

floreo 10

Spring 2004 Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Australia

Garden of wonder

Red gum heritage

Gifts for young
gardeners

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Cover Image

Along the northern and southern boundaries of The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden are two distinctly different plant tunnels. The girls pictured are exploring a tunnel of New Zealand Flax. The tunnels inside the garden have peepholes and multiple entry and exit points allowing children to explore freely.

The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden opens to the public on Saturday 23 October.

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

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(Melways Map 2F, K12)
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South Yarra Victoria 3141

Telephone: 03 9252 2300
Facsimile: 03 9252 2442
Email rbg@rbg.vic.gov.au
Internet www.rbg.vic.gov.au

Open every day from 7.30am and closing 8.30pm (November to March), 6.00pm (April, September and October), and 5.00pm (May to August).
Entry is free.

Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

Ballarto Road (off South Gippsland Highway)
Cranbourne (Melways Map 133, K10)

Telephone: 03 5990 2200
Facsimile: 03 5990 2250
Email rbgc@rbg.vic.gov.au
Internet www.rbg.vic.gov.au

Open every day from 9am to 5pm, except Christmas Day, Good Friday and days of total fire ban. No dogs allowed.
Entry is free.

The view



The focus of a botanic garden is on the enjoyment, preservation, and scientific study of plants, but botanic gardens are also about people, and their relationship with the plant world. Gardens such as the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne enable city-dwellers in particular to experience and strengthen those relationships. With this in mind, the Royal Botanic Gardens decided to develop a garden especially for children as we perceived that there are declining opportunities for urban children to experience and learn about the natural environment.

I am very pleased to announce that this garden - The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden - will be officially opened to the public by Deputy Premier John Thwaites, on Saturday 23 October.

I thank The Ian Potter Foundation for sharing the vision of a world-class environmental education facility especially for children, and for their generous donation of \$1million for development of The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden (TIPFCG).

I would also like to thank the philanthropic trusts, corporate supporters and individual donors whose support has contributed to the successful completion of The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden.

Special mention must be made of the dedicated work of the Royal Botanic Gardens staff, led by TIPFCG Working Group, who have been involved in making this wonderful new garden. I also wish to acknowledge the contribution to the project of the expert reference panel of designers, artists, educators, and horticulturists - as well as the other 'expert' input from groups of primary school students in the early stages of planning.

Philip Morris
Director
Royal Botanic Gardens

Want more info?

For more information about the articles included in this edition of *Floreo*, or if you wish to be included on the distribution list, please contact the Marketing and Communications Branch on 03 9252 2494 or jenny.hynes@rbg.vic.gov.au

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Red gum heritage

The increasing sprawl of cities and towns into the surrounding countryside raises urgent questions about the impact of urbanisation on the environment. What do we know about the effects of the continued clearing of large tracts of bush or grasslands? What happens when the habitats of many species of plants, animals and birds are destroyed or reduced? Can we do anything to preserve threatened ecosystems and conserve biodiversity?

These and related questions are being addressed by researchers in the relatively new field of urban ecology - the study of the relationship between living things and their environment, specifically the urban environment. The Royal Botanic Gardens has played a pioneering role in this area through its Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology (ARCUE), established in 1998. ARCUE, which works in close collaboration with The University of Melbourne's School of Botany, aims to advance knowledge and understanding of the ecology of isolated natural habitats within urban areas, with a view to conserving biodiversity.

Amy Hahs, one of ARCUE's research staff, is currently completing her doctoral research on the plant community dynamics within river red gum woodlands in the north of Melbourne. She found that open, grassy woodland communities such as red gum woodlands once covered a large extent of the current Melbourne area. These were the areas that were preferred by early settlers because of their openness



Red gum woodlands which once covered a large extent of the current Melbourne area are a focus of ARCUE research. Photography by Amy Hahs

Heritage

and the availability of timber and grazing resources. Now these grassy woodland communities are reduced to less than 1% of their extent before European settlement - and this trend is typical of most of the open woodland communities in Australia.

In their current setting, red gum woodlands represent an integral component of the pre-colonial vegetation in the northern Melbourne area. They offer refuge for native plants and animals, and help to maintain the biological diversity and natural heritage values of Melbourne. Their continued existence represents a critical contribution to the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

Amy's research found relatively little difference between patches of red gum woodlands close to the centre of Melbourne, and patches in the surrounding semi-natural areas. Although weed species were present, all of the patches still contained a significant number of native plant species, both above ground and in the soil seed bank.

