

Botanic Endeavour 250

Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand celebrates 250 years of the discovery by western science of the flora New Zealand Australia's east coast in 1769-70 and over 40, 000 years of traditional knowledge

2019 - 2020



[Register your event details here.](#)

Botanic Endeavour 250

Our plants our future

In 2019 and 2020, botanic gardens and arboreta throughout Australia and New Zealand will commemorate the anniversary 'voyage of discovery' by Captain James Cook in the barque 'Endeavour' during which Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander made a comprehensive collection of flora. Cook mapped the entire coastline of New Zealand in 1769 before traversing the east coast of Australia in 1770 from Point Hicks to Cape York.

Pressings of over 520 new taxa unknown to western science were collected along the route up the east coast of Australia and these, along with thousands of botanical illustrations, somehow made it back to England in the face of shipwreck, waterlogging and the dank and humid conditions below decks.

The rich abundance of diverse flora excited the botanic world and ultimately led to the settlement of the new colony. 2019 in New Zealand and 2020 in Australia marks the 250th anniversary of these flora discoveries by western science.

Our Australian indigenous heritage

Prior to 1770, the original custodians of Australia lived in harmony with the land for over 40, 000 years and discovered the ethnobotanic use for Australia's native flora for food, medicine, tools, clothing, and building materials.

After the recording of such unusual and previously undocumented flora along the journey, Banks became a lifelong advocate for the settlement of the 'new continent' at Botany Bay. He was actively involved in the young colony.

After settlement by Europeans, the significance of our wild landscapes as a place to sustainably harvest for these purposes was often overlooked. Intrepid explorers succumbed to exposure and lack of food with much to sustain them close at hand, or paid the price for consuming plants that looked, smelled or even tasted edible, but were highly poisonous. Native forests became resources to be swiftly used, or an impediment to farming and the growth of our cities and were rapidly cleared, impacting not just the viability of flora, but also the native fauna at an alarming rate.

Slowly the mindset of the greater populace changed – national parks and reserves were declared, native plants were more widely appreciated and began appearing in gardens and their use and appreciation in modern culture was cemented. Today new technologies are exploring our native species as medicines and the conservation of those species of which little remain in the wild as a national priority.

Today, botanic gardens and arboreta are working with key partners and stakeholders in educating the community of the importance of our native plants and actively conserving species at risk of extinction in the wild via the Australian Seed Bank Partnership under the Millennium Seed Bank Project.

Why is 2019 a special year for flora in New Zealand?

(NZ insert information here)

Hamilton Gardens

Whangarei Quarry Gardens

Auckland Botanic Gardens

Eastwoodhill Arboretum, National Arboretum of New Zealand, Gisbourne

Dunedin Botanic Garden

Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Botanic Gardens of Wellington

Tūpare, Pukeiti and Hollard Gardens



Why is 2020 a special year for flora in Australia?

At each of their landings Banks and Solander made extensive observations and collections of the local flora. The following table matches the current locations of botanic gardens and arboreta with the journey.

As well as the botanists, the Endeavour also saw a team of botanical illustrators join the voyage - but all perish along the route. Banks' artists were John Reynolds, Sydney Parkinson, and Alexander Buchan - Parkinson is the best known of these, as he wrote an account of the voyage which was published in 1784. Without their work, the colours of the new flora as it was collected, before fading to brown and black, would never have led to the accurate illustrations produced in Banks' florilegium many years later.



Victoria	
April 19 & 20 Point Hicks, Ram head & Cape Howe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sale Botanic Gardens
New South Wales	
April 21 Mount Dromedary, Batemans Bay, Red Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, ● Australian National Botanic Gardens, ● National Arboretum ● Boodooree National Park
April 28 – May 5 Botany Bay, Port Jackson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wollongong Botanic Gardens ● Illawara Grevillea Park ● Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney ● Auburn Botanic Gardens ● The Australian Botanic Gardens (Mt Annan) ● Blue Mountains Botanic Gardens (Mt Tomah) ● Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens
May 11 Port Stephens, Cape Hawke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hunter Region Botanic Gardens ● Burrendong Botanic Gardens and Arboretum ● Orange Botanic Gardens ● Tamworth Botanic Gardens
May 12 The Three Brothers, Smoky Cape, Solitary Isles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens
May 15 Cape Byron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lismore Rainforest Botanic Garden
May 16 Mount Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tweed Botanic Garden (in planning)

