

Garden Highlights, February 2023

One of the biggest trees in these gardens is the **Sierra Redwood** or **Big Tree** *Sequoiadendron giganteum*.

Because it was only planted 150 years ago, it is small compared with older trees in its home in the mountains of California, USA. They have trunk diameters up to 8.8 m, heights up to 95 m and ages up 3,622 years.

Like Eucalypts, these Big Trees need regular fires to reproduce. Tree rings show that fires occurred at 2 to 5 year intervals over the last 1,000 years. As in Australia, settlers in the USA feared fire and were successful in suppressing fires for 100 years, starting in the 1890s. Without fire, few cones released their seeds. The deep leaf litter made it difficult for Big Tree seeds to reach moisture and the soil. Other tree species filled the gaps between the giants, providing paths for fire to reach the tops of the Big Trees. And so, when the inevitable ferocious fire came, many trees that had survived more than 100 moderate fires, were killed. As in Australia, this approach is being reversed. Moderate fires are being allowed to burn and are promoted. New Big Trees are now starting to appear naturally.

(For more details about What's On: Friends website or phone.)



What's On in February 2023

Guided Walk: 'Gondwana Plants':

Sunday 12 February 2 pm,
gold coin donation.

Discovery Table:

Sunday 19 February 1 - 3 pm.

Seniors Guided Walk & Morning Tea:

Thursday 23 February 9:30 am Guided Walk. Booking essential, free.

Free Guided Walks:

Wednesdays 11 am, Sundays 2 pm.

Friends Nursery open:

Wednesdays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

The Conservatory is open every day: 9 am - 4 pm.

Bookings: www.friendsgbg.org.au

Phone: 5222 6053

www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/



Geelong Botanic Gardens map



A fire scar
year 1402 AD
Big Tree
US NPS Photo



This information was developed by the Volunteer Guides
Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens.
www.friendsgbg.org.au
www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/

