

MELBOURNE WALKS, TALKS, TOURS and WORKSHOPS

MELBOURNE WALKS

Aboriginal Heritage Walk* [Monday \(04\)](#), [Thursday \(17\)](#)

Womin Djeka!

Journey into Melbourne Gardens, a significant cultural site for the local Kulin Nation with an aboriginal guide. Gain insight into the rich history and thriving culture of the First Peoples of Australia through a journey of identifying significant native plants within the Gardens. Learn about Aboriginal plant uses, customs and ongoing connection to Country.

Araucariaceae* [Monday \(03\)](#), [Thursday \(16\)](#)

The Araucaria collection is of considerable importance to the RBG, as a significant genus that exists only in the Southern Hemisphere – from Chile through the Pacific to Australia. The RBG collection is registered with Plant Trust.

Bird Walk [Friday \(20\)](#)

Melbourne Gardens is full of incredible bird life, from coots to cormorants; spinebills to swans. On an early morning walk, delight in the sights and sounds of the birds that call the Gardens home.

Children's Garden - Head, Heart and Hands [Thursday \(18\)](#)

Remember how you saw the natural world as a child? Discover why our Children's Garden is so special. Release your inner child and take a gambol through the garden for children, enjoying nature through a child's eye.

Chinese Collection [Monday \(03\)](#)

China's flora is enormous, diverse, and beautiful. Join us to meander around the Southern China Collection and along the serpentine path to discover some of these rare and common, weird and wonderful beauties. Spring brings the floral delights of *Cercis glabra* from Yunnan, crested irises, peonies and lots more....

Chocolate and Spice [Monday \(04\)](#)

Good things come in small packages. Take the delights of taste and aroma a step further; find out about the wondrous plants that have lifted the pleasure of our palates, have shaped the world's cuisines, and have altered the course of history.

Climate Watch [Monday \(05\)](#)

Join us and become a citizen scientist on our Climate Watch walk. Learn how to observe and use the Earthwatch and Climate Watch App which monitors seasonal changes of the behaviour of plants and wildlife (phenology) which indicate the effects of climate change. The data you record on this guided tour will be added to the Earthwatch database which will help shape Australia's scientific response to climate change.

Connecting with Nature: a walking meditation experience* [Thursday \(16\)](#), [Thursday \(17\)](#)

Enjoy the experience of being led through some of Melbourne Gardens' quiet tranquil spaces. Allow yourself to be immersed in nature, your senses to awaken, and to come up close to some of the amazing qualities hidden in plants. Science tells us of the health and well-being benefits of a walk through nature. Be inspired to create walks in your own unique Gardens.

Curating California [Monday \(03\)](#)

Join the Horticultural Curator for this insightful deep dive into the California Collection. Learn how the curator develops this living collection through networking with international botanic gardens and understanding climate, place and these wondrous plants.

Curious Plants and Passionate People* [Monday \(05\)](#), [Thursday \(18\)](#)

Many of these plants have passionate people behind them. We tell some of their stories, for example the discovery of the Dawn Redwood in China and the Wollemi Pine in Australia. On this walk you will be shown some of the botanical curiosities that we have in the gardens.

Extraordinary Trees* [Monday \(05\), Thursday \(17\)](#)

Discover historical and botanical facts. Hear fascinating and amusing anecdotes as you visit our extraordinary and significant trees.

Fern Gully* [Monday \(03\), Thursday \(18\)](#)

A botanical and historical tour through our unique fern collection. See 150-year-old magnificent figs, meander down the boardwalk alongside the rippling stream and view two well-being gardens/meditation spaces.

First Nations Climate Change Justice Walk* [Monday \(05\), Thursday \(18\)](#)

First Nations People have long lived in balance with nature. On this walking tour with an Aboriginal Learning Facilitator, celebrate Country and learn of the environmental knowledge and practices First Nations people have employed for thousands of years. Become versed in Indigenous land management, culturally important endangered species and more as you walk in solidarity to help protect and care for this precious planet.

