



What's On Winter 2019

Jun - Aug

Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens



Melbourne Gardens



Little Seeds:

Early Years Nature Play and Gardening Program

Calling all Little Seeds! Get your hands dirty and let your imagination run free as you tend to your very own garden patch and explore the magical secrets of the Gardens. Connect with nature while discovering new plants, animals and seasonal changes, and build on your experiences as your group meets up each week during the eight-week term. Strengthen your connection to the land through activities entwined with exploration, creativity, story and song, and celebrate your group's work with a harvest in the garden patch.

Developed and delivered by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's Learning Facilitators.

WORKSHOP

Term 2: Fri 3 May - Fri 21 Jun

Term 3: Fri 26 Jul - Fri 13 Sep

10am (1.5 hrs)

\$160 for the term

\$20 for introductory session

Family package available (2 Adults & 2 Children)

Bookings essential

Suitable for 3 - 5 years, with an adult

Gathering Lawn



Winter Play in the Gardens

Rug up your little ones and embrace winter with outdoor nature play.

Drop into the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden and dive into a range of nature-based activities designed to challenge the idea that winter is best spent indoors. The Gardens' experienced Learning Facilitators will be on hand to guide the play.

Come prepared with warm, waterproof clothes, gumboots and a sense of winter adventure.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Wed 3 Jul, 11am - 2pm, drop in anytime

Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden



Visit rbg.vic.gov.au or call 9252 2429 to book



Outdoor Escapades:

A Forest School Adventure for Families

Put aside your devices and step outside for an immersion in nature at Melbourne Gardens.

Engage your tactile senses, ignite your imagination and experience winter in this hands-on workshop designed with the principles of leading international Forest Schools.

Learn new skills, experiment with hand tools and try your hand at lighting a small fire to keep warm.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Sat 24 Aug, 11am (3 hrs)

\$20 Child, accompanying adult free

Bookings essential

Meet at Gate A



Forest Therapy (Shinrin-yoku)

Originating from Japan, *shinrin-yoku* or forest bathing, now widely known as forest therapy, is a wellbeing practice that immerses your senses in nature. This guided *Forest Therapy* walk will bolster your mental and physical health by reducing stress levels, lowering your pulse and blood pressure and lifting you into a more positive mood.

Now recognised and widely acclaimed as a public health initiative in China, Japan, South Korea and Europe, forest therapy is gaining global acclaim as an evidence-based, cost-effective and natural remedy – a 'green prescription' for a healthier you.

Presented by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and In My Nature.

For exclusive group experiences, please call 9252 2429.

WELLBEING

Every second Sunday in winter

Sun 2, 16 & 30 Jun

Sun 14 & 28 Jul

Sun 11 & 25 Aug

10am (2 hrs)

\$30 per person

Bookings essential

Meet at the Visitor Centre



Chocolate and Spice

Warm up this winter and discover the essence of chocolate on a delectable walk. Spice up your senses with stories and recipes about cinnamon, cardamom and the intoxicating vanilla bean. Discover exotic food plants growing in the Gardens, and satiate your taste buds with a delicious hot chocolate at the end of your tour.

TOUR

Sun 23 Jun

Sun 14 Jul

Sun 25 Aug

1pm (1.5 hrs)

\$25 Adult, \$20 Concession & Friends member

Bookings essential

Meet at the Visitor Centre



Melbourne Gardens



Open House Melbourne

Uncover two remarkable historic buildings in Melbourne Gardens, as part of Open House Melbourne. At Melbourne Observatory, view the sun through heritage telescopes and learn all about the biggest star in the solar system. Then enjoy a rare opportunity to explore the beautiful Plant Craft Cottage, the oldest heritage-listed building in any of Victoria's public gardens.

Presented by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria as part of Open House Melbourne.

TOUR

Observatory Tours

Sat 27 Jul, 10am – 4pm (every 20 mins)

Plant Craft Cottage Open House

Sat 27 & Sun 28 Jul, 10am – 4pm

Meet at Observatory Lawn for Observatory Tours and Gate H, Alexandra Avenue, for Plant Craft Cottage



Bush Food Experience:

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

In celebration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, delve into the rich history and thriving culture of the local First Peoples. Learn about their connection to plants, and explore the delights of bush foods on a gastronomic walk with an Aboriginal guide.

