

RATIONALE

Top Draw: Drawing Aussie Flora

Self-Guided activity

- **a free A4 booklet to assist you with a botanical drawing unit at school**
- **supported by an optional, half-day, Self-Guide program at the Gardens; this can also be undertaken at school**
- **also supported by extension activities that you can download**
- **easy art for science teachers/easy science for art teachers**
- **Success (almost) guaranteed!**
- **a step-by-step guide to close observation and drawing techniques, presented in an exciting, user-friendly format that lends itself to success for all ages**

What is it?

This program introduces young and old alike to some of the concepts involved in botanical drawing. Without specifically limiting the user to all the minute requirements of scientific botanical art, it encourages close observation and accurate recording, while providing sufficient easy-to-follow instruction to ensure a high likelihood of a successful outcome.

These instructions are supported by examples of drawings done by Year 5 and Year 6 students who have participated in this program.

The booklet and extension activities are intended for use by teachers in the classroom. They can form the basis for a unit of work that could range from a simple afternoon's ramble in the bush to a much more extensive unit of work.

The program is supported by an optional, half-day, Self-Guide program at the Gardens. This activity can also be undertaken at school. Teachers who take up this option will find that the booklet provides an excellent introduction to the Self-Guide, while other download activities provide excellent material to follow up the visit and reinforce the lessons learned at the Gardens.

The Education Centre offers some resources for visiting teachers. Please phone to arrange collection and return.

The resources consists of clipboards, individual carpet mats, class sets (30) of viewers (card with rectangular cut-outs), laminated examples of botanical illustration through time, class sets of various dried Australian fruits

It is also envisaged that this optional Self-Guide component could be provided by other Botanic Gardens around Australia.

Who's it for?

- anyone interested in drawing flora, from children (starting at Year 4) to adult classes
- classes at school, supported by an optional visit to the Gardens
- art classes wanting a bit of science and science classes wanting a bit of art
- also suitable as a School Holiday Program or Special, with artist presenter

- easily adapted by regional Gardens

Why do it?

- can be done anywhere
- the optional value-add increases its usefulness for locals/visitors
- a set of activities that encourages close observation of different plant parts, linking Art to Science in a user-friendly manner
- individual success almost guaranteed
- curriculum links: this program offers an ideal opportunity for cross KLA learning with Science and Art combining

What do you get?

- a free A4 booklet (to be completed away from the Gardens) which includes teacher notes and suggested activities\, Download for your students.
- optional value-add Self-Guide at the Gardens: Phone Education Centre to arrange to borrow.
- Download extension material, taster

When?

- The at-school section is up to you!
- Self-Guide materials can be borrowed from Education Centre for sessions: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm (weekdays only)

Where?

- The at-school session is also up to you!
- The Self-Guide option takes place anywhere in the Gardens (with 'in flower this week' options) within the rules and considering the needs of other visitors
- Education Classroom (if available) for wet weather alternative

How Much?

- Download A4 booklets and copy for your students

Top Draw

WHAT TO DO ON THE DAY

- Provide each student with sufficient drawing materials (paper, pencils, erasers and sharpeners, fine felt-tip pens, paints etc.). Arrange to borrow our Top Draw kit if you want it.
- Ideally, teachers will have prepared students before their visit. The booklet *Top Draw: drawing Aussie flora* provides the ideal preparation. This can cover anything from an afternoon's ramble in the bush to a more lengthy unit of work.
- Download follow-up activities.
- Allow 2-3 hours.
- If you borrow the Education Centre resources, they can be collected from the Education Centre upon arrival.
 - clipboards and seating mats
 - class sets (30) of viewing apparatus
 - laminated examples of botanical illustration through time
 - class sets of various dried Australian fruits
 - an alternative venue in the case of inclement weather (if available)
- Ask our Education staff about good locations on the day.

