



## WINTER LECTURE BY MARCUS RAGUS

Of Trees and Ships and Sealing Wax, Seed Packages and Kings

1pm (guided walk), 2pm (lecture) Sunday 21 July, 2019

The Banksia Room, Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens, Hobart

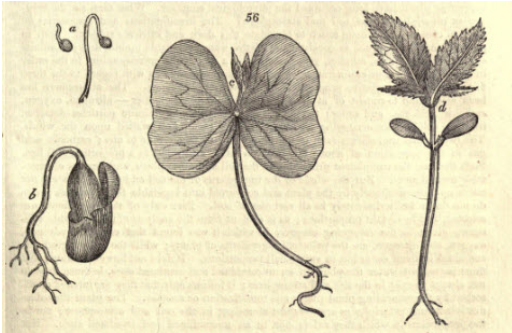


Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3

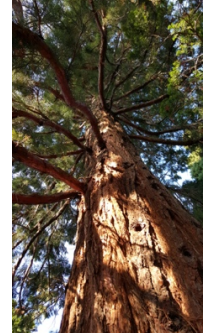


Fig 4

This intriguing lecture will reveal the wealth of early plants grown in Tasmania and trace their origins. Here's a taste of what Marcus will discuss on 21 July.

**Fig 1:** "We are happy to perceive that Botany is meeting with due encouragement from the first Botanical Gentlemen in Europe. We have seen several very flattering letters to the industrious Seed Collector, Mr. Scott, of Brisbane-street... This spirited Colonist sends Home, in almost every ship that leaves this Port, cases of his valuable collections, with every necessary direction, &c...., and his specimens, which may be seen, do him the highest credit."

Hobart Town Magazine Volume III, 1834, Image: Loudon J.C. An encyclopaedia of gardening 1825

**Fig 2:** A puzzle indeed!

The Royal Society's Garden catalogue of 1852, (1857), lists *Araucaria imbricata*, now known as *Araucaria araucana*, the Monkey Puzzle Tree, as growing in the Society's Hobart Gardens at this time. This tree and other *Araucaria* spp. potentially made it from South America via merchant shipmen who had an interest in plants, such as the enterprising Captain Edward Goldsmith. Was this a first for horticulture outside of their natural home?

**Fig 3:** From the early stages of the nineteenth century gardening became a hugely popular profession. There was an enormous desire to be the first to grow rare and unusual plants from faraway lands and colonies. Plant collectors were dispatched, plants and seeds traded, with the realisation that ornamental plants had real value. What role did Tasmania play in this unfolding story?

*Cantua buxifolia*, originally collected by the prolific plant collector William Lobb in the mid 1800s was one of the earliest ornamentals imported into Tasmania with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens listing it growing in 1852 only a few years after its original discovery.

**Fig 4:** The Wellingtonia or Big Tree, *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, was famously introduced into England from California in the 1853, but was it already growing in Tasmania prior to this? Marcus will reveal his investigations into this question at his Winter Lecture.

**To book for this fascinating lecture use the booking form on page 3 of this flyer.**

## Of Trees and Ships and Sealing Wax, Seed Packages and Kings

Be part of a special presentation by plantsman and professional horticulturist Marcus Ragus investigating some of the early plant introductions to Tasmania and the amazing people involved in this trade, from the captains to the kings.

Was our southern state the first location in the southern hemisphere to receive many iconic plants from numerous far-flung and exotic locations across the globe? If so, what happened to these plants, where did they go and what impact did this have on horticulture at the time?

The curious exotic flora of Tasmania was also considered a potentially valuable commodity, one which opened the doors to a world-wide plant trade at some of the highest horticultural levels.

This will be an entertaining presentation incorporating the plants, the people, the stories and history that made its mark on world horticulture.



**Marcus Ragus**

Marcus is a horticultural consultant with more than 40 years' experience in professional horticulture and in the domestic garden industry. His consultancy, The Verdant Way ([www.verdantway.org](http://www.verdantway.org)) provides garden and landscape design and advice as well as assistance for small to medium organic production farms and other horticultural businesses around Australia.

He has previously worked in retail and wholesale nurseries, landscape and garden businesses, parks and gardens as well as small broad acre production enterprises. He has successfully managed numerous, often ground-breaking programs in horticulture, technology and education throughout Australia. Most recently he was a manager with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in Hobart Tasmania for 10 years.

Marcus has also been a horticulture teacher in New South Wales and Tasmania and is an engaging presenter with an infectious passion for plants. He has appeared on and worked with various media programs including, ABC Gardening Australia and various radio presentations for the ABC, as well as commercial and community radio.

Marcus has offered to give a guided walk in the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens prior to his talk. The guided walk will leave from The Banksia Room at 1pm and return by 2pm for his lecture.

## MARCUS RAGUS WINTER LECTURE

### COST

\$25 members, \$30 non-members (this cost includes an optional guided walk and afternoon tea)

### BOOKINGS CLOSE 16 JULY 2019

### PAYMENT BY DIRECT CREDIT: EITHER EFT OR AT A MY STATE BRANCH

Account name: AGHS TAS. Branch. BSB 807009. Account No: 51303045

As reference, use code RTBG and your surname with payment and email Prue Slatyer, [prueslatyer@gmail.com](mailto:prueslatyer@gmail.com) to advise of your payment, names of those attending and any dietary requirements.

### PAYMENT BY CHEQUE

Make cheques to AGHS TAS BRANCH. Please post your cheque and booking form to: Prue Slatyer, PO Box 2164, Lower Sandy Bay, TAS 7005

### BOOKING FORM

First name.....Surname..... Member (Y/N)

First name.....Surname..... Member (Y/N)

First name.....Surname..... Member (Y/N)

First name.....Surname..... Member (Y/N)

Email..... Phone.....

Dietary requirements?

### ENQUIRIES

Contact Prue Slatyer, [prueslatyer@gmail.com](mailto:prueslatyer@gmail.com)