

## CRANBOURNE WALKS, TALKS and WORKSHOPS

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### **Explorer Bus overview of the Gardens, discovering the Weird & Wonderful**

[Tuesday, \(07\), Wednesday \(11\)](#)

Discover the iconic Australian landscape from the Red Sand Garden, journey along the east coast of the Australian Garden and around the river bend. A short stop will be made at the Weird and Wonderful Garden before winding back through the Peppermint Garden. This tour features plants that have unique adaptations to Australian conditions and is suitable for delegates with walking difficulties.

### **Explorer Bus overview of the Gardens, featuring the Mallee**

[Tuesday, \(07\), Wednesday \(11\)](#)

Discover the iconic Australian landscape from the Red Sand Garden, journey along the east coast of the Australian Garden and around the river bend. A short stop will be made at Howson Hill. This tour will feature mallee vegetation and a panoramic view over the Australian Garden and is suitable for delegates with walking difficulties.

### **Eastern Display Gardens Walk. [Tuesday, \(07\), Wednesday \(11\)](#)**

Experience some of the unique design elements of the award-winning gardens. The tour will include the northern display gardens, the Arbour Garden and Howson Hill with its mallee trees and views over the Australian Garden. The tour passes by the Rockpool Waterway with its 90m long Corten steel sculpture and five display gardens designed by individual Landscape Architecture companies.

### **Flora Australis Walk [Tuesday, \(07\), Wednesday \(11\)](#)**

A walking tour along the beautiful scented western side of the gardens commencing from the kiosk. Explore the evolution of Australian plants beginning at the Gondwana Garden and then visit the Weird & Wonderful Garden containing plants with special adaptations for Australian conditions. The walk continues through the Arid Garden, past the Xanthorrhoeas and along the Eucalyptus Walk.

### **Bird Walk [Tuesday, \(07\), Wednesday \(11\)](#)**

Discover the wonderful world of the birds that call the Australian Garden home. Take a behind-the-scenes look at how they have shaped the country's forests and wildflowers on a guided walking tour through the Australian Garden. Learn about habitat, nesting, food sources including lerps and nectar, as well as bird-pollination of flowers.

### **Eastern Display Gardens & Flora Australis Walk (2 Hours)**

[Tuesday, \(07+08\), Wednesday \(11+12\)](#)

Explore the rockpool waterway with its 90m long Corten steel sculpture and five display gardens designed by individual Landscape Architecture companies. Visit Howson Hill with its mallee trees and views over the Australian Garden. The tour returns via the Gondwana Garden, visiting the Weird & Wonderful Garden containing plants with special adaptations for Australian conditions. Finally walk through the Arid Garden, and past the Xanthorrhoeas in the Stringybark Garden.

### **Heart of the Gardens Walk [Tuesday, \(07\), Wednesday \(11\)](#)**

A circular walking tour from the Red Sand Garden to the north-central part of the gardens. Follow the rockpool waterway with its 90m long Corten steel sculpture, cross the bridge to the Serpentine Walk and the Arid Garden. View the Northern section of the gardens from the Weird & Wonderful Garden and then return via the Eucalyptus Walk.

### **Nursery Tour [Tuesday, \(08\), Wednesday \(12\)](#)**

Visit the nursery and view the wide range of plants. Propagation techniques will be demonstrated. View rare or threatened plants being raised for conservation purposes; these will be planted out in the Australian Garden or distributed to other botanic gardens.

**Bandicoots & Habitat Gardening Talk** [Tuesday, \(08\), Wednesday \(12\)](#)

A talk on fauna management in the Australian Gardens and the surrounding conservation zone, including the iconic southern brown bandicoot (*Isoodon obesulus*). It will include ideas for attracting wildlife to home gardens. This talk has a potential link to the Bandicoot Walk.

**Raising Rarity and Wild Collecting** [Tuesday, \(08\), Wednesday \(12\)](#)

This talk focuses on collecting rare or threatened plants from the wild and their conservation for the future - one of the main purposes of botanic gardens. This talk has a potential link to link to the Eucalyptus Walk.

**Fire Ecology** [Tuesday, \(08\), Wednesday \(12\)](#)

A talk by Dr Dick Williams, a plant ecologist who has taught at Monash University, worked for CSIRO, and was co-editor of "Flammable Australia: Fire Regimes, Biodiversity and Ecosystems in a changing World". This talk is relevant to the recovery from the disastrous 2019 Victorian bush fires.

**Pollination and Plant Adaptation Talk** [Tuesday, \(08\), Wednesday \(14\)](#)

A talk by Maxwell Campbell (president of Field Naturalists Club of Victoria) on plant pollinators and adaptations. This talk relates to information provided in the Bird Walk and other walks in the Australian Gardens and Conservation Area.

**Trig Point - Conservation Zone Walk** [Tuesday, \(10\), Wednesday \(14\)](#)

Visit the conservation zone bushland around the outside of the Australian Garden and learn about the local indigenous flora and fauna. View the Australian Garden, Western Port Bay and Port Philip Bay from the Trig Point lookout.

**Eucalyptus Walk** [Tuesday, \(10\), Wednesday \(14\)](#)

Visit the Eucalyptus Walk and Forest Garden to view a collection of eastern Australian eucalypts as well as rare species collected from sub-alpine areas of north-eastern Victoria and the Grampians in western Victoria. This walk follows on from the talk Raising Rarity and Wild Collecting.

**Bandicoot Walk** [Tuesday, \(10\), Wednesday \(14\)](#)

This is related to the Bandicoots & Habitat Gardening talk. The route includes a view of the bandicoot "gates" through the Conservation Area fence. You may be fortunate enough to see a bandicoot as these normally nocturnal marsupials have become used to people in the garden.

**North Queensland Cloud Forests Collecting Talk** [Tuesday, \(10\), Wednesday \(14\)](#)

This talk describes a visit to North Queensland cloud forests for plant collection and ex-situ conservation of endangered species threatened by climate change. The plants are being grown on at Cranbourne Nursery and will be distributed to other Victorian botanic gardens.

**History of Cranbourne's Australian Gardens Talk** [Tuesday, \(10\), Wednesday \(14\)](#)

The development story of the Australian Garden commencing from use by First Nation people, clearance for farming, a reserve for military training, a sand dune mine in bushland, to design and construction of a world-class botanic garden.