Love Tea in South Geelong
- Honeybird Coffee Roasters up in North Geelong
- Istra Smallgoods near Daylesford
- Zeally Bay Sourdough and Shanti Soulfoods from Torquay

Together we bring an extensive expertise, focusing our skill sets on the finer details. Our passion is to create quality in everything that we do.



The café now has a lovely service window for ease of ordering and serving

With over 15 years in hospitality, I have worked in almost every role imaginable around the world. My journey didn't stop there; I'm also a horticulturist with years of experience at Wombat Gully, where I discovered a passion for bringing people together in nature. This passion inspired me to start my own Garden Design business where I advise on landscaping homes to encourage the connection of the entire family with the outdoors. When I'm not working, I still love to bake, spend time with furry friends, draw, and immerse myself in the ocean or head up the mountains. I was born on the Mornington Peninsula but have called the Surf Coast and Geelong home for many years now. This cafe feels like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, a beautiful blend of all my experiences and passions.

Still, we like to think of WYM as more than just a café. It's a peaceful place to slow down and escape the hustle and bustle. It's a versatile space to gather with the whole family over a picnic or bite to eat. It's a sanctuary in which you can simply just sip, and reconnect with nature.

This is what 'WYM' stands for. WYM is 'Where You Meet'.

Kira Hunn

ANNIE MCGEACHY - OUR AMAZING FRIEND

Annie joined the Friends (FGBG) in 1991 and for 33 years has given of her time, energy and exceptional skills to enable the FGBG to become the strong professional community organisation we are today.

A weekend seminar for Friends of Regional Botanic Gardens hosted by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in 1991 had a profound influence on 6 members of our Friends. They were fuelled with enthusiasm to raise the profile of the Geelong Botanic Gardens (GBG). At this time the Geelong City Council did not have the appetite or funds for GBG improvements and the Friends were encouraged to assist by Director Ian Rogers.

In 1992 the Association of Friends of Victorian Botanic Gardens was formed. Annual Conferences were to be hosted by Regional Gardens with Ballarat hosting in 1993 followed by Geelong in 1994.

Annie joined the FGBG committee at the AGM in April 1992 and became part of a strong leadership unit with President Jayne Salmon and Treasurer John Clutterbuck. Annie was Secretary from 1995-2000.

In May 1993, 6 small Municipal Councils in the Geelong Region were amalgamated and four Commissioners were appointed by the State Government to oversee the change. FGBG leadership took the opportunity to ask Commissioner Bill Dix if a Conservation Analysis/Review of the GBG could be undertaken. He requested a brief to be written by GBG Director Ian Rogers.

The Conference 'Growing Together towards 2000' was hosted by FGBG for the Association in May 1994. Chief Commissioner Dix opened proceedings and announced that a comprehensive study of the Geelong Botanic Gardens would be undertaken. FGBG was to contribute \$10,000 and the City an equal amount. The Conference was a huge success, the Director of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and the President of Adelaide Friends presented inspirational papers. The Geelong Friends professionally organised everything and Annie was very involved.

Chris Dance Land Design was chosen to undertake the study of the GBG and in December 1995 his comprehensive Master Plan and Conservation Analysis for the future development of the Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park was accepted by Council along with the recommendation that an Advisory Committee be set up to implement Stage 1. Annie and Jayne represented FGBG at the first meeting held in April 1996.

In September 1995 Annie and Jayne attended the 4th International Botanic Gardens Conservation Congress in Perth. The Congress was attended by 300 delegates from 40 different

countries. It was extremely stimulating and during workshop sessions the importance of Friends Groups to many Botanic Gardens was discussed. Anne and Jayne were able to speak about the Friends' involvement and achievements at the GBG. Through our representation on the Advisory Committee, FGBG initiated projects for the Gardens through the State Government compulsory competitive tendering process. Annie's technical brilliance came to the fore with the writing of successful grant applications on behalf of FGBG and GBG.