These findings indicate that red gum woodlands have the capacity to provide their biological and cultural heritage

values into the future, and highlight the ongoing need to preserve and manage these unique ecosystems so that they can continue to contribute to the quality of life for Melburnians.

Some facts about river red gums

Many of the scar trees that remain in the Melbourne area are river red gums, signifying the importance of this tree species to generations of indigenous and non-indigenous people.

River red gum woodlands perform an important role in nutrient cycling, filtering air pollution, maintaining water quality, and reducing soil erosion and salinity.

River red gum trees provide hollows that are used by native birds and animals. The flowers provide an abundant source of food and nectar for insects, birds and other animals.

A vegetation survey of river red gum woodlands revealed a high diversity, with 77 indigenous plant species recorded in the understorey, indicating they are also an important habitat for many plant species.



A garden of wonder

With the growth of urbanisation and higher density living, city children have fewer opportunities to venture outdoors and to explore and enjoy the natural world. The Royal Botanic Gardens has long wanted to create a garden specially designed for children so they can have direct experience of nature and develop a life-long appreciation of plants and gardens.

Now that vision has become a reality with the assistance of a generous donation of \$1million by The Ian Potter Foundation and support from philanthropic trusts, corporate supporters and individual donors. After several years of planning and preparation, the exciting Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden will be opened in October.

This unique Children's Garden, extending over an area of half a hectare, will create a magical place where children can play, dig, plant, build, hide and explore. It features a great variety of plants and materials, all designed to draw children into the garden, and is built on a scale that will allow children to feel a sense of ownership. And they will be encouraged to add their own magic to





the garden. Their contributions through gardening, constructions, landscaping, ideas and imaginings will be an important aspect of the garden and ensure that it will always be changing and evolving.

Some of the impressive and unusual features of the garden are:

Meeting Place

A spiral water feature will provide an exciting water play area on warm days. Five Bottle Trees are a feature of this space, highlighting some of the amazing ways plants have adapted to survive in their environment.

The Ruin Garden

A world of lush rainforest vegetation crawling and creeping over an old rock grotto. Children will be able to scramble over and under rock, dig in the sand mulch and construct cubbies from collected plant materials.

The Wetland Area

A natural pond teeming with life where children can experience insects, fish and plants and use tools such as nets, aquaspheres and microscopes to take their learning further.

The Gorge

Stepping stones will lead into the Gorge where children will be surrounded by large bluestone shards. Twisted Snow Gums will grow between the shards providing a stark contrast in form. Mist will periodically fill the space, creating an atmosphere of mystery.

Plant Tunnels

Along the northern and southern boundaries of the garden are two distinctly different plant tunnels. The

northern tunnel is mostly composed of Coastal Tea Tree, while at the southern boundary will be a tunnel of New Zealand Flax. Both will have peepholes and multiple entry and exit points allowing children to move in and out of the tunnels.

The Children's Kitchen Garden

will feature interesting and unusual fruits, vegetables and herbs. Children can propagate plants in the potting shed and plant in the garden with horticultural staff. Harvest time will be a feature in the year's calendar of activities in this part of the Children's Garden.

The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden provides a safe, educational environment in which children of all ages, backgrounds and cultures can play, explore and discover the natural world. It opens up new opportunities for children to be imaginatively engaged with plants and the natural environment through the structured and informal programs offered by the RBG's Education Service.

A range of activities (such as play-acting and construction using natural plant derived materials, gardening, art and craft activities, puppetry, dance and music) will nurture and encourage children's creative expression and help them to focus and extend their experience of The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden. Volunteers from a range of backgrounds and cultures will play a vital role in these experiences, providing children with the possibility to connect with and appreciate a variety of languages, customs, gardening and culinary traditions.

Tips for children's gardens at home

- Probably the most important thing is to allow or create wild places where children can feel they are away from the rest of the garden and the house and can create their own worlds. There should be places to hide, trees to climb, areas to dig.
- Water is another element in the garden that children love. Water flowing along a stream, over rocks or in ponds allows direct involvement: floating boats, making dams, changing the direction of the flow. Children also respond to the sound and movement of water. Swimming pools can be part of the water play within a garden.
- A vegetable garden of their own gives children the opportunity to be involved in the whole exciting process of growing vegetables from digging, composting and planting to harvesting - and eating the fruits of their labours.
- Above all a garden for children should have plants that are beautiful, plants with different smells, textures and colours, and lots of flowers.
- As well as plants the garden should have other natural elements such as rocks and pebbles, cones and seeds, and building materials for cubby construction (eg bamboo pieces).
- Play equipment, cubby houses and sandpits are bonuses in any garden. The placement of these is critical, particularly the cubby house and sandpit, which need to be placed away from the house so children can engage in their own creative play.

