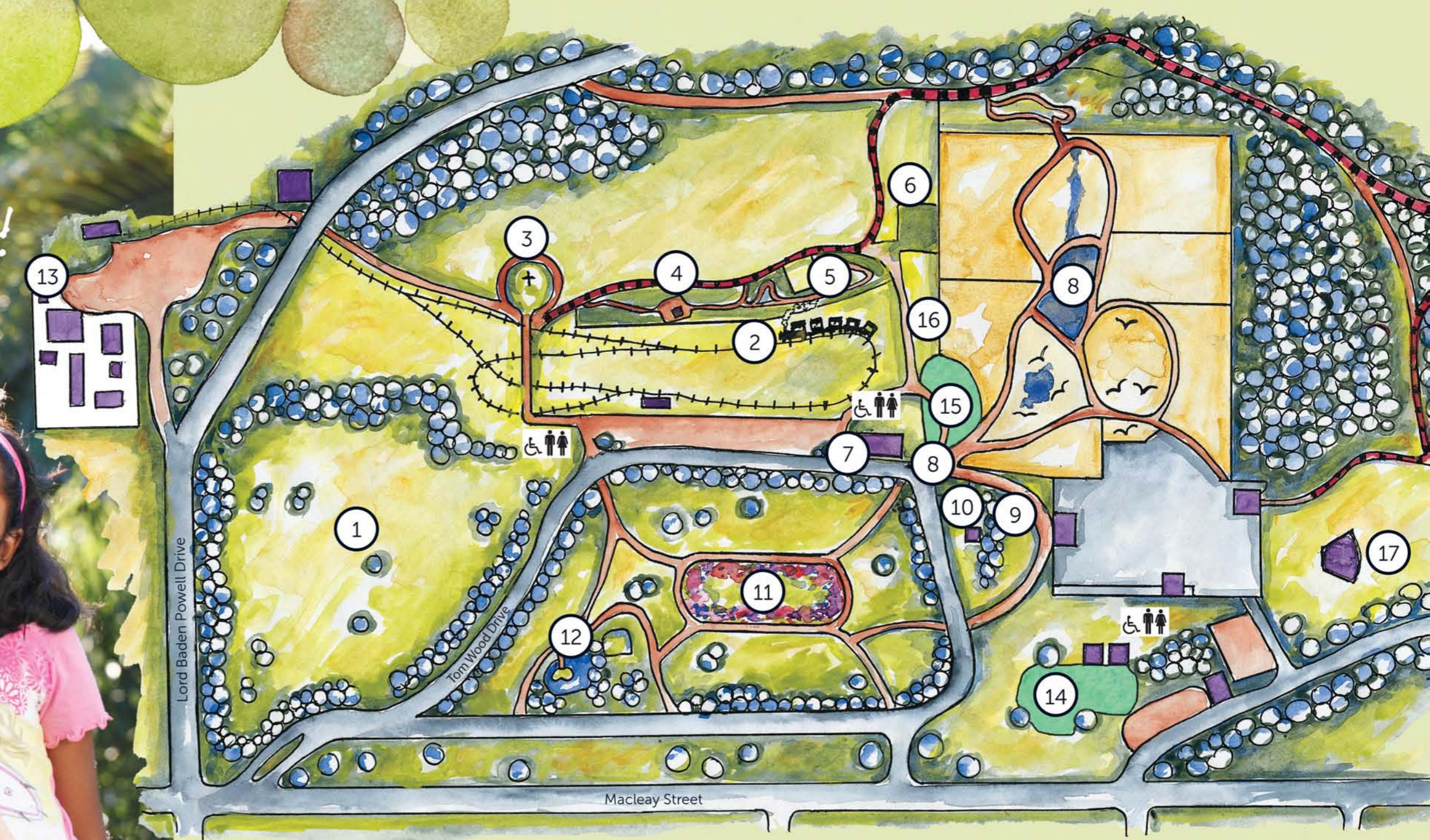




**HAVE TIME**  
*to play!*





# HISTORY OF THE WAGGA WAGGA botanic gardens

The Wagga Wagga Botanic Gardens are located within the Willans Hill Reserve on an old gravel rock mine.