Jayne Salmon and Annie McGeachy accepting an award from Heritage Council of Victoria, Stuart Macintyre, in August 2019. The award recognises the Friends' work educating the community about Geelong Botanic Gardens and preserving the heritage of its site.

As well as securing grant applications for the FGBG and GBG, Annie also assisted with raising the profile of the GBG by supporting many of our special projects including hosting of travelling Art Exhibitions: *It's a Rare Thing* at Geelong Gallery in January 1995, *Nature Personified* at the Gordon Gallery in 2003 and *Hidden in Plain View* at the Gordon Gallery in 2009. A new brochure for the GBG & Friends was produced in 1998 and important directional signage for the GBG was secured. Nothing was impossible if GBG and FGBG were to benefit.

The framed historic photographs on display in the Meeting Room were organised by Annie for the Exhibition at the Geelong Gallery to celebrate the opening of our second Association of Friends Conference hosted by the Friends in 2001, 'Bunce, Bunyas and Beyond'.

Annie joined the Voluntary Guides in 2004 and shared her history and plant knowledge of the GBG with great enthusiasm to Friends and visitors.

In 2005 Annie became secretary of the Australian Association of Friends Committee (AAFBG) which had expanded from the Victorian Association to include Friends of Botanic Gardens from all over Australia and New Zealand. Membership increased dramatically under Annie's direction. It now numbers 60 member groups.

Annie was awarded an Honorary Life Membership of FGBG in 2001 and a Membership of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2016. The awards acknowledged the remarkable contribution of her tireless voluntary work for Botanic Gardens and the Friends.

I have been on this Botanic Gardens journey with Annie as a volunteer for over 33 years and it has been truly quite remarkable. Annie is a wonderful Friend to all and we wish her well in her retirement from active service.

Jayne Salmon OAM

FGBG HISTORY TIMELINE

The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens will reach a milestone in November 2025. They have been contributing to the Geelong Botanic Gardens for 40 years, with their advocacy, financial support and friendship.

A few years ago, it was suggested that a history of the Friends needed to be written, whilst some of our original members could still tell their story. Various ideas were discussed including a book, but finding the right author and funding the idea in the digital age with a smallish audience would prove a financial challenge.

Ian Rogers published *Kangaroo Grassland to Geelong Botanic Gardens* in 2018 which told the history of the gardens in pictures and words, so the idea of a detailed timeline grew.

Annie McGeachy, one of the original members of the Friends, tackled the first 25 years until 2010. She used memory as well as the early newsletters, Jubaea and minutes of meetings over that period. The task of continuing the story until 2025 has been taken up by volunteer library staff using the same tools as well as talking to members. It has been a fascinating exercise to look back at the accomplishments of this wonderful group of friends, and I mean this in the widest sense, as they include the Friends, GBG staff, CoGG councillors and others over the period.

It is interesting to note that without the advocacy, hard work and fundraising by the Friends the following might not have happened:

- A year after forming the first Guides were trained to take visitors for tours of the GBG.
- The Perennial Border, first suggested by Ian Rogers in 1988 and begun in 1989 by Friends volunteers, who managed the design and planting with staff support.
- The Teahouse began in a tent in 1990. The current building opened in 1992 and was staffed for 19 years by Friends with a paid coordinator and a large pool of volunteers.

- The Growers Nursery was started in 1992 to fundraise by propagating and selling plants.
- An Aged Care Building was relocated at the Friends cost to GBG. By October 1996 it was refurbished as an Office for the Friends, GBG Director and meeting space. In 2002 Friends moved to the current ATCO building which they managed, for not-for-profit organisations. It became and still is a horticultural hub.
- A Master Plan for the GBG was suggested and strongly advocated by Friends in 1993. The idea was supported by CoGG and accepted by Council 1995. The result was the Chris Dance Master Plan for the 21st Century Garden. John Arnott was appointed GBG curator to oversee work on the 21st Century Garden.
- Music in the Gardens began in 1999 and ran until paperwork and red tape made it uneconomic for a group of volunteers to support. It was a highlight on Summer evenings for the community of Geelong.
- A Schools Education Program was introduced. Friends' Guides designed an education kit used by teachers and schools. Ro Noone was employed by the Friends and worked as a part time Education Officer for a number of years, before the current arrangement for schools' education. The Friends then contributed \$50,000 over five years to assist in running the program.
- In 2009 Jayne Salmon was awarded an OAM for service to the Geelong Community through her work for Friends and GBG.
- In planning for the future of the Gardens the Friends established a Gift Fund early in 2000s which in 2013 became an official Trust Fund into which tax deductible donations could be made to annually benefit the GBG.