Discover how native Australian plants have inspired the modern plate and palate. Learn about the traditional uses of plants found in the Gardens, and the ways in which they continue to be used around the world today. Finish off with a tasting of delicious foods inspired by the native plants seen on your walk, developed and prepared by Aboriginal trainee chefs from social enterprise restaurant, Charcoal Lane.

Presented by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in association with Charcoal Lane.

TOUR

Fri 9 Aug, 1.30pm (1.5 hrs)

\$50 Adult, \$43 Child & Concession

Bookings essential

Meet at the Visitor Centre



Garden Explorer

Discover the beauty of this inner-city oasis from the comfort of the open-air Garden Explorer bus. Enjoy live commentary and stunning views as you wind your way through the picturesque landscapes of Melbourne Gardens.

DAILY TOUR

Mon – Fri, 12pm – 4pm (30 mins)
Sat, Sun and public holidays,
11.30am – 4pm (30 mins)

\$10 Adult, \$8 Child, Concession
& Friends member, \$25 Family
(2 Adults & 2 Children)

Group bookings by arrangement
Bookings recommended

Meet at Oak Lawn



Free Guided Walk

Experience this green sanctuary in the middle of bustling Melbourne with a free guided walk. Find sensational views and photo opportunities, and uncover the heritage and plant diversity of Melbourne Gardens with a passionate guide.

DAILY TOUR

Daily, 10.30am (1.5 hrs)

By donation

Meet at the Visitor Centre



Visit rbg.vic.gov.au or call 9252 2429 to book

Melbourne Gardens



Aboriginal Heritage Walk

Womin Djeka! Journey into the ancestral lands of the Kulin (Koolin) Nation in this immersive tour with an Aboriginal guide. Gain insight into the rich history and thriving culture of the local First Peoples, and discover their connection to plants.

TOUR

Daily except Sat, 11am (1.5 hrs)

\$35 Adult, \$29 Concession & Friends member, \$12 Child
Bookings essential

Meet at the Visitor Centre



Starry Southern Skies

Discover the fascinating history of Melbourne Observatory, built in the early 1860s as Melbourne's home of weather forecasting, time keeping and star charting. Gain a backstage view of these historic buildings and see the amazing night sky brought into focus with our powerful heritage telescopes.

TOUR

Every Mon, 8pm (1.5 hrs)
except Mon 10 Jun
See website for additional tours

\$24 Adult, \$20 Child, Concession & Friends member, \$70 Family (2 Adults & 2 Children)
Bookings essential

Meet at the Visitor Centre



ClimateWatch Walk

Become a citizen scientist and help monitor the biodiversity in the Gardens. On this guided walk, you'll search for the impacts of climate change and collect valuable information for Earthwatch with the ClimateWatch app.

TOUR

Thu 13 Jun, Thu 25 Jul & Tue 13 Aug, 11am (1.5 hrs)

By donation
Bookings essential

Meet at the Visitor Centre



Gardens Uncovered

Explore behind the scenes and uncover the stories of the Gardens' significant historical landmarks. Venture into Melbourne Observatory and gain a rare glimpse inside the National Herbarium of Victoria. Finish at The Terrace with a free drink.

TOUR

Every Wed & Sat, 1.30pm (1.5 hrs)

\$18 Adult, \$15 Child, Concession & Friends member
Bookings essential

Meet at the Visitor Centre



Solar Tour

Did you know that the sun is approximately 4.6 billion years old? View our nearest star with an expert astronomical guide and learn about the solar system and the historic buildings of Melbourne Observatory.

TOUR

Sun 9 Jun, Sun 7 Jul & Sun 11 Aug, 1.30pm (45 mins)

\$13 Adult, \$10 Child, Concession & Friends member, \$38 Family (2 Adults & 2 Children)
Bookings essential

Meet at the Visitor Centre



Extraordinary Trees

Celebrate National Tree Day on this family-friendly guided walk. Uncover how some of the most iconic trees came to Melbourne Gardens and meet our oldest, most unusual and tallest trees.