Willans Hill Reserve is named after the original land owner William Willans, a Dubliner who was Wagga Wagga's first resident solicitor in the 1860's.

In the 1950's Wagga Wagga City Council and the NSW Soil Conservation Service contoured the Reserve to minimise runoff and also planted 10,000 trees, mainly Eucalyptus, Acacia and Casuarina, with some exotic pines.

Preliminary planning of the Botanic Gardens began in 1961 with the first trees planted the following year. The work was supervised by Council's Superintendent of Parks, Tom Wood, after whom the main drive is named.

The gardens were officially opened in August 1969 by the Director of Botanic Gardens, Adelaide, Mr T. R. N. Lothian.

In 1988, Australia's bicentennial celebrations acted as a catalyst for many new developments and completion of projects already under way. These included the model railway, outdoor entertainment area (music bowl), the tree chapel, fitness trail and a pedestrian bridge. The Camellia, Cactus and Shakespearian gardens were also developed during this time.

The extensive rose garden and Australian native plant section located within the Botanic Gardens formed part of the original design. An addition to the Gardens in 1995 was the Waterwise garden, which includes models demonstrating how to minimise water use.

## 1 AUSTRALIAN NATIVE FLORA SECTION

This pleasantly secluded area is entered via a lattice arch. The main area of this section features scattered trees in lawn areas, with native plantings around the perimeters. Many of the shrubs featured in these borders have been left unpruned, and have grown naturally. This gives an insight into ultimate growth forms if judicious pruning is not practised.



## 2 MODEL RAILWAY

The Wagga Wagga Society of Model Engineers has created a miniature world of rail, which delights its many thousands of visitors. A railway station and working controls feature along the extensive track weaving through the gardens and across to the museum.



## 3 TREE CHAPEL

This Chapel was funded by the Combined Churches of Wagga Wagga, as part of a Bicentennial Project. It provides a venue for open air services and weddings in a setting reminiscent of early religion, being as it was simplistic and rustic. All the trees and shrubs in this area have relevance to the Bible.



## 4 CAMELLIA GARDEN

This garden was established as a Bicentennial project by the Quota Club of Wagga Wagga, the Hume Region Branch of the Camellia Society, the Wagga Wagga City Council and various other sponsors. The establishment of this garden was taken as an opportunity to cement a sister city relationship with Kunming, China. A team of craftsmen from the City of Kunming, using tools and materials that have hardly changed in 1000 years, constructed the Entrance Gate, Pavilion and marble Chinese lantern found here.



## 5 SHAKESPEARIAN GARDEN

This small garden was funded by the Shakespearian Society of Wagga Wagga. The garden is designed on the stylish line characteristic of 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, and is enclosed as most Elizabethan gardens were.



## 6 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT GARDEN

This area features drought resistant plants from Africa and America, which is another Bicentennial Project with the assistance from the Cactus and Succulent Society of Wagga. All plants within the garden originate from areas with low rainfall and have adopted succulence as a method of withstanding drought.



## 7 FUNCTION CENTRE AND KIOSK

The Garden Court Restaurant seats 200 (or 350 with a marquee) and caters for formal private functions. The Kiosk provides a range of refreshments including drinks, light snacks, and also sells special packaged food to feed the zoo animals.



## 8 ZOO AND 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.



## 9 RAINFOREST GULLY

The gully is accessed by red gum steps and displays assorted ferns and rainforest trees. The whole area 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 like Wagga Wagga.



## 10 WATERWISE GARDEN

The Waterwise garden was developed to demonstrate and provide practical advice on landscaping and irrigation which can be used to reduce water usage. The garden displays are all hands-on and systems can be seen and touched. Both native and exotic plants are incorporated into this garden.



