

# Garden Highlights, May 2023



**Rabbit Ears *Ruttya fruticosa*** comes from the high country of tropical East Africa where the climate is not too different from Geelong. It is also called Jammy Mouth for its dark shiny 'mouth'. In Africa, the sweet nectar, hidden inside the flowers, attracts hovering sunbirds and insects. African people used to pull off flowers and suck the sweet nectar. They also boiled the roots for stomach ache and to flavour soup. Women used its twigs to make sticks to part and plait their hair. The plant was used to feed cattle, goats and camels.

You can see other African plants in the 21st Century Garden, next to the Hansen Gate that leads into the 20th Century Garden.

Over page: Map showing plant locations

## What's On in May 2023

**Botanic Art Classes:** See website.

**Guided Walk: 'Pacific Rim Garden':**  
Sunday 14 May 2 pm.  
Gold coin donation.

**Self-drive to 'Suealoe'** at Lovely Banks, Fyansford Hotel lunch and Fyansford Paper Mill. Fri 5 May  
\$20 Members, \$25 Non-members.

**Discovery Table:**  
Sunday 21 May 1 - 3 pm.

**Free Guided Walks:**  
Wednesdays 11 am, Sundays 2 pm.

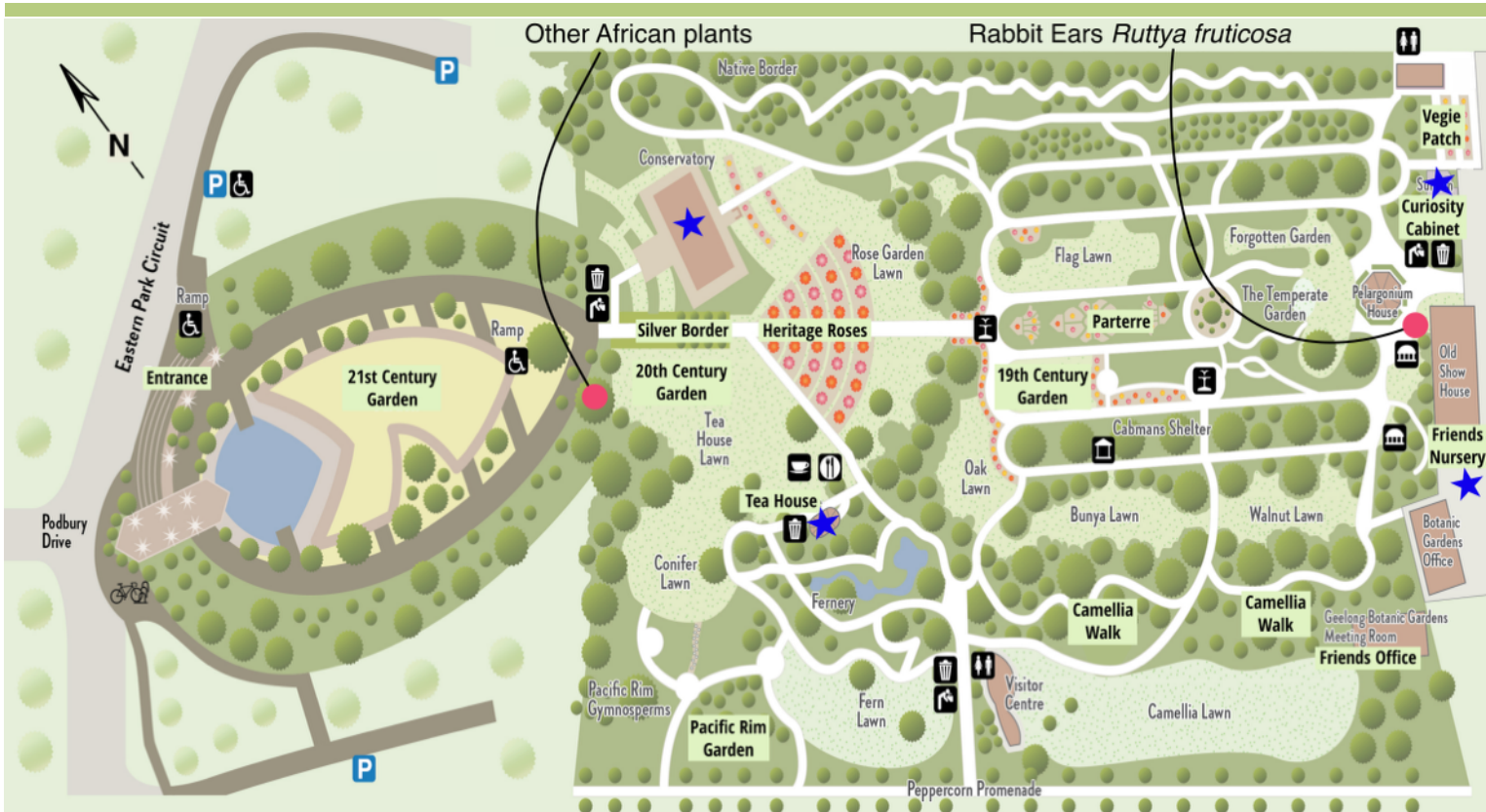
**Friends Nursery open:**  
Wednesdays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

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

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

Bookings: [www.friendsgbg.org.au](http://www.friendsgbg.org.au)  
Phone: 5222 6053  
[www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/](http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/)

# Geelong Botanic Gardens map



This information was developed by the Volunteer Guides  
Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens.  
[www.friendsgbg.org.au](http://www.friendsgbg.org.au)  
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