Guilfoyle's Volcano and Arid Garden* [Monday \(5\), Thursday \(18\)](#)

Featuring plants that are drought tolerant, flowing from the Volcano to the wonderful new Arid Garden. The inspirational design showcases a unique collection of cacti and succulents. There are over 400 species and 1500 individual plants, many collected during a 1930's expedition to South America.

Historic Postcard Walk [Thursday \(16\)](#)

In the Golden Age of postcards over 100 years ago, photographers came to the Gardens in droves. They took photos of the lakes, the structures, the views and of the people who came to promenade in the elegant fashions of the day. Come on this walk to see a significant collection of these postcards.

Long Island - Lower Yarra habitat* [Monday \(04\), Thursday \(16\)](#)

The Gardens have returned this area to the vegetation of the First Peoples. Long Island reveals the makeup of Melbourne's unique combination of endemic vegetation. Join this walk to experience the environment which existed before the development of the Botanic Gardens.

Mueller and Guilfoyle Landscaping Walk [Friday \(21\)](#)

Mueller and Guilfoyle: different men, with the same passion for the Gardens. Learn about the individual approaches of two of our founding fathers and why this Botanic Garden has benefited from both.

Oak Lawn* [Monday \(03\), Thursday \(17\)](#)

The Oak Lawn is home to 40 oaks ranging from the mighty to the small and includes species vulnerable in their natural habitat. This walk highlights the diversity, the economic and historical importance of oaks and the conservation efforts being undertaken by the Gardens.

Rare and Threatened Species Beds* [Monday \(03\), Thursday \(16\)](#)

The Rare and Threatened Collection situated on the Central Lawn is a collection of Victoria's rarest plants. As you will see, rarity often goes with beauty. Explore these plants with the curator and hear about some of these hard won treasures – from collecting stories to plants with ornamental value.

Royal Hopetoun Lawn and Temple of the Winds [Monday \(05\)](#)

In the year of the Queen's Jubilee come and check out the 'Royal Walk' where the Queen and three generations of her forbears have planted trees. See what is left of the original pinetum planted by Von Mueller, mighty oaks planted by the Governor of Victoria Lord Hopetoun, and several trees on the NT Significant Tree Register. Enjoy the view over the River Yarra from The Temple of the Winds.

The Melbourne Observatory [Monday \(05\)](#)

Did you know more than one million Earths could fit inside the Sun? Discover the wonders of the solar system as you enjoy special access to the historic Melbourne Observatory, constructed in the 1860s as Melbourne's home of weather forecasting, time keeping and star charting. Explore the amazing heritage telescopes and hear about the return of the Great Melbourne Telescope.

The New Sensory Garden [Monday \(04\)](#)

Be immersed in the sounds, colours and textures of this new garden funded by the Melbourne Friends. Bright colour combinations stimulate the senses and 'old fashioned' plants evoke pleasant memories. The seat at "Proposal Point" overlooks the lake.

Walk with the Arborist* [Monday \(04\)](#), [Thursday \(18\)](#)

Take a walk with the Arborist looking at the management of Melbourne's unique tree population and what it takes to preserve the trees at Melbourne Gardens into the future. Learn from the 150-year-old White Oak, which collapsed early in 2020 and is still in the landscape today. What can this teach us about the future of some of our loved trees in the Gardens?

Working Wetland and Water Management [Monday \(03\)](#)

You might find it hard to believe that rainy Melbourne provides only 7 buckets out of 10 needed for maintenance of our beautiful gardens. This has always been the case, and now the climate is getting drier. Come and learn about innovative ways of harnessing this precious resource, past, present and into the future.