## 11 ROSE GARDEN

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



## 12 ISLAND AND BAMBOO GARDEN

These gardens overlook a pond and have been developed with the assistance of the Wagga Wagga Sunrise Rotary Club. The Gazebo is surrounded by a spectacular bamboo garden and is very popular for weddings and formals.



## 13 MUSEUM OF THE RIVERINA

The museum is situated next to the Botanic Gardens on Lord Baden Powell Drive. This site presents the stories of the people, places and events that have shaped Wagga Wagga's unique character. A special feature of this site is the Wagga Wagga Sporting Hall of Fame.



## 14 ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND AND PICNIC AREA

Suitable for all ages, children can enjoy the CableRide, lose each other in the Labyrinth Maze and climb until their hearts content on the massive WildNet structure.



## 15 KIDSVILLE TODDLERS PLAY AREA

Suitable for young children, this area is fenced, safe and shaded and next to the Kiosk, toilets and zoo.



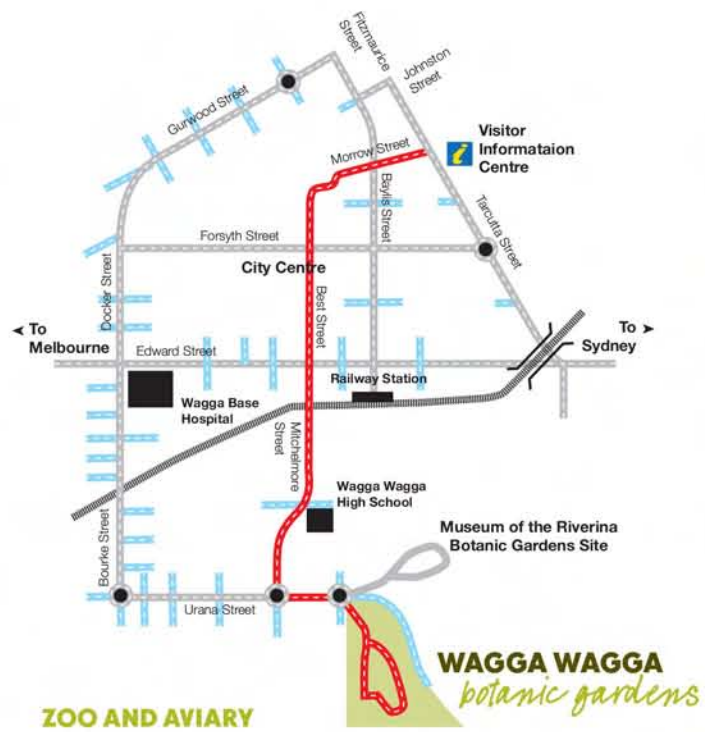
## 16 PROTEA GARDEN

This garden displays a range of Proteas suitable for growing in Wagga Wagga.



## 17 MUSIC BOWL

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



## ZOO AND AVIARY

**Open Daily**  
9am to 4pm (During Winter)  
9am to 5pm (During Summer)  
Closed Christmas Day

Model Railway - Trains run on the first and third Sunday of every month and on special occasions (10:30am to 4pm)  
Ph: (02) 6925 2249

## WAGGA WAGGA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

**Open Daily**  
Tarcutta Street  
Ph: 1300 100 122  
[www.visitwagga.com](http://www.visitwagga.com)

## MUSEUM OF THE RIVERINA

Botanic Gardens Site  
**Opening Hours**  
Tues - Sat 10am to 5pm  
Sun 12noon to 4pm  
Closed Mondays  
Ph: (02) 6925 2934  
[www.wagga.nsw.gov.au/museum](http://www.wagga.nsw.gov.au/museum)

## WAGGA WAGGA CITY COUNCIL

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[council@wagga.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@wagga.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.wagga.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wagga.nsw.gov.au)



WAGGA WAGGA

# WAGGA WAGGA botanic gardens