TOUR

Sun 28 Jul, 2pm (1.5 hrs)

\$20 Adult, \$15 Child, Concession & Friends member, \$55 Family (2 Adults & 2 Children)
Bookings essential

Meet at the Visitor Centre



Visit rbg.vic.gov.au or call 9252 2429 to book

Melbourne Gardens



Lunar Tour: National Science Week

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 lunar landing with a guided *Lunar Tour* through Melbourne Observatory. Peer up at the moon through a powerful heritage telescope and discover more about Earth's only natural satellite.

TOUR

Thu 15 Aug, 8pm (1 hr)

\$18 Adult, \$14 Concession, \$55 Family (2 Adults & 2 Children)
Bookings essential

Meet at the Visitor Centre



Beyond the Gardens

Let us bring the Gardens to you. Take a virtual journey down the garden path with a visit from a knowledgeable volunteer guide from Melbourne Gardens. This engaging presentation will inspire both home gardeners and anyone interested in the history of Melbourne's favourite green sanctuary.

PRESENTATION

By arrangement (1 hr)

\$65 per visit
Bookings essential



Exclusive Group Tours

An exclusive group tour at Melbourne Gardens is the perfect opportunity for your gardening, photography or Probus club to experience a bespoke tour. Tailor your walk to your group's needs and interests, or choose from a list of popular topics.

TOUR

By arrangement (1.5 hrs)

\$10 per person
Minimum 6 people
Bookings essential

Meet at the Visitor Centre



Punting on the Lake

Glide between the bays and islands of Ornamental Lake on a guided boat cruise. View the landscape as never before and get up close to amazing birdlife and aquatic plants for some wonderful photo opportunities. Private tours, large group and function bookings are also available.

PUNTING

Opposite The Terrace

Sat 1 Jun – Mon 10 Jun
(weather permitting)
11am – 4pm (30 mins)

\$25 Adult, \$12 Child, \$65 Family (2 Adults & 3 Children)
Bookings recommended

Visit rbg.vic.gov.au/punting or call 0481 455 410 to book

Suitable for all ages



Growing Friends Plant Sale

Browse the nursery and cultivate your plant collection. The Growing Friends can also provide you with advice on the right plants for your home and share tips to keep your greenery thriving.

Presented by the Melbourne Friends.

PLANT SALE

Every Fri, 8am – 12pm

Growing Friends Plant Nursery,
enter via Gate E



Winter Talking Plants: Hellebores

Discover the wonders of hellebores in an illustrated talk with Peter Leigh of the Post Office Farm Nursery. Delve into the latest breeding successes and purchase exquisite plants on the day.

Presented by the Melbourne Friends.

TALK

Fri 14 Jun, 10am (1.5 hrs)

\$20 Friends member, \$25 Non-member, \$10 Student & Pensioner Friends members
Bookings essential

Email friends@rbgmelb.org.au or call 9650 6398 to book

Mueller Hall, National Herbarium of Victoria



Visit rbg.vic.gov.au or call 9252 2429 to book

Melbourne Gardens



Winter Highlights

Melbourne Gardens is home to more than 950 camellias, including a wide range of species and cultivars; varieties created through selective breeding. In winter, many of these spectacular plants start to bloom, including the eye-catching *Camellia hiemalis* 'Kanjiro'. This lovely hybrid species was bred from *Camellia sasanqua* and *Camellia japonica* in Japan in the 1950s, and features vibrant, fuchsia-pink flowers that contrast beautifully with the plant's glossy deep-green leaves. They prefer well-drained, acidic soil and partial shade and can grow to a height and width of close to three metres.