Queensland	
May 16 Point Danger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens ● Tamborine Mountain Botanic Gardens
May 17 Cape Moreton, Morton Bay	<p>Brisbane's Botanic Gardens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha, ● City Botanic Gardens, ● Sherwood Arboretum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Redcliffe Botanic Garden ● Rosewood Scrub Arboretum <p>Toowoomba's Botanic Gardens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Queens Park and Botanic Gardens ● Peacehaven Botanic Park
May 18 The Glass Houses, Double Island Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden ● Noosa Botanic Garden
May 19 Indian Head, Hervey's Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Great Sandy Region Botanic Gardens - Hervey Bay, ● Phillips Botanical Gardens, Maryborough ● Bundaberg Botanic Gardens
May 23 - 25 Bustard Bay, Cape Capricorn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tondoon Botanic Gardens, Gladstone
May 26 Keppel Isles, Keppel Bay, Cape Manyfold, Shoal Water Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rockhampton Botanic Gardens
May 28 – June 2 Northumberland Isles, Broad Sound, Slade Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens
June 4 Whitsundays Passage, Cape Gloucester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Whitsunday Botanic Gardens
June 6 Magnetic Island, Cleveland Bay, Palm Isles	<p>Townsville's Botanic Gardens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anderson Gardens, ● Dan Gleeson Memorial Gardens, ● The Palmetum, ● Queens Gardens
June 8 Halifax Bay, Dunk Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bill Markwell Botanical Gardens, Innisfail
June 9 Frankland Islands, Cape Grafton, Fitzroy Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cairns Botanic Garden
June 10 Green Isle, Trinity Bay, Cape Tribulation,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mossman Botanic Gardens
June 17 – August 3 Endeavour River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cooktown Botanic Garden – commemorations finish with the Cooktown 2020 - A shared history festival

On August 11 - 22 The Endeavour sailed past Lizard Island, Eagle Island, Cape Grenville, Cape York, Possession Island and on August 22 - 23 - Endeavour Strait, Prince of Wales's Isles, Booby Island

Towards 2019/2020

Botanic gardens and arboreta along the route will develop a variety of new displays, exhibitions and rolling events to commemorate this historic event – commencing at in New Zealand in 2019 and finishing in Cooktown, far north Queensland in August 2020.

Prior to 1770, the original custodians of Australia for over 40, 000 years discovered the ethnobotanic use of Australia's native flora for food, medicine, tools and building materials. Today, botanic gardens are key places to work together to further reconciliation by adding an extra dimension to this botanical story through the dual stories of indigenous and European use of native plants.

Botanic gardens and arboreta throughout Australia not directly along the route, will also be participating in the commemoration and promotion of the event.

How are botanic gardens and arboreta commemorating this event?

Botanic Gardens, arboreta and local communities will all be involved in individual and unique ways.

Brisbane's three botanic treasures – Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha, City Botanic Gardens and Sherwood Arboretum are planning to commemorate 2020 with a number of events and installations:

- new Australian native plant gardens included the Banks and Solander display in the new Botanic Discoveries Garden will interpret the voyage by showcasing the plants collected and recorded by Banks and Solander – particularly Queensland species,
- interpretative signage and digital media that acknowledges the traditional owners as custodians of the land and the many stories involving the use of Australian native flora, especially in the greater Brisbane area,
- Australian Association Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference to be held at Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha
- Exhibition of flora collected by the expedition by The Botanical Artists' Society of Queensland
- Guided and self-guided walks and a specific schools education programs linked with the National Curriculum,
- Commemorative native tree plantings of species collected by Banks and Solander at all three sites.

The Queensland Herbarium, located at Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha holds 135 of the original collected specimens of Banks and Solander, an amazing resource to be able to view today the plants touched by the hand of these avid botanists almost 250 years ago. Tours will be available to

Cooktown Botanic Gardens will be at the centre of the Cooktown 2020 - A Shared History event held over the 7 week the Endeavour was stranded and repaired on the banks of the Endeavour River - today's Cooktown. Major events will include Banks' Florilegium, Guided botanic regional tours, Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand Queensland Region conference and Opera in the gardens. For more information, visit www.cooktown2020.com

These events will conclude the commemoration of Banks and Solander in August 2020.

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