Plant magic

The Education Service of the Royal Botanic Gardens has invited Victorian schools to celebrate the opening of The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden through participation in *Plant Magic 2004*, an arts-based program designed to stimulate children's creative responses to gardens, plants and the natural world. Those responses will be exhibited or performed in the new garden's first year of opening.

Plant Magic 2004 encourages teachers to provide opportunities for outdoor 'nature play' as inspiration for their art projects so that children can express themselves, and explore fun and fantasy elements through activities that arouse the senses, feelings and imagination.

The project also encourages teachers to involve children in the decision-making process, choosing their project from a broad range of art forms, themes and topics. Subjects suggested 'to get ideas rolling' indicate the fascinating possibilities for plant-related creativity, ranging from water, vegie patches, the garden at night and 'my backyard' to wetlands, sustainable gardening, the desert and 'food - where does it come from?'

For further information about *Plant Magic 2004*, contact Christine Joy by phone on 9252 2454 or email christine.joy@rbg.vic.gov.au.



Wandin Preschool children constructed their own birds' nests. Some of their work was displayed in the Visitor Centre at RBG Melbourne. Photography provided by Wandin Preschool.

Plant Magic nests

For their involvement in *Plant Magic*, the children from Wandin Preschool took a journey of discovery into the intricate wonders of nests. The children investigated the architecture and engineering of birds' nests, from the small cobwebby homes to the heavy mud and bark constructions.

Exploring their own preschool outdoor environment and visiting the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne gave children the opportunity to discover the many treasures of the environment and experience the challenges and pleasures of working with natural materials. The senses were awakened as children manipulated 'cosy' paper bark, elastic willow, the coarse bark of Mountain Ash and the smooth coolness of reeds.

Learning conversations enabled the children and teachers to make some interesting investigations into how nests are built, especially what birds use to stick their nests together. 'They stick it together with yolk', said Alex. 'Soil?' asked Charlotte. 'Spider web', suggested Erin. Tayla wondered if 'Maybe they could use their feet to dig for wet bark to stick it together?' while 'Sticky tape', was Daniel's practical response.

To stick their own nest together the children chose to use mud, clay and silvery spider web. All fifty children worked together to build the nest over four weeks. They touched nature and experienced a transformation as 'working birds'. Together they created a stunning nest sculpture, a collaboration of their new learning and understandings.



Volunteers plant some of the 85,000 plants in the Australian Garden. Photography by Jo Fyfe.

Community volunteers at Cranbourne

The building of a new botanic garden is a rare event – and a huge undertaking, especially on the scale of the 370–hectare site of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne.

Within that site, work is well under way on the construction of a remarkable project, the Australian Garden. When completed, this will have an area of 26 hectares - two-thirds the size of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. It will be a garden unlike any other, showcasing the diverse plants and landscapes of Australia, and exploring the connections between landscape, plants and people.

The first eleven hectares of this significant new garden, due to open in late 2005, will require the planting of approximately 85,000 plants (almost twice the number in RBG Melbourne), including about 1,000 advanced trees. These will be planted in fifteen diverse landscape displays and exhibition gardens.

Faced with such an enormous task, the staff at Cranbourne have welcomed the assistance of many volunteers through community planting days, and groups such as the Friends of RBG Cranbourne. This year, Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) selected RBG Cranbourne as a priority area to receive practical assistance from their 'Better Earth' program.

Conservation Volunteers Australia, founded in 1982 as the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers, has grown into Australia's largest practical conservation organisation. It involves the community in conservation projects in urban, regional and remote Australia ranging from tree planting, seed collection, endangered species protection, weed control, flora and fauna surveys, walking trail construction and fencing, to environmental monitoring. CVA projects have resulted in more than ten million trees being planted over the past decade.

'Better Earth' volunteers have been working on the Australian Garden Project throughout 2004. In January and

February they undertook various nursery tasks and since then have been planting in areas such as the indigenous perimeter border and the Eucalypt Walk. The group of eight to ten volunteers working each day represents a wide range of people, from international students and travellers to local residents and school students.