During all this time the Friends have applied for grants and provided their own funds for multiple restoration projects and many other items within the Gardens and Eastern Park. The list is extensive. The work of the Friends will continue over the next years with our dedicated group of volunteers.

Luanne Thornton

FGBG EVENTS RECAP

Compiling the Friends' history relied on past Jubaeas which provided details that were accurate, edited and fact checked and is an important record of the Friend's history and events.

Adding to that history, the 2024 Events Program is in full swing and attendance by the public and members has been wonderful.

Gail Thomas attracted a very interested audience for her talk about early Geelong vignerons and orchardists and those attending enjoyed a very pleasant evening with supper. Learning a little more of our history makes us all understand and appreciate how far we have come. A precis of her talk will be found in this issue.



A selection of fungi from the forest floor



Fungi photo taken by Pammi Pryor

This year we welcomed 100 senior members of the public for a guided walk through the Gardens and morning tea, as part of the City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) 2023 Seniors Festival. Each year participants are genuinely delighted with this event, and many said they are looking forward to next year. Many thanks to the Guides who assisted the Events Team with this popular event and thanks also to the City of Geelong for the grant that enabled us to provide catering by the community run East Geelong Hub.

The Greenvale Coach Tour in March was an interesting day, visiting places unknown to many participants. The *Alister Clark Memorial Rose Garden* at Bulla gave a glimpse into the history of the world-famous roses bred at Clark's property *Glenara* nearby, some of which are in our own Heritage Rose Garden. *Villa Verde* in Greenvale was a revelation into the gardening passion of a very vibrant lady, with an eclectic garden full of artwork and surprises. *Newport Lakes Reserve* was a new part of the world for many and will be a lovely place to return to for walks.

The Volunteer soup lunch in May is always enjoyed by volunteers and GBG staff. This year Deputy Mayor Anthony Aitken thanked the staff and volunteers for their dedication to the Gardens. Designer of the 21st Century Garden, Chris Dance, charmed everyone with a witty talk about his career and the inspiration behind the garden.

Our coach tour to engage with fungi at Forrest in the Otway Ranges was as much fun and as fascinating as we were sure it would be. We learnt so much about the different kinds of fungi and how to identify them; but the fun was in searching through the forest and leaf litter to find them. Lunch at Da Teta and afternoon tea at the lake at Colac finished a day of glorious sunshine and good company. It was particularly nice to welcome several new members who joined us for the first time.

Many thanks to all who have supported these events and we look forward to welcoming many more new attendees at events on the rest of the year's calendar.

Allison Martland and the Events Team



FGBG GIFT FUND



The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund is registered with the Australian Taxation Office to receive donations, which are tax-deductible. The Gift Fund currently has \$ 407,568.27

This Fund may only be used to support special projects and programs within, and initiated by, Geelong Botanic Gardens. It may not be used to support the Friends or Friends activities.

To make a donation to the GIFT FUND online
go to the Friends' website www.friendsgbg.org.au

GEELONG SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL ART

Congratulations are extended to Amanda Blake Sutterby and Niki Coates for being invited to participate, for the first time, in the Florilegium Society's current project. John Pastoriza-Pinól's artwork has already been accepted by the Society as has work by Deb Chirnside and Rosemary Donnelly. A total of six artists from our school are associated with Florilegia around the world.