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow [Thursday \(16\)](#)

Charles La Trobe showed great vision in his choice of a site for the Botanic Gardens, Baron Ferdinand Von Mueller had the scientific knowledge, William Guilfoyle had the imagination to produce the gardenesque landscape and the current landscape architect Andrew Laidlaw has been transformative in enhancing the history and story of the heritage landscape. This walk will introduce plantings more suited to the projected climate and environmental conditions.

MELBOURNE TALKS

Banking on Recovery - botanic gardens and bushfires [Monday \(04\)](#)

RBGV's Victorian Conservation Seed Bank, situated at Melbourne Gardens, is vital in supporting the salvage and recovery of species threatened with extinction and in leading Victoria's response to the severe bushfire events of 2019/20.

Big Bats, Botanica and Bad Weather [Thursday \(18\)](#)

Learn about big bat's (flying foxes) annual migrations, their role in the environment and how climate change is affecting them. Also learn how orphan bat pups are managed from rescue to release. How can botanic guides help our native night gardeners?

Climate Watch: Australia's Phenology Network [Friday \(21\)](#)

Hear from Australia's leading citizen science phenology monitoring programme Climate Watch. Learn about how climate change is impacting the natural world, how the ecological systems we rely upon are being disrupted and how you can be part of the solutions and contribute to science.

Contemporary Landscaping [Thursday \(17\)](#)

Inspirational RBGV Landscape Architect of more than 20 years, Andrew Laidlaw will explore how the Melbourne Gardens have evolved from a picturesque strolling garden to an immersive healing and interactive garden.

Curious Carnivores—grisly inspiration [Thursday \(16\)](#)

There are over 800 species of carnivorous plants worldwide and collections of such plants are often a real highlight. These unusual plants, found across five continents, will provide a richly illustrated overview of carnivorous plant diversity and the many fascinating aspects of their biology.

Fungi - their role in the environment [Thursday \(17\)](#)

Greg Boldiston runs fungi walks in the Macedon Ranges where there is an amazing diversity of fungi. He will discuss the 3 main types of fungi and their role in the environment. In addition, he will also discuss the process of identifying fungi.

Garden 'Critters' [Monday \(05\)](#)

Animals and plants are closely connected and each need the other to survive. Deepen your appreciation of nature by learning about the mind-blowing relationships between common and not-so-common plants and their insect, reptile, bird and mammalian friends and foes.

Gondwana and Palaeobotany [Monday \(04\)](#)

The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia are a group of Parks in Northern New South Wales and southeast Queensland that are listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Status. What was Gondwana and how does it relate to living forests? The history of Gondwana will be explored through the lens of fossil plants.

Melbourne's Urban Forest [Monday \(03\)](#)

The City of Melbourne is working to become a city in a forest and a place where humans and wildlife can thrive. The city is facing a climate and biodiversity emergency so this work is more important than ever. In this talk you'll hear some of the innovative ways the City is expanding the urban forest and creating more quality habitat for wildlife.

Plant Trust - protecting diversity in garden plants [Monday \(04\)](#)

Plant Trust was established to address loss of biodiversity in the horticultural industry by developing registered collections to preserve species in Australia. Regulations regarding bringing in plants from overseas means if we lose plants it is very difficult or impossible to replace them. It is also important to protect plants bred in this country. Stephen Ryan from Dicksonia Rare Plants is President of Plant Trust and will lead this talk.

Victorian Regional Botanic Gardens Panel [Thursday \(17\)](#)

Since early settlement Victoria has had an extraordinary relationship with Botanic Gardens and had over 50 when there was still only a handful in the other states. John Arnott (Horticulture Manager at RBG Cranbourne) and Virginia Heywood (Guide RBG, and presenter 3CR Gardening Show) will discuss the history, development, and continuing struggles to keep this heritage alive.

Wildlife Photography [Thursday \(17\)](#)

Jason Caruso has spent over 15 years photographing wildlife and natural spaces. Birds are one of his favourite subjects to photograph. Capturing high quality images of birds can present many challenges and during the presentation he will share some useful tips to help improve your wildlife photography. Share these tips with audiences during your tours to help inspire their creativity and bring tours to a new level of engagement.

