



Image: Ben Blackburn Photography

# WAGGA WAGGA BOTANIC GARDENS

Explore and enjoy the wonders of the Wagga Wagga Botanic Gardens situated within the Willans Hill Reserve.

Construction of the Botanic Gardens started in 1961, with the first trees planted in 1962. The gardens were officially opened in 1968 by the Director of Botanic Gardens, Adelaide, Mr T. R. N. Lothian.

Today, the Wagga Wagga Botanic Gardens feature nine distinct garden areas, a Chinese pavilion, three playgrounds, a free zoo and aviary, a tree chapel and a model railway that weaves throughout the gardens.

## THE WAGGA WAGGA BOTANIC GARDENS ADVENTURE TOUR

Take a self guided tour to discover hidden treasures, rare plants and surprising facts about the gardens. Download the app from the [museumriverina.com.au/app](http://museumriverina.com.au/app)

### 1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE FLORA SECTION

The native flora section features scattered trees in lawn areas, with native plantings around the perimeter. Many of the shrubs located on the borders of the garden have not been pruned, giving an insight into their natural growth and shape.

### 2 MODEL RAILWAY

The Wagga Wagga Society of Model Engineers has created a miniature world of rail, which delights thousands of visitors each year. A railway station and working controls feature along the extensive track, which weaves through the gardens. Trains run on the first and third Sunday of every month.

### 3 TREE CHAPEL

The tree chapel provides a venue for open air services and weddings in a natural, simplistic and rustic setting.

### 4 CAMELLIA GARDEN

This garden was established to celebrate Wagga Wagga's Sister City relationship with Kunming, China. Craftsmen from the City of Kunming, using tools and materials that have hardly changed in a thousand years, constructed the Entrance Gate, Pavilion and a marble Chinese lantern.

### 5 SHAKESPEARIAN GARDEN

The Shakespearian garden is designed in line with the Elizabethan period. The small formal beds are planted and trimmed to form what is known as a Knot Garden, which is a style typical of the time.

### 6 CACTI & SUCCULENT GARDEN

This garden features drought-resistant plants from Africa and America. All plants within the garden originate from areas with low rainfall and have adapted succulence as a strategy to withstand drought.

### 7 ZOO & AVIARY

Walking through the free-flight aviary is a highlight of visiting the zoo. More than 90 species of animals and birds, both native and exotic, live here including the stunning peacocks that roam freely within the zoo. The children's farmland, with chooks, ducks and rabbits is always popular.



### 8 RAINFOREST GULLY

The rainforest gully displays assorted ferns and rainforest trees. The gully is kept moist and humid by an automatic spray system that operates throughout the day to create the conditions required to grow rainforest plants in a very hot and dry climate.

### 9 WATERWISE GARDEN

The Waterwise Garden was developed to demonstrate and provide practical advice on landscaping and irrigation to reduce water usage. The garden displays are all hands-on and systems can be seen and touched, incorporating both native and exotic plants.

### 10 ROSE GARDEN

The David Jones Memorial Rose Garden is ablaze with colour when in full bloom. Wagga Wagga provides ideal growing conditions for roses.

### 11 ISLAND & BAMBOO GARDEN

This beautiful garden area overlooks a pond that creates a peaceful setting, with a gazebo that is surrounded by a spectacular bamboo garden and is popular for weddings.

### 12 MUSEUM OF THE RIVERINA

Currently closed for renovations.

### 13 ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND & PICNIC AREA

Suitable for all ages, children can enjoy the cable ride, lose each other in the labyrinth maze and climb until their hearts content on the massive climbing net.

### 14 KIDSVILLE TODDLERS PLAY AREA

Ideal for young children, this area is fully fenced, shaded, close to toilets and zoo.

### 15 PROTEA GARDEN

This garden displays a range of proteas suitable for growing in Wagga Wagga + Surrounds.

### 16 MUSIC BOWL

This fantastic outdoor concert area has a covered stage and is suitable for small or large concerts.



## GETTING TO THE GARDENS



### ZOO & AVIARY

Open daily  
9am to 4pm  
Closed Christmas Day

Model Railway - Trains run on the first and third Sunday of every month and on special occasions  
10:30am to 4pm  
(Closed for lunch break  
12.30pm - 1.30pm)  
Covered shoes compulsory  
Ph: (02) 6925 2249

### WAGGA WAGGA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

183 Tarcutta Street  
Ph: 1300 100 122  
[visitwagga.com](http://visitwagga.com)

### CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA

Cnr Baylis & Morrow Street  
PO Box 20  
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650  
Ph: 1300 292 442  
[council@wagga.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@wagga.nsw.gov.au)  
[wagga.nsw.gov.au](http://wagga.nsw.gov.au)

### WEDDINGS/FUNCTIONS IN THE GARDENS

The Wagga Wagga Botanic Gardens provides the perfect backdrop for weddings/functions. Contact [bookings@wagga.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bookings@wagga.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

