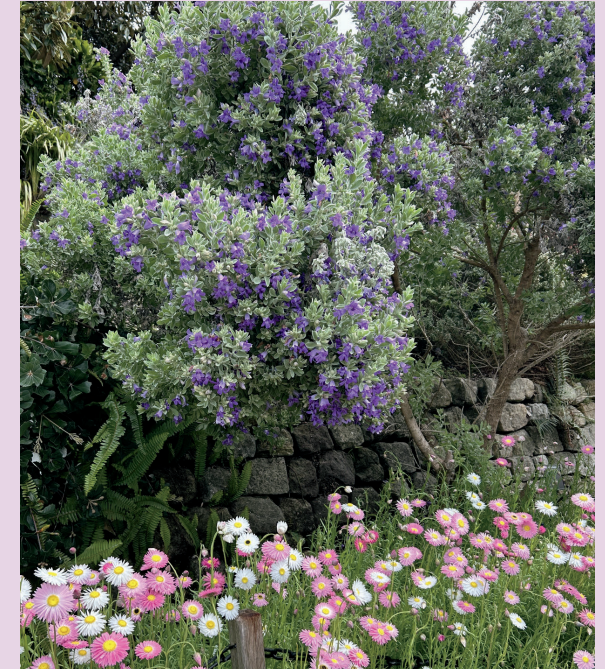




Must See

October 2025



Emu Bush and Paper Daisies
Australian Native Rockery – Stop 8

This month be amazed by the diversity of flower size, shape and colour in the Garden.

Join a guided walk

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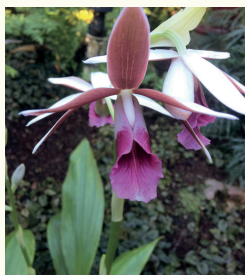
1 *Xanthorrhoea* spp.
Gulgadya (Gadigal), Grass Tree



This extraordinary plant with its skirt of grass-like leaves is endemic to Australia. It's especially important to the Gadigal, traditional owners and custodians of this site, who call the plant Gulgadya. The 'trunk' (caudex), which exudes a valuable yellow resin is made from old leaf bases which protect the plant's growing tip from fire. In spring, the flower spike (scape) is covered with nectar-rich flowers attracting birds, insects and mammals.

Family: Asphodelaceae

2 *Phaius australis*
Lesser Swamp Orchid



Australia's tallest terrestrial orchid, this species grows along the east coast from tropical North Queensland to the mid-north coast of New South Wales. Its populations are scattered, often isolated, and show low genetic diversity. Listed as endangered, it is threatened by habitat loss from human development and by poaching by plant collectors. The plant can produce a spectacular stalk up to 2 m tall, bearing more than 20 vibrant blooms.

Family: Orchidaceae

3 *Clivia miniata*
Yellow Clivia



The genus *Clivia*, native to southern Africa, is a clump-forming perennial prized for its year-round architectural appeal. Its dark green, strap-like leaves emerge from a fleshy underground stem. In shaded settings, its brilliant trumpet-shaped blooms herald the arrival of spring. The rare yellow form arose in the late 1800s through a natural genetic mutation that suppressed the plant's red pigment, leaving only the yellow to shine through.

Family: Amaryllidaceae

4 *Sloanea australis*
Maiden's Blush



This rainforest tree is endemic to Australia's east coast, from Bateman's Bay to Cape Tribulation. Widespread in moist creek gullies, it can reach a height of 30 metres. Trunks are often buttressed at the base, anchoring the tree to shallow soils. Pendulous, creamy flowers appear in spring. Yellow fruit follow, drying to woody capsules containing seeds covered in a fleshy, scarlet aril, attracting rainforest birds.

Family: Elaeocarpaceae

5 *Crataegus x lavalleei*
Lavalle Hawthorn



This deciduous tree, a natural hybrid of two Hawthorn species, was first identified in 1870 at the Arboretum Segrez near Paris. Striking white blossoms are followed in autumn by vivid scarlet berries, or 'haws.' Long celebrated as "the heart herb," Hawthorn has been valued for centuries in traditional medicine, with its antioxidant-rich berries used to support heart and circulatory health.

Family: Rosaceae

6 *Grevillea* varieties



Explore our spectacular Grevillea display as you stroll by the sea wall towards the Opera House. There are nearly 400 species of Grevillea, mostly endemic to Australia - groundcovers, shrubs, trees, with many cultivars and hybrids. Unique 'spidery' flowers arise in a cluster (conflorescence) and have a fascinating structure. Male and female parts are bundled into a tube (perianth). Male parts mature first, depositing pollen on tips of elongated female styles which present pollen to pollinators.

Family: Proteaceae

7 Australian Native Rockery



Visit Australian Native Rockery with its beautiful drystone walling, featuring a stunning diversity of native plants from across the country. Discover spectacular species from Western Australia such as Everlasting Daisies (*Rhodanthe*) and Emu Bush (*Eremophila*). The papery white, pink or crimson flowers of *Rhodanthe* produce seeds with fluffy hairs (pappus) dispersed by wind like tiny parachutes. Emu Bush has silvery leaves, their fine hairs reducing water loss.

Plant of the Month

8 *Brachychiton acerifolius*
Illawarra Flame Tree



Found naturally in coastal rainforests from southern NSW to far north Queensland, the Illawarra Flame tree is famous for its bright red bell-shaped flowers that often cover trees while they are leafless in spring. Immortalised in the Australian rock classic, "Flame Trees" by Cold Chisel, this is a commonly and easily grown species although flowering can be unpredictable. The species is a host plant for a wide range of butterflies including the Tailored Emperor. The nectar rich red flowers attract birds and bees, and the seeds are eaten by parrots, including the King Parrot.

Family: Malvaceae