

THE BLUE MOUNTAINS BOTANIC GARDEN, MOUNT TOMAH

WELCOME TO THE BLUE MOUNTAINS BOTANIC GARDEN, MOUNT TOMAH

Sitting at 1000 m above sea level within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, this 252 hectare Garden is Australia's highest botanic garden. The Garden is home to a world-class collection of plants from the cooler southern hemisphere. The Garden is one of three Gardens managed by the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust.

This beautiful botanic garden is a great place for you to relax, breathe in the cool, clean mountain air — and discover the world of plants at your leisure. You may even find that you have a greater love and appreciation of plants at the end of your visit! You are invited to return again and again to witness the Garden's ever changing beauty throughout the seasons, complemented by an exciting calendar of events, exhibitions and festivals to inspire and entertain you.



THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AND DOMAIN TRUST ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE LAND OCCUPIED BY THE BLUE MOUNTAINS BOTANIC GARDEN, MOUNT TOMAH, IS DARUG ABORIGINAL COUNTRY. THE TRUST RESPECTS THE RIGHTS OF AUSTRALIA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO LAND, CULTURE AND HERITAGE.

VISITOR CENTRE & GARDEN SHOP

Head to the Visitor Centre for Garden information, to find out about our program of events and exhibitions and for toilets and baby change facilities. We have electric scooters and wheelchairs for visitors' use (free — refundable deposit). The Wollemi Room is available for hire for meetings, conferences or private functions.

The Garden Shop offers a large range of botanical and horticultural books; local artworks and botanical prints; cards, souvenirs and gifts; plants; sunscreen, hats and umbrellas.

TAKE A TOUR — Garden Shuttle, Volunteer Guided Walks, Aboriginal Heritage & Wilderness Tours

We offer a variety of guided and self-guided tours:

- Take a 20-minute tour of the Garden in the Shuttle Bus. It leaves four times a day from in front of the Visitor Centre. Tickets are \$5 or free for Disability Card holders, Foundation and Friends members and under-12s.
- Take a walk with an expert volunteer guide to learn about the fascinating history of the Garden and see what's looking good in the Garden. Tours leave at 11.30 am most days — ask in the Visitor Centre.
- Hire an iPod to take a self guided tour around the Garden.
- Book in advance for a specialist Aboriginal Heritage Tour or Wilderness Tour.



WEDDINGS AND VENUE HIRE

The Blue Mountains Botanic Garden has various venues available for hire including Garden sites, shelters and rooms for your wedding, function, gathering or conference. Please enquire at the visitor information desk or call 4567 3000. Rates also available online.



JUNGLE LODGE

Book into the Jungle Lodge for a secluded and peaceful stay within the Garden. Sleeps up to 10 people. Enquire at the Visitor Centre or call (02) 4567 3000.



RESTAURANT

Tomah Gardens Restaurant offers a beautiful dining experience combining a rustic feel with high quality locally sourced food by Sean Moran (of Sean's Panorama in Bondi). Bookings advised 0421 552 746 or tomahgardensrestaurant@gmail.com

GREATER BLUE MOUNTAINS EXHIBITION CENTRE

Discover this World Heritage Listed region in the comfort of the modern Greater Blue Mountains Exhibition Centre located in the Visitor Centre. Learn about eucalypt diversity, how surrounding landscapes were formed, and the rare plants and animals. Take a short virtual tour through the seven national parks and the Jenolan Caves Karst Reserve which make up part of the region.

EXPLORING THE GARDEN

FORMAL GARDEN

Three distinct terraces are inspired by traditional European garden design: the herb garden, based on the early history of botanic garden development with knot features of medicinal and culinary herbs; the lawn terrace, with its whispering walls — try them out; and a third terrace, inspired by Australian landscape gardener Edna Walling, features a hand-glazed pergola. Herbaceous perennial displays change every year with themes based on a painting by Brazilian artist Kitja.

ROCK GARDEN

Rocky plant communities from the different continents feature proteas in winter and bromeliads in summer, with a variety of plants providing interest in every season.



BOG GARDEN

Featured here are plants of a rare Blue Mountains plant community — the hanging swamp. Kneeling pads are provided so you can get close to carnivorous plants, orchids, sphagnum moss and rare plants which grow in the moist mountain climate.

RHODODENDRONS

A must-see from late winter to mid summer are cascading, colourful rhododendron species collected from the Himalayas and the Hindukush, as well as the Americas and Eurasia, providing a spectacular flowering display.



CONIFERS

Ancient conifer species and cultivars from all over the world, including a Wollemi pine and giant redwoods over 50 metres in height, contrast with dwarf and coloured forms of these species.

PLANT EXPLORERS

Join in the adventures of 14 plant explorers who collected in Asia during a period of 300 years. Clematis, primulas and camellias feature, with over 400 taxa celebrating Asian plant biodiversity and human endurance.

