

INFORMATION MAP

Garden Legend

Garden Types

- G1 Pond Garden
- G2 Entry Garden
- G3 Heath Mounds
- G4 Misty Mountains
- G6 Bamboo/Grass Garden
- G7 Colour Field Garden
- G8 Bottle Tree Garden
- G9 Kangaroo Paw Mounds
- G10 Gondwana Garden
- G11 Rock Garden
- G12 Drylands/Arid Garden/Heath
- G13 Dragon Garden
- G14 Little Oasis Garden
- G15 Grass & Sedge Garden
- G16 Cascade Garden
- G17 Puddle Garden

Disabled Access

Fissure Gardens

- F1 Pandanus
- F2 Rainforest
- F3 Lithophyte & Epiphyte Garden
- F4 Barefoot Fissure
- F5 Fissure

Water Gardens

- W1 Lower Pond
- W2 Summer Aquatic Garden
- W3 Canna Papyrus Garden
- W4 Callistemon Garden

Landmarks

- LM1 Obelisk
- LM2 Queensland Box Trees
- LM3 Grassed Amphitheatre
- LM4 Wondabyne Symposium

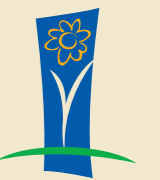
How about that!

A word on water: No town water is used to maintain Mt Penang Gardens. All the water is recycled. It is collected from the Mt Penang Parklands site; stored in the lower water garden (W1) for use in all water features and for plant watering.

The difference between a Bottle Tree and a Boab Tree: Bottle Trees are taller, they grow to 20 metres, whilst Boab Trees grow to about 14 metres. Bottle Trees have 12 species in Australia, whilst Boab's have only 1 (G8).

The Obelisk: Represents the dry and barren landscape of central Australia and reflects the reality of Australia as an "island surrounded by water" (LM1).

When was the garden built? Mt Penang Gardens commenced building in August 2002, and was opened on the 15th November 2003. The garden cost \$8.7 million dollars to build, and was funded by the NSW Government.



Mt Penang Gardens



4340 1002
www.mpp.nsw.gov.au

For Waterfall Cafe reservations or enquiries call 4340 1660

Calendar of Colour



King Protea

G10

This fabulous flowering shrub is the floral emblem of South Africa and is grown as a specimen plant or in shrub borders. It is also grown in containers for patios or as a glass house specimen in cool climates.



Flannel Flower

G12

The Flannel Flower is related to the carrot and celery family and is susceptible to disease. The Flannel Flower is the floral emblem for Wyong Shire. The types of flannel flowers at MPG are called 'Brax Flower'. This type of flower is exported to Japan and is very popular for wedding arrangements.



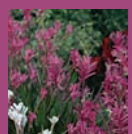
Water Lilies

W2

The water lilies have short stemmed flowers sitting on the water surface, they are native to South East Asia and Northern Territory. Flowers are up to 25 cm in diameter.



Mt Penang Gardens has a full range of colours.



Anigozanthos

(Bush Pearl), G7

Bush Pearl is one of Australia's favourite Kangaroo Paws as it features masses of distinctive bright pink flowers on a naturally compact and bushy plant.



Banksia Ericaefolia

G3, G7, G12

The heath-leaved Banksia (also known as the Lantern Banksia or Heath Banksia), is a woody shrub of the Proteaceae family native to Australia. It was one of the original Banksia species collected by Joseph Banks around Botany Bay in 1770 and was named by Carl Linnaeus in 1782.



Qualup Bell (GRAFTED)

G7

A native of Western Australia. This stiff erect plant grows to about 80 cm in height and bears pendant flower heads which are cream streaked with red or purple.



Heath Fuchsia

G10, G12

Epacris longiflora. This heath-like shrub has wiry stems that are crowded with small heart-shaped dark green leaves. It is the floral emblem of Gosford City. It has profuse flowering throughout winter with pendulous red tubular blooms.



Lotus

W2

Nelumbo nucifera, native to NT, QLD, Asia and PNG. They are a very vigorous aquatic plant with large flowers. The lotus flowers in the water gardens are pink & yellow. Hindus believe that the spirit of the lotus is within every human. The lotus is a symbol of beauty, prosperity and fertility.



Bromeliads

F1

The bromeliad family consists of approximately 2000 known species with more being discovered. These plants can be found from southern United States to as far south as Argentina. Mt Penang Gardens has approx 30 types of bromeliads.



Native Grass Trees

G2, G3, G10 & G12

Xanthorrhoea australis. Were formally identified by Banks and Phillips who mistakenly thought these plants were aborigines holding spears aloft when they first arrived at Bradleys Head. The spear-like flower spike reaches 4 to 5 metres high.



Flowering Seasons: Winter Spring Summer Autumn

Our Other Wildlife

Mt Penang Gardens has an abundance of bird life and also a few visitors that you would not normally find in a garden.

Can you spot any of these fellows on your visit today?



Rainbow Lorikeet

This brightly coloured bird is a favourite at Mt Penang Gardens, you will find them in almost all garden rooms, as they flit in and around. They nest in early summer and their preferred location is in hollow limbs near water. So the top of the colour field garden is where most of the babies will be found.

Sulphur Crested Cockatoo

This cheeky bird lives in large flocks and is one of the great mimics of the bird world. These are one of Australia's best known birds. Look for them in the following garden rooms - playing in the Rainforest Fissure (F2), relaxing in the Bottle Tree Garden (G8) and feeding on the large expanse of grass near the Waterfall Café.



