

Lessons at our three botanic gardens

- are conducted by experienced education staff
- cater for students of all ages
- are closely linked to the NSW Board of Studies syllabus outcomes
- address the NSW Primary Curriculum Foundation Statements
- involve students in exciting hands-on experiences
- can cater for whole year groups at once
- last from 90 minutes to full-day workshops
- are regularly evaluated and updated
- can be tailored to suit your requirements
- are assessed for risks and are conducted safely
- are being developed for the introduction of the Australian Curriculum

How to book a lesson

- Choose the lesson you require
- Check our website for lesson and excursion information
- Calculate costs: from \$6.60 per student
- Phone or email Community Education Officers
The Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney: 9231 8134
The Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah: 4567 3015, eductomah@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au
The Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan: 4634 7930, allen.powell@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

2011 – International Year of Forests

Our botanic gardens are the perfect places to explore the trees of the world's forests. Forests provide wood, food and homes for people and other animals. Discover how we can all conserve these areas. Forests cover 31% of the land area of the world!



Bring learning to life

OUTSTANDING EXCURSIONS AT SYDNEY'S THREE BOTANIC GARDENS: PRE-SCHOOL – YEAR 12



2011

SCHOOL PROGRAM



Early Childhood

Lesson and Links	Venue	Lesson Outline
Alexander's Maths Outing (Maths, Eng)	RBG	Bring stories to life as you accompany Alexander on his maths trail through the Garden.
Warbling Magpies (S&T, Eng, VA, Music)	RBG	Stories, art and role play are used to explore the fascinating behaviour of Australian magpies and ways that we can live together.
Sense-ability (S&T)	RBG	Conduct hands-on activities and bring your senses alive in the Garden.
'b' is for botanic and 'g' is for garden (Eng, S&T)	RBG	Practise your alphabet sounds whilst discovering the Garden through story, walk and games. Bring along your toy bears and have a bread and butter picnic too!
The Need for Shelter (HSIE, VA)	All three gardens	Discover some of the many camouflaged shelters in the Garden and then create a shelter of your own.
Wet and Dry (S&T, HSIE) (Also suitable for Primary)	All three gardens	Examine life in ponds, rainforest and arid gardens. Investigate plant and animal features that help them survive in wet and dry places.
Get Growing S&T, HSIE, COGS) (Also suitable for Primary)	All three gardens	Discover the lifecycle of plants and experience the joys of growing your own.

After your lesson take a ride on the 'Choo Choo Express' (RBG only).
Bookings essential — duration 30 minutes, \$4 per student



Primary Students

Lesson and Links	Venue	Lesson Outline
State and National Parks (HSIE, S&T)	All three gardens	What are State and National parks? Find out more about their conservation issues through role play and exploration.
Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (HSIE, S&T)	All three gardens	Learn how to sow seeds, take cuttings, compost and keep a worm farm. Find out how we practise sustainable gardening and how you can too!
Rainforests (HSIE, S&T)	All three gardens	Experience what rainforests are really like and learn why they are so important. (Can be a full-day workshop)
Desert Dwellers (VA, HSIE, S&T)	RBG	Desert plants provide inspiration for artwork. Discover how their diverse structure and pale hues help them survive.
Aboriginal People and Plants (HSIE, S&T)	All three gardens	Identify local plants and their uses with our knowledgeable Aboriginal educators. (Can be a full-day workshop)
Contact — First Encounters (HSIE)	RBG	Discover what really happened when the First Fleet arrived in Sydney Harbour in 1788 and encountered the local Aboriginal people.
Environment Matters (Eng, S&T)	RBG	Follow Dr Seuss's Lorax as we uncover different environments and find out ways people can interact responsibly.
Minibeasts (S&T)	All three gardens	Explore the diverse range of animals that live in the Gardens and learn how they adapt, thrive and survive.
Thinking Curriculum (COGS)	RBG	Using higher order thinking skills and self directed learning methods, this nature lesson will cater for all learners and is suited for gifted students. (Can be a full-day workshop)
Our Australia (S&T)	ABG	Discover Aboriginal people's perspective of Australia's unique natural heritage — the plants, the insects and the birds.
Plants: Parts, Pollinators and Propagation (Yr 3 Science (Biological) Understanding)	RBG	Plants are living things that have recognisable characteristics. Come and explore plants in the Botanic Garden as we discover how they reproduce, grow and change.