GONDWANA WALK

Take a walk along graded paths under towering brown barrel eucalypts; see specimens of plant groups which had their origins in Gondwana — a single super continent made up of the earth's southern continents which separated 60 – 80 million years ago. Here too are Wollemi pines, southern beeches and flowering treasures such as the Chilean bell flower.

WOODLANDS

Wander through the Eurasian woodland amongst the oaks and birch trees, enjoy the textures of the gum trees in the Australian woodland or the cool greens of southern beeches in the Southern Hemisphere woodlands. Autumn brings to life the rich, warm colours of the North American woodlands.

BLUE MOUNTAINS GARDEN SAFARI

Embark on a Garden adventure! Enjoy fun hands-on activities and discover amazing plants from around the world. For 5–12 year-olds. Collect your Garden Safari Kit from the Visitor Info Desk. Small fee applies.

WARATAH EDUCATION CENTRE

Workshops and activities for adults and children; syllabus related school lessons. Call 9231 8134.

PICNICS

Picnic at one of many scenic spots in the Garden, or use one of the free BBQs. Some sites can be pre-booked.



THE JUNGLE

Enjoy a stroll along the Lady (Nancy) Fairfax Walk and experience the beauty of this warm temperate rainforest. See the pencil orchid named to honour the Fairfax family in 1872. Purchased in 2008 with generous support from John B. and Libby Fairfax, this land has a long history in conservation of NSW forests.

WILDERNESS CONSERVATION AREA

Book a guided Wilderness Tour of this Blue Mountains wilderness, showcasing the unique vegetation of our Australian landscape. Alternatively, survey the area from a pedestrian bridge which crosses Bells Line of Road to a viewing platform where you can learn about the vegetation and history of the area. Five vegetation communities are home to many rare plants and animals.



- LEGEND**
- Woodchip paths
 - Grass paths
 - Sealed paths
 - Unsealed road
 - Wheehair / pram accessible paths
 - Shelter
 - Circles of trees
 - Steps
 - Woodchip paths 1-6
 - Picnic area
 - Picnic tables
 - Audio tours
 - Evacuation muster point
 - Water
 - Hedge



- Observe information and safety signs
- Children should always be accompanied by adults
- Consider other people by not using radios or playing games that might be disruptive
- Do not bring pets into the Garden
- Note that all flora and wildlife are protected: including snakes, spiders, lizards and birds
- Do not pick, damage or remove plants or dead plant material
- Do not ride skateboards, roller skates, roller blades or bikes

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND ENJOYMENT:



SUGGESTED WALKS

Half an hour Take in the wonderful view from the Visitor Centre and visit the Residence Garden or wander through the Formal Garden or take a rainforest walk to the viewing platform.

One hour See the Wollemi pines and Gondwana Forest or visit the Rock Garden and Residence Garden or take the Plant Explorers Walk and the Forest Walk.

Half a day Enough time to walk around the Garden and have morning tea, lunch or afternoon tea at the Restaurant or take a guided tour.

All day Book a Wilderness Tour or see the whole Garden and have a gourmet lunch at the Restaurant or a barbecue on the lawn under the gum trees.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SUPPORT US

There are many ways to support us. These include a range of personal giving options, becoming a corporate member or sponsor, or joining the Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Gardens. For more details see www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

FOUNDATION AND FRIENDS OF THE BOTANIC GARDENS

Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Gardens is a not-for-profit membership organisation which promotes, supports and contributes to the work of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust by involving the community in events and activities, and raising much-needed funds. Members receive a great range of benefits and privileges whilst ensuring continued support for the development of the Gardens.

Join Foundation and Friends and help your Gardens grow. Tel: (02) 9231 8182. Online membership can be found on our website: www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/foundationandfriends

CONTACT DETAILS

Call 4567 3000 or enquire at the Visitor Centre.
 The Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah
 Bells Line of Road, Mount Tomah NSW 2758
 Tel (02) 4567 3000 Fax (02) 4567 2037
 Restaurant Bookings to 0421 552 746 or email tomahgardensrestaurant@gmail.com
www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/tomah

OPERATING HOURS

Garden open 9 am* – 5.30 pm
 Visitor Centre and toilets 9 am* – 5 pm
 Shop 10.15 am – 4.45 pm
 Restaurant 10 am – 4 pm (lunch served 12 – 3 pm)
 Closed Christmas Day
 *Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays 9.30 am
IMPORTANT: Gates are locked at 5.30 pm

FOR GARDEN LOVERS

Visit Sydney's other Botanic Gardens: the Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan and the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney. Some of the plants in these botanic gardens have been collected from the wild in Australia and overseas and form part of the Trust's scientific plant collections. Trust botanists study the classification, relationships and ecology of such plants, which contributes to State and national conservation policies.



THE BLUE MOUNTAINS BOTANIC GARDEN MOUNT TOMAH VISITOR GUIDE & MAP