Artwork by Rosemary Donnelly
Prunus persica 'Versicolor' Ornamental Variegated Flowering Peach
From the Northern Tropics of Hawaii Florilegium. ©RBG,DT



John Pastoriza-Pinol with his artwork *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* Blueberry Ash at The Royal Botanic Gardens of Sydney Florilegium Exhibition.

From King Charles' Highgrove Florilegium (John Pastoriza-Pinól), to Transylvania Florilegium (John Pastoriza-Pinól), and the Northern Tropics of Hawaii Florilegium (John Pastoriza-Pinól, Amanda Ahmed, Rosemary Donnelly). We are very proud of these talented artists.

What is a Florilegium? It is an artistic record of rare and endangered plants growing in a specific area such as a botanic garden. They provide visual records that are botanically and scientifically detailed, invaluable information for botanists, gardeners and conservationists, among others.

Pammi Pryor



GSBA artists Niki Coates, Corinna May and tutor John Pastoriza-Pinol at the Florilegium Exhibition in Sydney



A close up of John's artwork
Elaeocarpus reticulatus Blueberry Ash

FIVE EUCALYPTS NEAR THE ENTRANCE OF THE GARDENS

If you are bringing overseas visitors to the Geelong Botanic Gardens and want to show them 'gum trees', there are five near the entrance which showcase a range of trunks, leaves, growth habits and fire survival strategies. They vary from rare to common to iconic and in locality of origin, from the high country to the seaside.

***E. Baueriana* subsp. *thalassina* (Werribee Box)**

E. Baueriana subsp. *thalassina* comes from the Werribee River. *Eucalyptus baueriana* was first described in 1843 by Johannes Schauer and honours Ferdinand Bauer, the Austrian botanical illustrator of excellence, who accompanied Matthew Flinders on his circumnavigation of Australia. In 2011, Kevin Rule described 3 subspecies of *baueriana*, one of which is *thalassina*, the Werribee Box. Our specimen was planted by John Raddenberry, our second curator, in the latter part of the 19th century and is thought to have come from the Lerderderg Gorge on the upper Werribee. The Werribee Box is endemic to the river valley from Lerderderg Gorge near Bacchus Marsh with a few specimens further down the valley. Our tree therefore, has since 2011 been renamed *subsp. thalassina*, a Werribee Box, although that subspecies was not identified and described until over 100 years after Raddenberry. Our specimen is listed by the National Trust in its register of significant trees. This is because it is unusual in cultivation, is an historic planting and is now rare in its original habitat with an official status of 'Endangered'. *E. baueriana* has persistent light grey fibrous bark with whitish patches. Adult leaves are egg shaped (unusual for a eucalypt) and there are often juvenile round leaves persisting in the crown of the tree. Flowers are white and the fruit (gum nut) is a small woody, conical capsule. The tree forms a lignotuber at its base.

***E. camadulensis* (River Red Gum)**

E. camadulensis (River Red Gum) is perhaps the best known and best loved of all eucalypts.

In brief, this tree has the widest distribution of any eucalypt species and will grow anywhere there is sufficient ground water. It is particularly associated with the Murray-Darling basin and its tributaries. It is an iconic tree in Australia and is appropriate as our entrance tree, just outside the gate. Its name 'camaldulensis' honours the Tuscan monastery 'Camaldoli' where in 1832 Friedrich Denhardt described a specimen in the monastery garden. The seed was sent by Alan Cunningham, the NSW botanist. The River Red Gum has an open spreading crown and often irregular, large, angular branches. It commonly grows to 20 metres and has been known to reach 45 metres. The bark falls off in flakes and slabs leaving a smooth whitish trunk with characteristic patches of yellow, pink and brown. It has lance shaped dull green leaves. The blossom is white and the fruit (gum nut) is a woody hemispherical capsule. The germination of the seeds is assisted by flooding. There is often no lignotuber. These large trees can live for up to 1000 years. Their hollows

provide nesting sites for birds, possums and other wildlife. Fallen trees in rivers create breeding habitat for fish.



