



A self-guided walk around the gardens





The **Orange Botanic Gardens** are situated at the corner of Hill Street and the Northern Distributor Road, in a natural undulating 17 hectare site. The Gardens feature impressive native and exotic plant collections.

The gardens were officially opened in 1988 for the Australian Bicentenary.

The Country Walk at the Orange Botanic Gardens offers the visitor all the pleasures of a stroll through varying landscapes.

Features include:

- **Clover Hill Gardens**
- **Billabong**
- **Exotic and Australian collections**
- **Orchard including historic apple varieties**
- **Heritage rose garden set below the historic church**
- **Analemmatic sundial (human involvement sundial)**
- **Sculptures**

The Orange Botanic Gardens are an ideal place in which to relax and enjoy the wonderful scenery and district views. As well as being an ideal location for bird watching the Gardens offer the opportunity for a family picnic and a relaxing stroll. These gardens exhibit the magnificent splendor of the four seasons of Orange.

History

The Gardens incorporate the former Clover Hill farm which was set aside for the development in 1981. The unifying feature is the 'country walk' which winds through the site. The Gardens now cover 17 hectares and are owned and operated by Orange City Council with support from Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens (FOBG) and other volunteer groups.



the country walk

This self-guided walk follows the 'country walk', this track winds its way around the Gardens. It starts and finishes at the Clover Hill Centre. Match these numbered paragraphs with the numbers on the map which will lead you around the Gardens in a clockwise direction. But first of all take a look at the Clover Hill Gardens.

CLOVER HILL GARDENS

As you enter the Gardens from the carpark you walk under a stone and metal archway which was donated by the Orange Garden Club in 1999. You will pass a line of large pin-oaks on your left as you walk up the path into the Clover Hill Gardens. On your left is the silver birch lawn which is underplanted with spring bulbs. On your right a path leads to the Sensory Garden, Weeping Elm Lawn, Viburnum Garden and the Winter garden. Many of the larger trees in this area are remnants of the original homestead garden.

1 SENSORY GARDEN

This area was planned to provide sensory pleasure, especially to those with impaired sight or mobility. There is easy wheelchair access and the water feature provides a trickle of water at an accessible level. This garden was established with assistance from the Orange Lions Club. The plantings consist mostly of herbs and perennials.

2 WINTER GARDEN

This is designed to provide colour and interest during the winter months. A flowering Chinese quince, honey bush (*Melianthus major*) and Tibetan cherry tree with striking mahogany bark are attractive features.

3 VIBURNUM GARDEN

This collection illustrates the wide range of species available. Most are deciduous. Some of the flowers are very fragrant and some bushes develop spectacular orange and red berries.

4 CLOVER HILL CENTRE (CHC)

The original homestead and stables were demolished to make way for the Clover Hill Centre which was built in 1988. The CHC contains the Clover Hill Function Centre, Discovery Centre and Public Toilet facilities. The Function Centre, and other spaces in the Gardens, are available for hire by the public.

5 CERAMIC PROJECT 1988

This bicentennial project consisted of a thousand soft bricks, carved by schoolchildren, at the Apple Country Fair in early 1988. The bricks were used to create walls, totems, seats and plaques that can be found through the Gardens.

6 ORCHARD

The development of this area reflects the fact the Orange has been an important fruit-growing area since the early 1900s. There are 76 apple varieties, 25 crab-apples and some pears. There are several old apple varieties, including trees budded from the original Macarthur orchard at Belgenny Farm, SW of Sydney. Different styles of pruning are demonstrated in the orchard.

7 PEACE WALK

This was commenced in the International Year of Peace in 1986. The path incorporates bricks from the Ceramic Project in 1988 and includes an emblem of peace. The walk leads to a small garden with a central friendship pond edged with bricks decorated with floral emblems of many countries. The area is planted with species significant to peace including olives, rosemary, myrtles and 'Peace' roses.

8 LOW SHRUB GARDEN

The colourful bank is planted with heathers, hellebores and other perennials as well as small conifers. The garden also features a weeping Himalayan cypress (*Cupressus cashmeriana*). On the other side of the track are two unusual shaped tall conifers (*Sequoiadendron giganteum* 'Pendulum'). Other features in this area include Dogwood and Rhododendron collections.