Secondary Students

Lesson and Links	Venue	Lesson Outline
Plant Classification (Stage 4 Science)	All three gardens	Discover the similarities and differences between major plant groups and identify them using a simple key.
Enviro-Maths (Stage 4 Maths)	All three gardens	Botanic gardens are a perfect site for a full day of maths. We involve you in a range of numerical and geometric observations, measurements and calculations. (Full-day workshop)
Garden Design (Technology)	All three gardens	Experience themed displays in our outstanding garden landscapes. Let us help you plan and design a garden of your own and propagate plants for your school.
Threatened Habitats — Rainforests (Stage 4 Geog)	RBG BMBG	Visit the rainforest and learn about global issues affecting this unique environment and the local communities.
Global Environments (Stage 4 Geog, Science)	All three gardens	Different environments support different plants. Explore our global collections and discover fascinating adaptations of plants to each environment. (Can be a full-day workshop)
Bush Foods (Stage 5 Food Tech, Aboriginal Studies)	RBG	Aboriginal educators provide an Aboriginal perspective on living with, and from, the bush. Taste 'bush tucker' and adapt recipes to include native ingredients.
Contact! (Stage 4 History, Aboriginal Studies)	RBG	Be a convict and local Cadigal kid at the sites of the First Farm and Cadi Garden in Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden. (A full-day workshop when combined with the Contact program at the Museum of Sydney).
Investigating History (Stage 4 & 5 History)	RBG	A site study of the Royal Botanic Garden interpreting primary and secondary sources to discover the changes in land use and societal values.
Australian Environments (Stage 5 Geog, Science)	All three gardens	Explore our Australian collections and discover adaptations to the physical parameters of each environment through first-hand investigation.
Geology (Sc, Geog, Earth & Environmental Sc)	BMBG	Investigate Mount Tomah's fascinating geological history. Discover the formations that affect Tomah's soil type and plant distribution.
Local Ecosystem Study (Sc, Geog, Biology, Earth & Environmental Sc)	BMBG ABG	The remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland at our Australian Botanic Garden or the native rainforests and woodlands at the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden provide the ideal location for this holistic study. (Full-day workshop)
Australian Biota Study Day — presented by the Australian Museum, Taronga Zoo and the Botanic Gardens (Preliminary Biology)	All three gardens, Western Plains Zoo, North Coast Botanic Gardens	Three excursions in one and the opportunity to explore 165 million years of Australia's evolution. Students compare extinct and extant species; discover pollination mechanisms and co-evolution and observe adaptations of flora and fauna to a drying continent. (Full-day workshop) <i>Visit our web site for 2011 dates.</i>
Plants for Senior Science (Senior Sc)	All three gardens	Go behind the scenes and see plant production, nursery management, and the conservation of the Wollemi Pine at a botanic garden.
Maintaining a Balance (HSC Biology)	All three gardens	Explore a variety of Australian environments to understand plant responses to temperature change and regulation, movement of material through the vascular system and minimisation of water loss.
The Search for Better Health (HSC Biology, Ag)	RBG BMBG	Come behind the scenes with our plant scientists. See how to identify, research, quarantine and eradicate plant pathogens to help maintain healthy plants, ornamentals and natural environments. (Full-day workshop, when combined with <i>Maintaining a Balance</i>)
Changing Rights and Freedoms of the Aboriginal People (Stage 5 History)	RBG ABG	Students will have the opportunity to gain an understanding of the experiences of Aboriginal cultural and social groups in Australia during the 20th century and their struggle for recognition and civic rights.

RBG (Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney), BMBG (Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah), ABG (Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan)

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust is proud to sponsor the Premiers Debating Challenge for Year 11 and encourages debating teams to contact us for 'Big Answers to Big Questions' topics.