Eucalyptus camadulensis River Red Gum:
Tree outside the GBG entrance. Photo Cherry Collins

***E. litoralis* (Anglesea Box)**

E. litoralis is endemic to a small part of the Surf Coast near Geelong between Anglesea and Aireys Inlet. Appropriately, it is to be found in the Geelong Botanic Gardens in the 'Anglesea bed', the experimental bed of plants from the Anglesea heath area. *E. litoralis* grows in poor soils on sandstone ridges between Anglesea and Aireys Inlet where it is often exposed to ocean winds. It was first formally described by Kevin Rule from a specimen collected at Anglesea in 2000 and was planted in 2001, giving immediate recognition to the significance of the formal naming of this 'new' species. The species name '*litoralis*' means 'pertaining to the sea-shore'. This tree grows to around 10 metres but can reach 18 metres and forms a lignotuber. The bark is rough, fibrous and persistent. Young plants have square stems with almost round, opposite leaves. Adult leaves are lance shaped, curved and glossy green. It flowers in March with white flowers. The fruit (gum nut) can be cup-shaped or barrel shaped. This tree has a conservation status of 'vulnerable'. It was subject to a court battle in the late 20th century because a large part of its habitat was at one stage zoned for development. This battle led to its definitive classification as a separate and rare species. It resulted in a new conservation reserve, the Mount Ingolby Reserve, to safeguard the species.

***E. pauciflora* subsp. *debeuzevillei* (Jounama Snow Gum)**

E. pauciflora (Snow Gum) is a mallee tree (ie multi-stemmed) from the alpine region of South-East Australia. It is the most cold tolerant of all eucalypt species and can survive severe winter temperatures. It assists with snow accumulation which means

that fires which thin out snow gum forests reduce the run-off to the ecosystem. The species name '*pauciflora*' means 'few flowered' and is a misnomer, perhaps because the specimen described by Sprengel in 1827 had lost its buds in transit. The subspecies '*debeuzevillei*' is a rare form of snow gum in the wild, endemic to a few mountain peaks in the Snowy Mountains from Mt Franklin in ACT to Yarrangobilly in NSW. It was described as a separate subspecies in 1920 by Joseph Maiden from material collected by Wilfred A. de Beuzeville.

E. pauciflora subsp. *debeuzevillei* grows to 12 metres. The top layer of bark is shed annually so that the trunk is smooth. It can be greyish brown or white or cream and often has insect 'scribbles'. Young plants have egg shaped dull leaves while mature plants have lance-shaped and curved leaves. It blossoms in early summer with white flowers. The fruit (gumnut) can be cup-shaped, barrel shaped or conical. It has both epicormic buds and lignotubers. This subspecies of *Eucalyptus pauciflora* has become a popular garden tree with its mallee stems, reasonable height, smooth, attractive trunk and hardy constitution. *Eucalyptus pauciflora* subsp. *debeuzevillei* is classified as 'rare' in the wild.



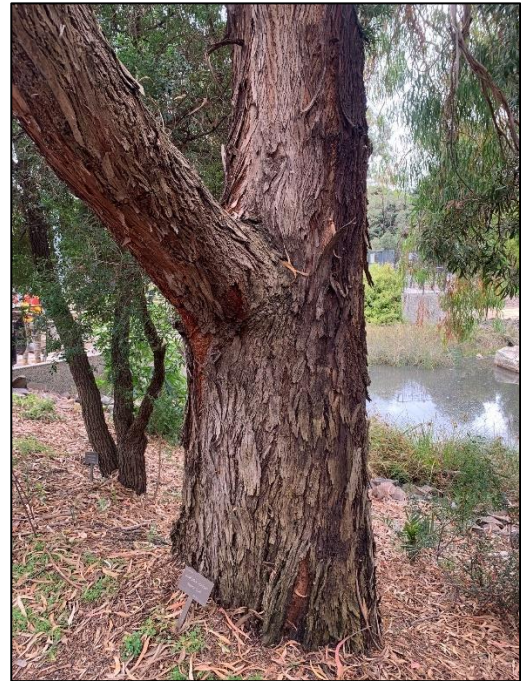
Eucalyptus pauciflora Snow Gum in C21 Garden, GBG

***E. viminalis* subs. *viminalis* (Manna Gum, Ribbon Gum)**

E. viminalis (Manna Gum) became well known as the preferred food for koalas although they eat a variety of other eucalypt leaves as well.