World's tallest flowering plant and a special, tiny possum [Monday \(03\)](#)

This talk is about two of Australia's iconic species highly dependent on each other; the soaring *Eucalyptus regnans* and Victoria's faunal emblem and critically endangered Leadbeater's Possum which for decades was considered extinct,

MELBOURNE TOURS

Behind the Scenes of the RBGV Melbourne Nursery [Thursday \(17\)](#)

Learn about what research we do in the Nursery and how this influences conservation. Grasp the details of propagation and in particular investigate the habits of terrestrial orchids. This will be a limited tour of 12 people so please make an early booking.

Explore the Wonders of Plant Craft Cottage [Thursday \(16\)](#)

The Gardens' oldest building, once the gardener's cottage, is now the Plant Craft Cottage where colourful creations using plant material are produced. This talk will cover the history, the redirection of the Yarra and the many craft groups that call it home. If you are looking for a special gift look no further!

Garden Explorer* [Monday \(04\)](#), [Monday \(05\)](#)

Enjoy all that the Melbourne Gardens have to offer from the comfort of the Explorer mini bus. Your expert guide drives you through the RBG Collections with stunning views and commentary, from the heights of Guilfoyle's Volcano to the lowest point at the Yarra River.

Melbourne Friends, Growing Friends Nursery [Friday \(21\)](#)

Hear and explore how the Friends of the Melbourne Gardens organise their propagation, database management, nursery, and their popular and successful twice yearly Plant Sales.

The Herbarium [Thursday \(16\)](#)

What goes on inside the National Herbarium of Victoria at Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne? Take this opportunity to go behind the scenes and learn about the work of herbarium curators and researchers, and view some of the irreplaceable specimens from one of the world's most significant botanical collections.

The Herbarium Library [Thursday \(17\)](#)

Join a tour of Australia's most comprehensive botanical library the origins of which reach back to 1853. Specialising in plant taxonomy, plant systematics and all things plant related, the collection includes printed material, original artwork, correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, maps and realia.

MELBOURNE WORKSHOPS**An Exploration of Biomimicry** [Friday \(21\)](#)

We have all been in awe by the magnificence of nature but have you ever wondered about how nature works? Nature has been around for 3.85 billion years and has a wealth of knowledge that can inspire sustainable design and innovation. This workshop will provide an opportunity to connect with the wonders of the natural world through the lens of Biomimicry and learn about the skills at the core of this design practice.

Children's Garden – Creative Nature Workshop [Friday \(21\)](#)

The Children's Garden encourages children to use their senses- sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. Come and join us in creating children's art and craft activities.

Connect and Converse [Friday \(21\)](#)

Although it is almost time for farewell, it doesn't have to end here. Bursting with ideas and keen to share? This workshop will examine the possibility of improving dialogue, connectivity and interaction between the botanical gardens of Australia and New Zealand.

Guiding People with Dementia [Friday \(21\)](#)

It is important to make our public gardens as accessible and inclusive as possible so everyone can enjoy what they have to offer and be inspired. It is well established that spending time outdoors is good for our physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. This session will focus on ways to meet the needs of people living with dementia, and maximise their participation in walks and activities in the gardens.

Harp in the Gardens [Thursday \(18\)](#)

Michael Johnson has been the Gardens' resident harpist for more than 20 years. Listen to his rippling and cascading music inspired by living and working in the Gardens. He has produced a wide range of beautiful CDs and concert performances.

Tour Guides Australia Presenter [Monday \(05\)](#)

Why do you remember that tour months, years, even decades later? Your guide may have shared a terrific story that resonated with you, or connected to that place, person or event with something in your own life. Join us to reflect on a few simple ideas that you might consider embedding into your tour to add some extra 'wow' value and richness to the visitor experience.