

RBGM Friends' Photography Group – Monthly Themes for 2024

Group members are encouraged to take photographs related to the monthly theme at any time during that month. Images 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 Wed 17 Sun 21	Gardens House and Gardens (or nearby) Possible subjects: Buildings, gateways, garden pathways, plants Techniques to try: the house in a garden setting, smartphone vs camera	
February Wed 21 Sun 18	Grasses – spread throughout the gardens Possible subjects: colours, seed heads, contrast with surrounding plants, reflections near water, shadows, light reflecting and back lit Techniques to try: movement, different lenses or apertures but similar composition, art effects on your camera	Photographic skills Relevant modes in the Gardens
March Wed 20 Sun 17	Textures – spikey, rough, patterned Possible subjects: fallen foliage, bark, seeds, last flowers of summer, plant features. Still life compositions. Anywhere in the gardens but Perennial Border, Arid Garden, Herb Garden and Sensory Garden are possibilities Techniques to try: colour / mono, creative compositions	
April Wed 17 Sun 21	Hopetoun Lawn – big trees, vistas, autumn Possible subjects: the trees, vistas including the trees and without the trees, groundcovers, changing colours of autumn, pathways, those seats! Techniques to try: use of wide angle lenses, back lighting to highlight autumn colour	
May Wed 15 Sun 19	Water effects in the gardens - Fern Gully, Guilfoyle's Volcano , Lakes Possible subjects: reflections, birds and insects, running water, plants near water Techniques to try: varied apertures and shutter speeds to create different moving water effects	Photographic skills Show & tell: useful equipment
June Wed 19 Sun 16	Lych Gate area to Temple of the Winds Possible subjects: vistas, trees and open space, shadows and built structures including gates, fences, pathways, Temple of the Winds Techniques to try: use of wide angle lenses, creative composition	
July Wed 17 Sun 21	Palms – Palm Lawn area and throughout the gardens Possible subjects: contrasting palm fronds, looking up Techniques to try: Compositions to highlight plant form, art effects on your camera	Talk and walk about palms
August Wed 21 Sun 18	Rare and endangered species - Victorian Rare and Threatened species collection Possible subjects: flowers, plants Techniques to try: photographing small flowering plants	
Septem. Wed 18 Sun 15	North American Drylands - California Collection Possible subjects: Rare plants, flowering plants, plants for a dry climate Techniques to try: composition to highlight special features of these plants	Photographic skills Lenses and focal lengths
October Wed 16 Sun 20	Eucalypts – Eucalypt Lawn, Australian Forest Walk and throughout the gardens Possible subjects: Bark, foliage, flowers, tree form Which birds and insects reside in these areas? Techniques to try: identify three features of a single tree eg. seed, bark, leaf, identify three types of eucalypts.	Talk and walk about eucalypts
Novem. Wed 20 Sun 17	Trees in Flower – anywhere in the gardens but try the Eastern Lawn and Princes Lawn Possible subjects: flowers, full tree view in flower, fallen blossom, birds and insects attracted, contrasting background, water reflection Techniques to try: macro/close up, 'portrait' view	Photographic skills Show & tell: favourite images
Decem. Wed 18 Sun 15	The Oaks – Oak Lawn Possible subjects: foliage, flowers/acorns, bark, form, vistas beneath and through the trees, filtered light, the fallen oak, activities in the lawn area, shadows Techniques to try: highlight the value of shade in summer	Talk and walk about oaks

Aims for the year:

Improve our skills in thoughtful, creative composition
Improve our use of inbuilt features on our cameras
Improve our use of different lenses

Possible Friends' event (for wider audience)

SmartPhone photography in the Gardens