The manna gum is endemic to south-eastern Australia. It grows typically to around 50 metres but can grow to 90 metres in height. The common name 'Manna Gum' comes from a crumbly sweet white substance which the tree exudes, and which dries into small white edible lumps.

E. viminalis was first described as early as 1806 by Jacques Labillardiere in his book on New Holland plants. The species name '*viminalis*' means 'bearing ribbons for wicker work'.



Eucalyptus viminalis Manna Gum, GBG April 2024. Photo: Cherry Collins
 The name comes from the tree's habit of shedding long ribbons of bark. Manna gums are common along the Birrarung (the Yarra River) which is Wurundjeri country. *E. viminalis* is widely distributed and abundant in the well-watered areas of south-east Australia. Our specimen comes from the Barwon River Valley, where the species is also common, and is in our Barwon River Garden bed just beyond the 'boat' landscaping on the south side of the 21st century garden. Young plants have lance-shaped and curved leaves in opposite pairs. Adult leaves are alternate. *E. viminalis* blooms from December to May with white flowers. The fruit (gum nut) can be cup-shaped or hemispherical. The trees have both epicormic buds and lignotubers. This is a tree loved by and well known to both indigenous and settler Australians. It is an important food source for parrots, honey eaters, koalas, flying foxes and others.

This article is extracted from a 'Plant in Focus' presented by GBG Guide Cherry Collins.

The complete paper is available on the FGBG website.

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GEELONG'S PIONEERING VIGNERONS

Frederic Breguet was one of the fathers of vine-growing in Victoria. He was born in Coffrane Neuchatel Switzerland and came to Australia on the barque *Platina* in 1842. David Louis Pettavel, a fourth-generation Swiss vigneron from Boudry, also emigrated to Australia on the *Platina* that same year. Together they established our region's earliest vineyard at Pollocksford naming it Neuchatel after their birthplace. Situated on the Barwon River about ten miles from Geelong, between the Fyansford and Barrabool Hills roads it was the oldest vineyard in the western district. They originally sourced cuttings for their vineyards from the Sydney Botanic Gardens and made their first wine in 1845 which was highly regarded. The nursery at Neuchatel was said to contain 150 varieties of vine cuttings and a choice assortment of fruit trees.

Their partnership didn't last long and in 1848 Pettavel purchased his own property at Waurm Ponds, establishing his vineyard in Cochranes Rd, planting vines and a substantial orchard. A second vineyard named Prince Albert was established nearby in 1857, with both properties employing on average about 28 hands. A notice in *The Geelong Advertiser* in June 1850 highlighted Pettavel's comprehensive orchard and nursery at his vineyard from which he supplied three tons of fruit weekly to the Ballarat goldfields. Wood pruned from the Victoria vineyard vines was taken to establish oyster beds in Corio Bay near Pt Lillias. There is also a detailed sketch of the Pettavel property by renowned artist Eugene von Guerard, the topography still recognizable today.

Vineyards proliferated in the region and by 1878, the Inspectors *Vineyards Phylloxera Report*, states they visited 116 properties in the Geelong district. The efforts to contain the spread of phylloxera failed however, leading to the end of the wine growing vineyards in the region. The January 1882 *Geelong District Vine Disease Act* stated that all vineyards and winery equipment in the district was to be completely uprooted, destroyed and burnt.