Glossy Black Cockatoo

The Black Cockatoo has four basic sub-types: Yellow-tailed, White-tailed, Red-tailed and Glossy. These beautifully-marked birds can live up to 100 years. Unlike other Australian cockatoos only the female Black Cockatoo incubates the eggs. At Mt Penang Gardens, you may see the Glossy at dusk or early morning.



Eastern Rosella

The name Rosella comes from early settlers who regularly saw Eastern Rosellas near the Sydney suburb of Rose Hill and called the birds "Rose Hillers" which finally became Rosellas. They have short, sharp curved beaks and feet with two toes facing forwards and two toes facing backwards. They call with harsh screeches and bell-like whistles.



You'll also see other animals such as Rabbits, Frogs and Lizards.



Sound Trail

Go on a sound trail - take the challenge!

Listen on your visit today and see if you can identify these sounds, some will be easy, some not so:

Animal sounds

- The screeching of the Sulphur Crested Cockatoos
- What about the squawking of the Black Cockatoos, normally heard early morning or at dusk.
- The clucking of the ducks, as they waddle in and out of the water gardens, searching for food, or protecting their babies.
- Noisy Galahs, as they feed in large flocks along the banks of the dam or in the central area.
- Croaking of frogs, especially in the Pandanus & bromeliad garden room.

Other sounds

- The rustle and crackle of the tall bamboo as it sways in the breeze.
- Go and hug a bottle tree, tap on its tummy to hear it "talk" back to you.
- The wonderful sounds from the puddle garden, where stomping, laughing and water play are encouraged.

More about Mt Penang

Why 'Garden Rooms'?

The Fissure Gardens or "Garden Rooms" provide a controlled environment for microclimates and are an interpretation of the naturally occurring vegetation growths protruding from rock wall crevices (such as found along the F3 freeway). Examples of fissure gardens, which represent individual micro climates are:

- Visit the Rainforest Fissure (F2) and the Pandanus Fissure (F1) containing tropical climates and plants.
- The Dragon Garden (G13) has plants that like it dry

Heritage & Design Facts

Mt Penang Gardens evolved from a landscape design competition conducted in conjunction with the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects. This national competition was conducted in the year 2000, with Anton James Design emerging as the winner from over 32 entries.

Some of our unique architectural features include:

- The entrance Buildings at MPG are contemporary, minimalist and represent a different landscape element on every side.
- The welcoming 'red carpet' is rolled out inviting visitor's curiosity.
- The mirrored sides encourage a visual & contemplative 'reflection' of our beautiful environment.
- The open side entices the feeling of taking the inside, outside.
- The vine trellises make a direct link between the built environment and the natural environment.
- The cantilevered deck of the twisted blue entry bridge is an engineering accomplishment, as beneath the bridge are uninterrupted garden views.

Our Programs are online



Dip Dip Days

A great day of fun for the kids with activities including: Dip netting - catch a critter (spring & summer), Plant discovery walks, Kids gardening, Arts and crafts, Old fashioned garden games and Bean pod boat racing (winter).



Garden Weddings

If the words "location, location, location" spring to mind when thinking about your wedding, then this amazing venue is a photographers dream. Your wedding will be memorable when held at Mt Penang Gardens.



Heritage Tour

Sit back in the comfort of these modern times and let us take you on a journey of the days of old, where points of interest will unfold... An intriguing tour of the historic Mt Penang Parklands site: Circa 1912.



Twilight Tours

Mt Penang Gardens and the Waterfall Café have joined forces to bring a new dining experience to the Coast, "twilight dining packages". During twilight, the garden comes alive with bird and insect life and fragrant plant scents are headier once the sun goes down. Offered only in Summer.

Thank you



Ramm Botanicals

We wish to thank and acknowledge the support provided by Ramm Botanicals. This Central Coast organisation is recognised as one of the world's leading plant research companies in Australian Native plants. Ramm Botanicals supports Mt Penang Gardens through their Public Garden Program, which provides extensive plant donations and plant trial programs. You'll see examples of their development work and bio-technological advances all throughout the gardens.



The world's first white Kangaroo Paw Plant - Anigozanthos - Bush Diamond is featured within the colour field garden, whilst Ramping Roy Slaven's own Kangaroo Paw graces the entry to the Bottle Tree Garden.

www.ramm.com.au



Rotary Clubs of the Central Coast

Rotary International, one of the works oldest service organizations, celebrated its Centenary in 2005. The Central Coast Rotary Clubs combined to financially support the establishment of the puddle garden area, G17, in recognition of this Centenary. A plaque, and time capsule including a history of Rotary's 100 years and past achievements on the Central Coast were incorporated in this beautiful garden and water area.



Wondabyne Sculpture Symposium

On the eve of the New Year, 1987 international and Australian sculptors came together at Wondabyne, a small, picturesque train stop on the backwaters of the Hawkesbury River for the first Australian International Sculpture Symposium in stone, initiated by Australian sculptor Lawrence Beck. Within three months the sculptures were finished and the work was handed over to the people of Gosford as a bicentenary year gift. In 2003 it was decided by RailCorp for reasons of public safety to remove the sculptures to a new location, and Mt Penang was chosen. This new beginning adds a major cultural and historical asset to the heritage of the region.



Mt Penang Gardens

www.mpp.nsw.gov.au



Mt Penang Gardens is an initiative by the NSW Government