



Conservatory

Open 9-5

03 5320 5135

rccadmin@ballarat.vic.gov.au



BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS



Friends of BBG 03

5342 9354

www.fbbg.org.au

info@fbbg.org.au



AUTUMN 2015

Welcome to the Ballarat Botanical Gardens

TOURS

Booked Guided Tours of the gardens

Make arrangements for these tours through the Robert Clark Centre (03-5320 5135) or directly to the Friends Guides' Convener, Terry O'Brien (0438459504)

Costs for these tours are \$5 per head; Local Ballarat groups receive a discount – just \$2 per head.

A Guided Sunday morning tour

Every Sunday morning in autumn at 11a.m. Meet outside the Conservatory.

No booking required and no charge but gold coin donation to the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens (FBBG) appreciated.

Self directed tours

Collect brochures with maps and information about the Statues, the Significant Trees and the Prime Ministers' Avenue.

PLANTS

Sales Growing Friends have plant sales on Tuesday each week from 1pm-4pm from their base at their nursery behind the Robert Clark Centre. Look out for their signs. Plants are also on sale on the second Sunday of each month 1pm- 4pm.

Tree of the month

There is an information display for you to check out on the glass front wall of the Conservatory. Each tree featured will have important botanical information as well as where to find it in the Gardens.

Bedding displays

Shades of blue, purple, pink and white with grey foliage plants have been used and the different plants are labelled. The topiary animals are planted up with *Lonicera nitida* (box honeysuckle) that has taken 18 months to grow to current size. It is a magnificent display.

Conservatory display

Of course the Begonia Festival might be over, but you can still view the award winning display of Ballarat's famous begonias in the Conservatory.

BotaniKIDS FBBG BotaniKIDS: Educating Group children's program.

Enquiries and bookings can be made at info@fbbg.org.au. Pick up a Nature Quest BotaniKIDS pamphlet at the Conservatory to enhance your visit to the Gardens!

Regular sessions for the under-5s in the popular Coffee and Cake mornings. The parents are treated to homemade cake and coffee while the children are engaged in book readings, songs, nature walks and crafts. Meet in the Robert Clarke Horticultural Centre, 10am to 12noon. Booking required. Gold coin donation.

2015 Dates: April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, September 8 and December 8.

Children's Craft Day, Thursday, October 22.

Autumn Wonders in the Gardens



Nyssa Sylvatica, also known as the Black Tupelo, originated in North America, where it can reach up to 11 meters in height. In autumn its leaves turn yellowish-apricot to bright scarlet.

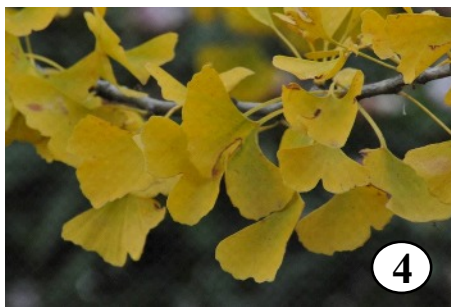
Location: Just to the right as you enter the McDonald Gates on the eastern side of the gardens, close to Wendouree Parade. (See map overleaf.)

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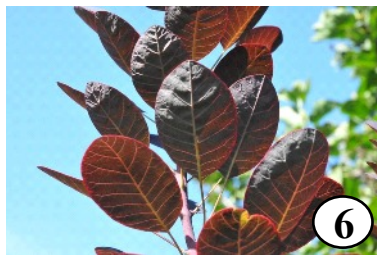
2 **Haemanthus coccineus (left)**, known as the Blood Lily, is originally from South Africa. From summer to autumn it bears bright red flowers on purple spotted stems. The flowers are followed by two broadly oval, dark green leaves which lie on the soil.
Location: The Monocot Garden at the southern end of the Western Bed.

3 **Taxodium distichum (right)**, also known as the Swamp Cypress, originated in the swamp regions of eastern America, where it can reach up to 36m in height. Its foliage turns a rusty brown in autumn and appears to many people to be dying. It sends up 'knobby knees' which are special structures sent up from the roots when the plant is standing in water. One of roots can be seen under a drain grating to the north of the tree closest to Wendouree Parade.
Location: Two trees located near Statuary Pavilion.



4 **Ginkgo biloba (left)** is also known as the Maidenhair Tree, because its fan shaped leaves resemble the fern of that name. Originally found in China and Japan it was thought to be extinct at one stage. In the wild they can reach up to 24m in height and some specimens are thought to be more than 2,500 years old. The female plants are rarely used as their seeds have an unpleasant smell. In autumn the leaves turn a golden yellow.
Location: The Winter Garden in the Western Bed.

5 **Brachychiton populneus (right)** also known as the Kurrajong, is native to eastern Australia; being found from N.E. Victoria to Townsville and from the coast to the semi arid inland. Flowers are bell shaped pink or red. Ground up seeds can be brewed into a coffee substitute or added to bread.
Location: The Australian Native Garden in the Western Bed.



6 **Cotinus coggygia 'Velvet cloak' (left)** is also known as the Smoke tree. This originated in Southern Europe and Central China and can grow between 3 - 4m in the wild. In autumn the leaves turn a dark reddish purple.
Location: The Purple and Grey garden in the Western Bed.



7 **Canna x Generalis, (above right)** also known simply as the Canna, is native to the tropics but most cultivars are developed in temperate climates. Their flowers are typically red, orange or yellow. In the wild they grow 2 - 3m. Their underground stems, known as rhizomes, store starch and are known as one of the world's richest sources of this substance.
Location: The Grey and Purple garden of the Western Bed.

