

RBG Friends Photography Group – Monthly themes for 2023

Regular monthly meetings - 10am on the third Wednesday of each month, usually at PCC.

Group members are encouraged to take photos related to the monthly theme at any time during that month.

Photos of other subjects in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens can also be uploaded to our Flickr site at any time.

Month	Theme	Possible additional activity
January 18	Sensory Garden in Summer – Attempt to convey what is sensory about this garden. Landscaping. Experiment with: Depicting diversity and colour in this garden.	
February 15	Waterlilies - Waterlilies (nymphaea), lotus (nelumbo nucifera) and other plants growing in or near water. Bird life and other creatures in these areas. Experiment with: Capturing light effects around these plants eg. reflections, back lighting.	Possible visit to Geelong Botanic Gardens (salvias brugmansias, perennial borders, native garden)
March 15	Herb Garden - Autumn influences in the herb garden: seed heads, mature plants. Experiment with: Using colour, light and composition to highlight the end of a season.	
April 19	Araucaria - Significant tree collection. Consider the height, the bark and foliage textures, seeds. Try to depict our gardens in an urban landscape using these trees and the vistas they are part of. Experiment with: Using close up and wide angle.	Possible speaker about plants in these areas
May 17	Sasanqua camellias - Small flowering and early flowering species. Experiment with: Creating soft and romantic images using some special filter effects on your camera.	Possible photographic skills development session
June 21	Access points to the gardens - Gates, fences, buildings, pathways, plants. Use any remaining autumn colours. Experiment with: Highlighting perspectives looking in or out of the gardens; using monochrome on built structures.	
July 19	Aloes, cycads and rockeries – Consider the shadows these plants form, and the rocks that provide contrasting textures. Cycads on the Eastern Lawn and Aloes near William Tell rest house. Experiment with: Highlighting colour and texture; trying monochrome or sepia effects; using macro for close detail.	Lightscape: if attending this event, experiment with night and available light photography
August 16	Acacias - Look for differences in leaf structure and blossoms. Examples throughout the gardens; especially along path between B and C gates near Anderson Street; possibly in Long Island area. Experiment with: Using macro and wide angle lenses; using exposure compensation to capture the yellow colours well.	Possible visit to Maranoa Gardens, Balwyn. Native plants in flower
September 20	South China plants – Look at the variety of plants and the info on display about these plants. Consider location features - pathways, Long Island views and Clematis Pavilion. Experiment with: Conveying what makes this collection special.	Possible speaker (gardener in charge?) about plants in this area
October 18	Spring landscapes - Incorporate some flowering trees or other plants in these images. Look for bird activity, including young ones. Experiment with: Using the 'golden hour'; using the weather: clouds, rain, mist, sun.	Possible photographic skills development session
November 15	Australian Forest Walk and the Eucalypts Lawn – Significant trees in this area: barks, textures, litter, flowers, berries. Rare plants. Experiment with: Using close up and wide angle.	
December 13 (NB 2 nd Wed)	Cacti and other succulents - Guilfoyle's Volcano, the Arid Garden and throughout the gardens. Colour and textures. Built structures. Experiment with: Using macro and wide angle; using exposure compensation to capture the bright colours well.	