The ruins of the Victorian vineyard house which succumbed to fire were dismantled in 1983 and a new house built over the cellar. Reminders of the Pettavel era still exist, along with the blacksmith's workshop, and the remains of the Cobb and Co building at the rear of the house. Small quarry sites on the property reveal the source of the Barrabool sandstone used in these structures, while an original pine and a formidable monkey puzzle tree still stand.

David Pettavel died on June 22nd 1871 aged 54 years and is buried at Eastern Cemetery. He was highly regarded, very community-minded, a member of various agricultural and horticultural societies and generous to both his workers and charity.

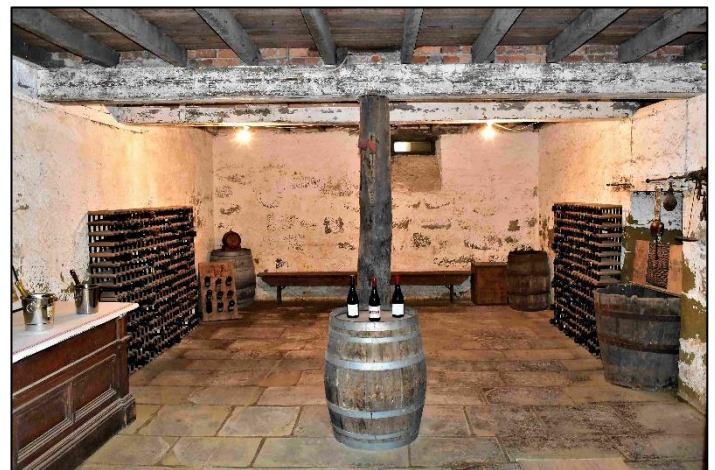
As well as the Neuchatel vineyard, Frederic Breguet later became proprietor of several extensive vineyards in the region. In 1854 he established the Suisse vineyard on the corner of Barrabool and Merrawarp Roads in Ceres, the house and original cellar supported by Oregon beams still intact today.



34 Breguet Neuchatel Cottage 1861 - Photo Gail Thomas

Pettavel was part of a Select Committee appointed by the Town Council in 1850 to recommend a site for the Geelong Botanic Gardens. He suggested that land at Lime Burner's point was infinitely superior to the Western Gully as it was in a well sheltered situation that would not be liable to dust, had good soil and was suitable for the erection of water tanks.

The Geelong and Western District Agricultural and Horticultural Society, formed in 1855 offered prizes of 150 guineas for two 'Concise and Practical Treatises on the Cultivation of the Vine in the Colony of Victoria'. Published in 1859 as *The Vine*, the book contained the winning essays by John Belperroud and David Pettavel who was regarded as a pioneer and expert in improving vine cultivation and pruning fruit trees.



42 Breguet Neuchatel Cellar - Photo Gail Thomas

Frederic Breguet died aged 58 in 1872 and is also buried at Eastern Cemetery. He was a philanthropist, generously donating the stone for the original Barrabool Hills Holy Trinity Church. The *Geelong Advertiser* reported; 'The deceased, who has long been looked upon as the wealthiest of our Swiss residents, has left property worth up to 25 thousand pounds.'

Both our pioneering vignerons have been inducted into the Geelong Wine Industry Historic Hall of Fame. The hand-carved honour board featuring the Swiss crest and Wine Geelong logo in the top corners and a shaking of hands representing the connection of the two countries is displayed at the Geelong Cellar Door in Little Malop Street.

Gail Thomas

EVENTS PHOTOS



Volunteers Celebratory Lunch with GBG Staff, Cr Anthony Aitkins and Guest Speaker Garden Designer Chris Dance



Volunteers and Chris Dance in the 21st Century Garden during his talk



Otways Coach Tour during the Forrest Fungi ID discovery walk and talk



Some of the many beautiful fungi discoveries photo by Pammi Pryor



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DIARY DATES AT A GLANCE



JUBAEA SUBMISSIONS for the next Edition are due by 1 September 2024.
All articles including high resolution photos (jpeg) can be sent to the FGBG Office

JUNE

THEMED GUIDED WALK - EASTERN PARK & THE STORM WATER FACILITY

Sunday 9 June, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates

A guided tour to explore the Stormwater Harvesting Project in Eastern Park and how it has evolved over the years. The storm-water dam has created a natural wetland promoting diverse plant and animal life, providing valuable water for Geelong Botanic Gardens. Gold coin donation appreciated.