Jason Davenport, Horticulture Manager at RBG Cranbourne, reports that the volunteers were excited to be involved in the Australian Garden project. Helping to create a new, high quality botanic garden was a very different kind of project for them, as CVA programs typically involve revegetation projects and shelter belt planting on farms.

Members of the local community are welcome to join our volunteer team on this exciting Australian Garden project, for one day, or as many days as possible. If you are interested, please contact Conservation Volunteers Australia on Freecall 1800 032 501 or visit their website at www.conservationvolunteers.com.au.

Community

Meet Sabine Glissmann-Gough

Sabine Glissmann-Gough came to Australia from her native Germany in 1988, with qualifications in horticulture and landscape planning. Two years later she started work at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and is still there, though now in a different role as Manager, Information Services.

'My background was practical - I began as a horticulturist in the Gardens Division. But I was always interested in the technical side, in planning, recording, geographic information systems, that sort of thing. I became a branch manager of records and planning at the time of the writing and implementation of the RBG Melbourne Master Plan. I really enjoyed that.'

Sabine 'likes challenges and change' and it's not surprising that she's involved with the various applications of technology to the work of the Royal Botanic Gardens: as she says, 'technology doesn't stay at one point - there are always new things'.

That's certainly the case for Sabine and her team of six staff in the two distinct sides of the work of Information Services. Firstly there's the general, more conventional corporate, administrative side dealing with systems and records management, maintaining the Royal Botanic Gardens website and the internal Intranet site. Then there's the specialised side related to the horticultural and botanical operations of the Royal Botanic Gardens - the area to which Sabine brings her expertise and interests. This includes the extensive plant records and databases and various planning and mapping systems.

Sabine was involved in the introduction of digital mapping systems at the Gardens. 'That means mapping every plant, but not just plants or what's above the ground. It's important to record inground services like drainage, irrigation, power and so on. If we want to start a new project or put in a path, we need to know what's located in that area, what might be affected if we begin excavation.'

Since 1997 the process of mapping has become more high-tech with the use of the satellite Global Positioning System (GPS) which Sabine found very exciting:



Sabine Glissmann-Gough and David Cash, Plant Information Officer, use the satellite Global Positioning System to map plants in the Arid Garden.

'We were one of the first to introduce the use of GPS and this gave a feeling of being at the forefront.' She describes, fortunately in terms understandable by the lay person, the application of this system to the work of the Royal Botanic Gardens: 'We take the equipment to the site - say of a new project like The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden. The satellite determines where we are on the ground and we walk around the area and enter what's there, all the plants and other features. This is then downloaded to a computer and becomes part of our database.'

Sabine 'likes challenges and change' and it's not surprising that she's involved with the various applications of technology...

The application of technology has transformed the operations of the Royal Botanic Gardens and brought new efficiency. All plants, for example, are tracked and recorded throughout their lives, from the Nursery to planting out at Melbourne or Cranbourne, accompanied by their computer-generated information labels. These databases also make it easier for staff to respond to the growing number of enquiries from other organisations, public bodies and contractors.

Information technology has important applications for the scientific work of the Royal Botanic Gardens, now carried out in the context of botanical research on a global basis. For example, the Herbarium's unique collection of 1.2million dried plant specimens is now being databased and made available to researchers around the world through the Australia's Virtual Herbarium project. This collaborative project will provide online access to the collections of scientific plant specimens in the country's eight main herbaria.

Sabine has a particular interest in one of the longer-term benefits of technology. 'With databases like ours we are creating a historical record, a "snapshot" of what was where at particular times. So for the first time we can capture changes to the landscape of the Gardens.' This is a reflection of her interest in the area of cultural heritage, which she has been studying at Deakin University.

Her other interests, in what she aptly calls her 'outside life', show that she doesn't fit the popular stereotype of the IT backroom person. In that life, shared with a teenage son and 'a very busy husband', Sabine likes to be outdoors and active: she enjoys ski-ing and bushwalking, plays basketball two or three times a week, and says she'd travel the world if it was possible. Her current recreational reading? Travel books.

Gifts that grow

For more than 150 years, the Royal Botanic Gardens has been a source of great enjoyment to the people of Melbourne and to visitors from all over the world. We need to make sure that this natural treasure is preserved for future generations.

To achieve this we need a secure financial base. Gifts to the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria help to ensure the future of these very special gardens and the scientific work of the RBG. All donations or bequests made to the Foundation are invested and the interest on such funds is made available to the RBG Board to utilise where it is most needed.

