Season’s Greetings from our Volunteer Guides. We hope you enjoy this walk amongst some of our more than 3000 mature trees. They provide shade, beauty, food and even homes in our garden. Scan the QR code below or go to rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/Plants/Garden-Explorer, to follow the tour on your smartphone.

Guided Tours

Behind the Scenes Sensory Tour
Tuesday and Friday 10 am – 12 pm & Sunday 8th 10 am - 12pm

Aboriginal Heritage Tour
Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
10 am – 11.30 am

Free guided walks
Daily 10.30 am – 12 pm except Christmas Day & Boxing Day

All tours depart from the Garden Shop Visitor Centre.

Bookings and information: rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/tours
1. *Pouteria campechiana* (Canistel, Egg Fruit)
Growing side by side two small trees from the tropics are bearing flowers, fruit and food. The Canistel or Egg Fruit from Central America is covered in bright yellow fruit, with flesh the texture of a boiled egg yolk. *Trevesia sundaita* beside it has large hand shaped or palmate dark green leaves and globular flowers at the top of slender stems. In southern Indonesia where it originates, it is not the flowers or fruit that are eaten but the edible new shoots.

2. *Barringtonia neocaledonica*
This rare evergreen tree is endemic to New Caledonia. White flowers with a pink blush and showy stamens hang from long racemes in early summer. In winter, the large leaves turn bright before falling in spring, followed by new leaves and flowers. This is one of the unusual ornamental plants propagated by our Growing Friends volunteers and sold to the public at our Growing Friends nursery, open Monday – Saturday 11 am – 2 pm.

3. *Castanospermum australe* (Black Bean Tree)
Distinctive orange and yellow flowers cover the branches of this Australian rainforest tree and are irresistible to birds such as Rainbow Lorikeets. Long before you see the trees you will hear the lorikeets battling over the flower’s rich nectar. Flowers are followed by large seed pods that look like giant woody beans containing 3-5 large seeds inside. Although toxic, Aboriginal cultural groups treated the seed to make it edible and a chemical found in the seeds is currently being researched for its potential to treat retrovirus.

4. *Lotus and Waterlillies (Nelumbo & Nymphaea)*
Water Lilies and Lotus thrive in our pond. Waterlilies have their leaves lying on or just above the water and Lotus hold their leaves well above the water. Both produce magnificent flowers that have inspired artists, musicians and religions. The flowers of Lotus generate their own heat to attract insects, who pollinate the flowers. As the resulting seed pods mature, they turn upside down to drop their seeds in the mud, where they can last for a hundred years or more.

5. *Lagunaria patersonia* (Norfolk Island Hibiscus)
Growing from 12 – 20 metres tall, this tree is native to Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands off the east coast of Australia. A beautiful and hardy ornamental, it is planted worldwide in large gardens. The pink flowers are followed by capsules containing black seeds and fibre-glass like hairs that cause irritation – hence another common name used is the “Cow Itch Tree”. A tree favoured by pretty Cotton Harlequin bugs which often congregate around the fruit capsules.

6. *Wurrungwuri Sculpture*
Surrounded by Australian native plants, this dramatic sculpture acknowledges the Cadigal, the traditional owners of this land. It is made up of two parts. A wave formation consisting of 260 sandstone blocks and a semi-circular monolith built from 16,000 threaded quartz pebbles. Brightly coloured Kangaroo Paws (*Anigozanthos* cultivars) weave between the sculptural elements. The Swamp Banksia (*Banksia robusta*), a local Sydney plant is flowering below the wave formation.

7. *The Australian Native Rockery*
This large rockery displays a diverse range of colourful and iconic Australian plants including; Grevilleas, Banksias and Kangaroo Paws. The Red Flowering Gum (*Corymbia *‘Summer Red’*) and the NSW Christmas Bush (*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*) announce the arrival of Christmas with their green foliage and bright red flowers or bracts. Look out for *Banksia plagicarpa* (Hinchinbrook Banksia) with rust-coloured, furry new leaves.

---

**PLANT OF THE MONTH**

*Syzygium moorei* (Coolamon, Watermelon Tree)
This rare rainforest tree from northern NSW and southern Queensland is named after the longest serving director of the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, Charles Moore (1848-96). Watermelon pink flowers emerge from buds that sprout directly from woody branches (ramiflory) and occasionally larger stems (cauliflory). Flowers are followed by large white edible fruit similar to, but much larger than local Lilly Pillies.