Indigenous Seasons

Indigenous people have developed an intricate understanding of the environment over thousands of years, with six to eight seasons identified by the Aboriginal people of the Melbourne region. June through to August is known as the 'deep winter' and 'pre-spring' seasons – a time of the 'big wet'. This is when heavy rains start to fall, wetlands fill up and river and creek banks burst. Many wattles display changes. The *Muyan*, Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) and *Guling*, Orchids, flower; and the flowers of the Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) produce nectar. By early August, *Murnong*, Yam Daisy (*Microseris lanceolata*) starts to bud, in full golden bloom.

Cranbourne Gardens



Balee Koolin Bubup Bush Playgroup

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children are invited to join the *Balee Koolin Bubup Bush Playgroup*, set within Cranbourne Gardens' beautiful bushland.

Come and learn about traditional Boonwurrung language, connect to country, celebrate culture and hear Indigenous children's stories. Uncover plants and creatures that live in the bush, learn to identify animal tracks and experience the joy of playing in nature.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Tue (school term)

10.30am (1.5 hrs)

Bookings essential

Suitable for 0 – 5 years, older children welcome

Meet at Stringybark Picnic Area



Kids Explorer

During the school holidays, *The Explorer* transforms into the *Kids Explorer* and children ride for free! Cruise through the Australian Garden and experience its wonders through sight, sound and smell on this special tour designed for a child's view. Take in the shapes of native petals and leaves, breathe in the delicious fragrances of different eucalypt trees, notice the colours of the landscape and learn why plants are so important for our planet.

TOUR

School holidays

Sat 29 Jun – Sun 14 Jul

Daily, 10am – 4pm (25 mins)

\$10 Adult, \$8 Concession & Friends member,

Children (0 – 17 years) ride free

Bookings recommended

Australian Garden



Visit rbg.vic.gov.au or call 5990 2200 to book



NAIDOC Koolin-ik ba Kirrip-buluk (Family and Friends): Voice. Treaty. Truth.

This year's NAIDOC theme 'Voice. Treaty. Truth. Let's work together for a shared future' celebrates over 65,000 years of the Indigenous voice; a voice that shares knowledge, connects us to country and strives for true reconciliation.

In the spirit of this commitment to a better future, and to mark the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages, the local community joins with the Gardens to host its annual NAIDOC event. There will be music by singer-songwriters Kutcha Edwards and Kee'ahn, a performance by Djirri Djirri Dance Group, Indigenous language plant naming, earth mindfulness workshops, Indigenous knowledge tours, damper making, Indigenous games and a history of Treaty.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Wed 10 Jul, 10am – 2pm, drop in anytime

Ian Potter Lakeside Precinct



Welcome to Guling (Orchid Season)

Indigenous cultures have long interpreted changes in the seasons through careful observation of local plants and animals. In this season's Indigenous program, families are invited to explore the many changes in the plants growing in the Australian Garden and surrounding bushland during *guling* (orchid season). Search for flowering native orchids, learn how some fungi and orchids nurture each other and investigate the beautiful details of winter blooms and fungi under a microscope. Get your hands dirty while planting seeds and create nature-inspired artwork to take home.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Mon 1 & Wed 3 Jul, 11am (2 hrs)

\$10 Child, accompanying adult free
Bookings essential

Meet at the Visitor Centre



Paper Landscapes

by Ray Besserdin

Experience a unique exhibition of sculptured paper artworks on show for the very first time. Inspired by both Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens, internationally acclaimed paper sculpture artist, Ray Besserdin sculpts paper made from cotton, hemp and mulberry fibres into astonishing three-dimensional artworks expressing his fascination with nature.

In a career spanning 30 years, Ray's artworks have been prized worldwide, with 24 awards to his name. *The Path to Gondwana*, created for this exhibition, recently won a Gold Medal for Creativity from Mondial Art Academie, France.

Presented by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and Ray Besserdin.

EXHIBITION

Sat 20 Jul – Sun 4 Aug

10am – 4pm, drop in anytime

Visitor Centre Gallery



Image: Ray Besserdin



The Explorer

Discover the Australian landscape on an open-air bus tour. From the Red Sand Garden, journey along the east coast of Australia, around the riverbend, before winding back through the Peppermint Garden, taking in the beauty of the native bush.

