

RBGM Friends' Photography Group – Monthly Themes for 2025

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	Notes
January Wed 15 Sun 19	South African Collection - Opportunity to highlight some of the distinctive features of these plants so close up photography could be explored here.	<i>This is a small area but it is close to the Herbarium and the Western Lawn where there are also some interesting plants.</i>
February Wed 19 Sun 16	Perennial Border – Same flower different angle. Consider the individual features of flowers in this border, flower centres, back views, different light and exposures, explore abstract opportunities. AND/OR: Rockeries and Ruins plus walk	Friends Walk: Rockeries and Ruins Sunday 16 Feb
March Wed 19 Sun 16	Plants and flowers as shadows - As shadows are beginning to lengthen investigate how different plants, flowers, grasses, trees are identifiable in the shadows they create. Use Grey Garden as an example?	Friends Walk <i>with curator</i> : Grey Garden Thurs 20 March
April Wed 16	To and from the Domain in Autumn - Trees, ornamental features, built features, vistas, particularly relating to the RBG site. Explore ways of highlighting autumn colour.	<i>Observatory, Domain House, Latrobe's cottage or the Yarra side of the Domain. Decide preferred area/s in March.</i>
May Wed 21	Vistas - From Separation tree, east to the Northern Lawn and Picnic Point. Use of wide angle lenses. Possibility to include water views, mature eucalypts, autumn grasses, bird life	Friends Walk: Autumn Highlights Sat 24 May
June Wed 18	Silhouettes - Creating silhouettes using trees and other plants. Opportunity to enhance skills in B&W photography, various exposures and composition.	Friends Walk: <i>In memory of Mueller Sun 29 June</i>
July Wed 16	Eastern Lawn - cycads and other beds. This area has a number of features which provide opportunities for macro and wide angle photography. Good vistas across the lakes towards the city and plants with strong structures.	<i>This area has some interesting plants which may not be flowering but have strong structures.</i>
August Wed 20	Camellias - Individual flowers, full plants and vistas including camellias. Consider different ways of depicting these plants in the Gardens to highlight their significance in the overall plant collections at Melbourne Botanic Gardens.	Friends Walk with curator: Camellia Collection (date TBC)
September Wed 17	Creating an abstract photo using flowers - Sensory garden. Experiment with different compositions, special effects, movement and lighting.	
October Wed 15 Sun 19?	New Zealand Collection - Aim to highlight the distinctive characteristics of plants in this area as well as locational features. Explore ways of doing this by eliminating distracting features in composition.	<i>A small area in the gardens but close to Nymphaea Lake so opportunities to include this area as a background or feature.</i>
November Wed 19 Sun 23?	Birds in their habitat – Use of a variety of lenses possible. Consider ways of depicting bird activity in the vegetation, water and grassed areas of the gardens.	
December Wed 17 Sun 21?	Summer in the gardens - Feature summer blooming plants including lotus, waterlilies, bougainvillea, grasses, roses.	

Potential additional activities – months / dates TBD

Targeted photographic tips from group members

Short talks by group members on botanical details

Professional seminar/activity on creative photography

Extra Friends' walks that complement our themes

Some meetings at Mueller Hall to discuss our images