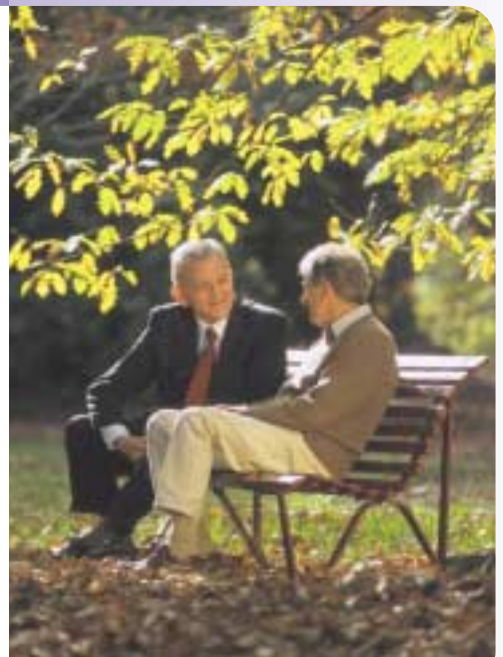
Your pledge of support could make all the difference to what we can do and offer.

Bequests

A bequest is a wonderful gift that will bring lasting benefit to an institution that you believe in. A bequest is the part of your will that directs the executor of your estate to make a gift to a person or institution of your choice. Bequests, both large and small, make up an important portion of our non-government funding. To talk in confidence about leaving a bequest, please contact the Bequest Officer on 9252 2493.

Memorial donations

A memorial donation to the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria is a meaningful way to remember a relative or friend who loved the Royal Botanic Gardens. Each gift is acknowledged with a letter to a person nominated by the donor. Donations are tax deductible and receipts are sent to all donors. For more details, please contact the Bequest Officer on 9252 2493.



Other ways to support the work of the Royal Botanic Gardens include:

- making a grant to a collection or area of research
- sponsoring a tree or collection
- purchasing a garden seat.

For more information on these options please contact the Development Branch by phone on 9252 2493 or email development@rbg.vic.gov.au.

Innovations for Director's Circle

The Director's Circle is now in its fifth successful year, so we thought it was time to review progress by asking a sample of our 120 supporters for their comments.

We were delighted to discover high levels of satisfaction with the Director's Circle and appreciated the commitment of the group to helping the Royal Botanic Gardens even more - each year over 95% of donors renew their annual donation! We have used the results of the survey to help us set future directions for this supportive group of donors and to introduce some innovations.

We have established a second level of giving, the 'Acacia' \$4,000 gift, named after this most abundant and colourful

plant. The existing \$1,000-plus gift level will be titled 'Banksia', recognising the contribution of Sir Joseph Banks to early Australian botany. All Director's Circle supporters will continue to be highly valued and invited to special events.

We encourage you to join the Director's Circle. For further information on this or other ways to support the Royal Botanic Gardens, please contact Aviva Feiglin, Director's Circle Coordinator, on 9252 2311 or email aviva.feiglin@rbg.vic.gov.au.





Transit of Venus

There was a treat for stargazers on 8 June 2004 when the transit of Venus could be viewed at RBG Melbourne. RBG Melbourne organised its Solar Tours program to allow the public to view this significant astronomical event from the Old Melbourne Observatory. More than 500 people took the opportunity to witness the rare celestial event of Venus passing between Earth and the sun. The transit of Venus is of particular interest to Australians. Lieutenant James Cook on the Endeavour was sent by the British Government to Tahiti to observe the June 1769 transit. Cook then followed orders from the Admiralty to search for the great south land (Terra Australis), leading to the eventual European discovery of eastern Australia.

RBG Melbourne wins *savewater* award

Long Island at the RBG Melbourne won the Garden Design and Construction award at this year's *savewater* awards ceremony. The *savewater* awards were established in 2001 to recognise and reward innovation and achievement in water sustainability. The plants on Long Island were selected for their suitability for the local climate and rainfall, while the design as a whole demonstrates the principles of the low-water-use landscape. As a result, the island needs minimum irrigation and uses 70-80% less water than other, equivalent irrigated sites at RBG Melbourne.

Acting Minister for Water, Bob Cameron, presented the award and commended RBG Melbourne for outstanding innovation in developing ways to promote an environmentally sustainable culture.

Royal Botanic Gardens representatives, Don Henderson, Michael McNabb, Neil Perkins and Richard Barley, accept the *savewater* award. Photo courtesy of the *savewater* awards.