WINTER LUNCH AT THE DAVIDSON RESTAURANT

Tuesday 18 June, 12.00 pm – 3.30 pm

Guest Speaker Amanda Blake Sutterby and Adam Blake 'Capturing Rare and Threatened Plants Through Botanical Art' Join the Friends and guest speakers Amanda Blake Sutterby and Adam Blake for a scrumptious 3 course lunch at our premier fundraising event at the Gordon Davidson restaurant. Amanda combines botanical art with exquisite scientific detail and Adam is the area manager of Trust for Nature. An impressive raffle is always a feature of this event.
\$80 members and \$90 non-members.

JULY

SUPPER WITH MOVIE at the EASTERN HUB

Tuesday 9 July, 6.00 to 8.30 pm

Join the Friends for this enjoyable evening to watch 'Saving Grace' with Brenda Blethyn, a light-hearted adventure set in Cornwall, with an interesting horticultural twist. Supper followed by the movie in the Hinchcliff Room at the Eastern Hub in East Geelong.
\$35 members and \$45 non-members.

THEMED GUIDED WALK - THE FERN COLLECTION

Sunday 14 July, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates

Join your Guide to be introduced to the wonderful collection of ferns and discover more about these special plants and the conditions needed to grow them successfully. Hear how fern fashions have changed in our botanical garden. Gold coin donation appreciated.

GUEST SPEAKER: JOHN CARY - FOSTER FYANS

Monday 15 July, 5.30 to 7.30 pm, GBG Meeting Room

Join the Friends to hear our Guest Speaker, author John Cary, who will be speaking about Foster Fyans, a notable figure in Geelong's early history, including being the first Chief Magistrate and on the first Committee of Management of Geelong Botanic Gardens. The supper will be followed by talk.
\$20 members \$30 non-members.

AUGUST

THEMED GUIDED WALK - SENSORY WALK

Sunday 11 August, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates

Stimulate all your senses on a guided adventure in Geelong Botanic Gardens. Have fun exploring the aromas and flavours of plants and learn how they are used in food, drinks, cosmetics, and medicines. Listen to the sounds of the Gardens – identify the birds. Feel the textures, from velvety soft to harsh and abrasive. Enjoy the vistas. Meet your guide at the front steps. Gold coin donation appreciated.

FGBG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 26 August, 5.30 to 8.00 pm, GBG Meeting Room

Come and meet the newly elected Committee of Management, enjoying supper after the AGM and guest speaker Ali Wastie (CEO of City of Greater Geelong)
AGM at 5.30, Guest Speaker at 6.15 pm and Supper at 7.00 pm.
Free Event.

SEPTEMBER

THEMED GUIDED WALK - CAMELLIA WALK

Sunday 15 September, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates

The Camellia Walk is full of vivid colour at this time of year. Take a stroll through the camellias and other stunning Chinese plants and learn about some of the plant explorers who travelled the world searching for new and exotic species.
Gold coin donation appreciated.

SELF DRIVE TOUR TO MELTON BOTANIC GARDENS

Thursday 12 September, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Melton Botanic Gardens Friends will host our group on a guided tour of their gardens, followed by lunch. This garden is widely acclaimed for the vast collections of Australian and dry climate plants from around the world. Price includes morning tea, guided tour and lunch.
\$40 members and \$50 non-members

OCTOBER DATES FOR THE DIARY:

1 October

DANDENONG RANGES COACH TOUR

5 October

SATURDAY PLANT SALE @ FRIENDS NURSERY, GBG

29 October

THROUGH THE GARDEN GATES