9 SUNDIALS

Here you will find a traditional sundial and an analematic sundial (sundial of human involvement) The stones used are local basalt. Instructions for reading the time are given on the bronze plaque between the sundials.

finding your way around the gardens

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THE COUNTRY WALK

- Sensory Garden F2
- Winter Garden E3
- Viburnum Garden F4
- Clover Hill Centre (CHC) H2
- Seat - Ceramic Project 1988 H4
- Orchard J10
- Peace Walk L13
- Low Shrub Garden N14
- Sundials O11
- Conifer Garden Q14
- Australian Grasses P11
- Bush Regeneration Hill N11
- Federation Arch N9
- Billabong N8
- Bluestone Features N9
- Heritage Rose Garden P8
- Country Church P7
- Australian Plants M5
- Round House J5
- Plants of the Orange Area I7
- Canobolas Garden H7
- Eucalypt Woodland L9
- Bonsai House G2

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

- Native Conifers of Australia Q11
- Boardwalk M9
- Café G15
- Island M7
- Magnolias K14
- Maple Hill M14
- Meadows L11
- Silver Birch Lawn G3
- Weeping Elm Lawn E2
- Weir N8
- Wetland / Marsh Q8
- Works Compound H13

P	Carpark	F12
	Toilets	H2
	Disabled Parking	E4
B	Bus Parking	F5
	Country Walk	





I 0 CONIFER GARDEN

This large open area is being planted with a wide range of conifers, including Australian and exotic. The collections contained here include Taxodiaceae, Australian Native Conifers and the Junipers.

I I AUSTRALIAN GRASSES

This display shows a sample of Australian grass species. They are generally either warm-season or cool-season growing, with a small number growing all year round. They include Kangaroo Grass, Wallaby Grass, Weeping and Snow Grass to name a few.

I 2 BUSH REGENERATION HILL

This area is a demonstration of the revegetation of the area. A path leads through it to a seat overlooking the billabong.

I 3 FEDERATION ARCH

This sculpture was commissioned by The Orange Regional Arts Foundation and designed by Bert Flugelman. It was donated to the Gardens in 2001 to commemorate the Centenary of Federation. The patterned polished stainless steel reflects the surroundings from many angles. As you walk through the arch this signifies the transition from one millennium to the next.

I 4 BILLABONG

The billabong and island are an important bird habitat. The beds of rushes and reeds provide shelter for numerous waterbirds. Ducks, dusky moorhens and little grebes regularly breed in this area. A list of all bird species recorded in the Gardens can be found at the CHC. A boardwalk crosses the marsh near the Federation Arch.

I 5 BLUESTONE FEATURES

Bluestone has been used throughout the Gardens in walls, stages, pavements and for the causeway. These features are all made from local bluestone salvaged from roadside curbing in Orange.

I 6 HERITAGE ROSE GARDEN

This is approached through a lichgate and two brick pillars designed as part of the Ceramics Project. The garden commenced in 1991 by the Orange/Central Tablelands Branch of Heritage Roses in Australia Inc. and is maintained by this group. It features the largest species rose collection in NSW including rugosa roses, hybrid musk roses, and tea roses.

I 7 COUNTRY CHURCH

This is at the top of the hill within the Heritage Rose Garden. This small timber building was initially St Paul's Anglican Church in Cobar, western NSW, and was moved to Shadforth, near Orange, in 1901 and subsequently deconsecrated. The church was moved to the Gardens in 1988. It was reconsecrated in 1998 and can now be used again for religious ceremonies.

I 8 AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

This dense planting of Australian species, mostly small eucalypts and acacias, is another favoured bird habitat.

I 9 ROUND HOUSE

The walls of this shelter were made from pit-sawn timber saved from the original Clover Hill Farm stables. The shelter was built with a 'hung' roof, often used in the early days as it could be erected by one man.

20 PLANTS OF THE ORANGE AREA

After passing through a grove of casuarinas the country walk enters the plantings which reflect the vegetation of Mt Canobolas and the Mullions Range.

21 CANOBOLAS GARDEN

This grassy clearing in this area has an excellent view across Orange to Mt Canobolas, the highest peak in the Central Tablelands (1295m). This area has been planted with species from Mt Canobolas.

22 EUCALYPT WOODLAND

This grassy lightly-wooded area has many original eucalypts including yellow box and apple box. (There are approximately 50 species of eucalypt in the Gardens). Near the billabong is an area outlined by ribbon gums which encloses a bluestone stage and rotunda (donated by the Niven family of Orange). Both are used for performances.

23 BONSAI HOUSE

This is housed in the shadehouse adjacent to the CHC. It is being developed by the Bonsai group of the FOBG. The collection is open to the public on the first Sunday of each month.

The Orange Botanic Gardens are open daily from 7.30am till dusk

Admission is FREE

- Off street car parking available.
- Toilet facilities are available
- Dogs on leads are permitted
- Please leave bicycles outside of the gardens as bike riding is not permitted in the gardens
- Guided tours for large groups are available on request
- Playground and BBQ facilities area available at the Orange Adventure Playground

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT



Orange Visitor Information Centre

FREE CALL 1800 069 466

www.orange.nsw.gov.au