On National Tree Day (Sun 28 Jul), The Explorer will focus on significant trees in the Australian Garden and their importance to plants and people.

During the school holidays (Sat 29 Jun – Sun 14 Jul), this journey transforms into the Kids Explorer and children ride for free (see page 20).

DAILY TOUR

Daily, 10am – 4pm (25 mins)

\$10 Adult, \$8 Child, Concession & Friends member, \$25 Family (2 Adults & 2 Children)

Exclusive group tours also available (30 mins or 1 hr)

Bookings recommended

Australian Garden



Snapshots of Australia

Venture into the Australian Garden with an expert guide and discover the uniqueness of Australian plants and how they fit into our climate. Journey along the Rockpool Waterway, where different garden beds are designed by theme, before crossing the Waterhole Bridge at the river's bend.

From the Arid Garden, peer across the expanse of the Red Sand Garden and see the fuzzy trunks of 400-year-old grass trees sprouting up near the Eucalypt Walk.

Have your camera ready to capture stunning images of this unique landscape.

DAILY TOUR

Daily, 11am (1 hr)

\$7.50 Adult, \$6.50 Child, Concession & Friends member

Bookings essential

Meet at the Visitor Centre



Birds in the Australian Garden

Identify some of the birds often spied in the Australian Garden and hear stories about how they have shaped the forests and wildflowers of Australia. Listen and look for birds as you explore the landscape on this free guided walk.

TOUR

Sat 15 Jun, Tue 9 Jul & Sat 24 Aug, 10am (1 hr)

Bookings essential

Meet at the Visitor Centre



Exclusive Group Tours

Explore the Australian Garden with your community group and learn about the diversity of Australian plants on a walking tour led by an expert guide. Choose from one of our bespoke tours or have one tailored to your group's interest.

TOUR

By arrangement (1 hr)

\$6.50 per person

Minimum of 6 people

Bookings essential

Meet at the Visitor Centre



Cranbourne Gardens



Growing Friends Plant Sale

Is there a plant growing in the Australian Garden that has caught your eye? Come along and select from a range of varieties. A list of available plants will be shared online one week before the sale at rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au.

Presented by the Cranbourne Friends.

PLANT SALE

Sat 27 & Sun 28 Jul
10am – 4pm, drop in anytime

Australian Garden, near
the kiosk



Winter highlight

Banksias, one of Australia's most iconic types of native plants, are in full flower over the winter months in the Australian Garden. *Banksia menziesii*, commonly known as Firewood Banksia, produces masses of large flowers throughout winter and their richly coloured flower heads see nectar-loving birds flock to them. In your home garden, cutting off the flowers will encourage many flowers on long new shoots in successive years, while leaving them will result in beautifully ornate, brown mottled 'cones'. As with most Western Australian banksias, the Firewood Banksia requires well-drained soil and full sun.



Valuable habitat

Discover the treasure trove of flora and fauna in Cranbourne's natural bushland. More than 400 plant species provide food and habitat for over 150 bird species and more than 20 mammals, including the nationally endangered southern brown bandicoot. The Gardens also hosts a range of reptilian wildlife, including three rare snake species, and 12 out of 13 species of frogs from Greater Melbourne have been recorded in Cranbourne Gardens.



The Art of Riverkeeping

Waterways worldwide have suffered from urbanisation. Hear from Yarra Riverkeeper Andrew Kelly and Werribee Riverkeeper John Forrester about the voluntary work they do to help maintain the health of Melbourne's waterways.

Presented by the Cranbourne Friends.

TALK

Sun 3 Aug, 2pm (1.5 hrs)

\$20 Friends member, \$25 Non-member & \$10 Student
Bookings essential

Call 9707 5275 to book
Australian Garden Auditorium



Image: Peter Miller



Melbourne Gardens

Birdwood Avenue
Melbourne 3004

Open daily

7.30am to sunset

Cranbourne Gardens

Corner of Ballarto Road and
Botanic Drive, Cranbourne 3977

Open daily except Christmas Day

9am to 5pm

Share your special moments

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Visit rbg.vic.gov.au or call 5990 2200 to book