Find out what's on

News@RBG is an email newsletter informing subscribers of coming events and activities at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and Cranbourne. You can subscribe by visiting our website (www.rbg.vic.gov.au) or by email to visitor.centre@rbg.vic.gov.au or phone on 9252 2429.



Grant for Australian Garden

The Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne has been awarded a \$167,000 grant by the City of Casey to build the Rockpool Pavilion in the Australian Garden. The grant is a key contribution to establishing a crucial element in one of the most important new botanic gardens to be created in Victoria over the past century.

The Rockpool Pavilion overlooks the Rockpool Waterway, one of the focal points in the Australian Garden. The Pavilion will provide shelter for visitors and will be a gathering place for families.

Blooming

Leptospermum myrsinoides, Heath Teatree and
Comesperma volubile, Love Creeper



Spring is in the air at RBG Cranbourne and what better way to enjoy this romantic season than to stroll through the heathlands in full bloom.

The Heath Teatree forms a soft, snowy carpet across most of the site. Beneath this are the many shades of golden yellow and amber of numerous species of pea plants in flower, and the myriad colours of scattered treasures like lilies, Sundews, Greenhoods and other orchids. As you wander you will also find the stunning combination of the Heath Teatree acting

as a climbing pole for the Love Creeper, a twining herb with few leaves but masses of delicate blue flowers.

These wildflowers and many more can be seen at the Wildflower Picnic to be held at the RBG Cranbourne on Sunday 31 October from 11am – 2.30pm. See page 12 of this issue of *Floreo* for more information.

Photography by Warren Worboys

Gifts for young gardeners

To coincide with the opening of The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden, a number of new products for children will be on sale at the Gardens Shop from October.

For the smallest green thumb in the family there is a Garden Caddy containing three child-friendly tools, garden gloves, easy to grow seeds and a planting guide. The Garden Caddy, available at \$21.95, is a great way to encourage children to take an interest in plants, gardening and the environment.

The Gardens Shop has other Children's Garden mementoes including watering cans, activity kits and children's gardening tools.



Discovery

Events@RBG

School holiday programs

Jurassic gardens

Dinosaurs may be extinct, but the plants they lived with are still here!

An interactive program for children including art and gardening discovery experiences.

21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 September,
10am - 11.30am or 1pm - 2.30pm
RBG Melbourne
\$10 per child, bookings essential.
Enquiries: 03 9252 2358

Hoses, hats and wombats

Join Wally Wombat as he introduces you to his home in the bush and tells of his family's experience with bushfire. Learn about fire safety and the role of fire fighters, sit in a fire truck and hold a real fire hose. This one-hour program is filled with puppets, story telling, dress-ups and a close inspection of fire fighting equipment. Suitable for children aged 2-5 years.

21 and 29 September
10.30am - 11.30am
RBG Cranbourne
\$7.95 per child, bookings essential.
Enquiries: 03 5990 2200



Growing Friends spring plant sale

An extensive range of plants for sale, propagated from RBG Melbourne plant material by the Growing Friends group. Proceeds from the sale support special projects at the Gardens.

9 October, 10am - 4pm and
10 October, 10am - 3pm
RBG Melbourne, enter via E Gate.
Enquiries: 03 9252 2429



Wildflower picnic

Discover the native wildflowers at RBG Cranbourne. Learn about the Australian Garden project, discover what plants to grow at home and head off on a relaxing guided walk.

Sunday 31 October
RBG Cranbourne
Free
Enquiries: 03 5990 2200



Become involved

Become involved in our wonderful Royal Botanic Gardens by joining a Friends group at either Melbourne or Cranbourne.

As a member, your support will contribute to the enhancement of these special Gardens and to the conservation of plant life. Members are also invited to participate in a variety of garden-inspired Friends' events and activities, and receive special benefits.

For more information contact the Friends on
03 9650 6398 (Melbourne) or
03 5990 2200 (Cranbourne).

The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden opening celebration

Come along and celebrate the opening of The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden. Opening day entertainment will include free children's gardening activities, music and performances.

Saturday 23 October
RBG Melbourne
Enquiries: 03 9252 2429

Feather, fur and flora twilight walk

Twilight in the Gardens is an amazing time to discover a wide array of fascinating birds, animals and plants. Commence the walk with a relaxing glass of champagne before discovering some of nature's secrets from our expert guides.

18 and 28 November
6pm - 8pm
RBG Melbourne
\$10 adults, \$8 concession, bookings essential.
Enquiries: 03 9252 2429

