MOUNT ANNAN BOTANIC GARDEN

SITE MASTER PLAN REVIEW

VISITOR & STAFF SURVEY ANALYSIS

2005
Basic Review and Statistical Analysis

Question #1

Have you visited Mount Annan Botanic Garden before?

Survey results indicate that 87% of clientele are return visitors to the MABG. Please refer to Statistical Analysis which follows.

Question #2

What is/was the main purpose of your visit? Recreation or not

Refer to Statistical Analysis (Table response).

Part Two: Response rate to question

Excellent response with 214 from 243 surveys providing comments. Refer to Statistical Analysis.

Question #3

Part One: Have you visited the Garden’s website www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Conflicting response received. 94% of staff have visited the BGT website but only 41% of visitor responses confirmed use of it even though it appears on all BGT literature.

Part Two: If so, did it provide the information you required?

Only 6% of visitors surveyed desired more information. 51% of staff stated the information provided was inadequate. Refer to Statistical Analysis.

Part Three: Improvements to website

Anecdotal responses are reported in the Statistical Analysis. Key improvements wanted are better presentation, easier navigation and more up to date information about events and estate details.

Question #4

Have you visited or used: Playground, Garden Shop/Visitor Centre, Restaurant, Theme Gardens, Taken a guided tour, BBQ and picnic areas, Walking trails.

Refer to Statistical Analysis. The higher attendance at the Garden Shop and Restaurant is a strong indication that the central loop road (Yandel’ora Circuit) reversal is working as planned since visitors are better able to identify the Playground, Restaurant, Garden Shop & Terrace / Connections Garden prior to making any decision about parking and exploring the whole estate.
Q.4 Part Two: What could be improved?

Refer to anecdotal responses in Statistical Analysis. There were 88 different suggestions.

Question #5

Part One: What do you like and enjoy most about Mount Annan Botanic Garden? Please number your preferences. (1 = best)

Statistical Analysis revealed: Australian plants 19%; physical beauty 17%; fresh air 13%; and natural areas at 13% were the preferred options.

Q.5 Part Two: Other things liked and enjoyed most about the Garden.

27 anecdotal responses are reported in the Statistical Analysis.

Question #6

Part One: Do you have a favourite area at Mount Annan Botanic Garden?

Over 50% replied in the affirmative. Refer to Statistical Analysis tabulated results.

Part Two: Please number your preferences

The preferred areas were Terrace/Connections Garden 22%, Banksia Garden 21% and Woodland at 19%. Refer to Statistical Analysis for full results.

Part Three: Favourite area besides those listed

There were 57 individual responses to this question. See Statistical Analysis for full response.

Question #7

Part One: Have you or your children attended any classes/courses at Mount Annan Botanic Garden?

Only 26% of those surveyed stated that they attended an educational program and as little as 16% were visitors. Refer to full results in Statistical Analysis.

Part Two: What educational activities have you participated in?

Surprisingly, only 26% of all respondees have participated in educational activities in the Garden and there were 50 anecdotal responses to this question reported. See Statistical Analysis.

Part Three: What educational activities would you like to see offered in the Garden?

Anecdotal responses totalled 86 and are reported fully in the Statistical Analysis which follows.

Question #8

Part One: There are a few artistic installations at Mount Annan Botanic Garden. Please tick what you have seen?

The Sundial was the most frequently visited Artistic item with 9% more seen than any other artistic item. The survey also indicates that the artistic items presented on the northern loop are the less frequented. 50% of people have stated that they would like to see more artistic displays positioned in the Garden. Refer to Statistical Analysis.

Part Two: Would you like to see more artistic installations?

Only 50% of responses were positive. Refer to Statistical Analysis for full details.

Part Three: Comments?
There were only 11 comments made. Many people had not yet noticed the smaller sculptural pieces that had begun to appear in 2005. Please refer to anecdotal comments reported in the Statistical Analysis which follows.

Question #9                  Part One: Is the signage about Mount Annan Botanic Garden .......?

The signage question scored 29% for easy to read, sufficient 24%, interesting 20% and in good order also 20%. There were only 2% of comments that would be interpreted as negative. For full response, see Statistical Analysis.

Part Two: Signage Comments

Refer to 64 anecdotal comments following the statistics table for Question #9 in Statistical Analysis.

Question #10

Part One: At Mount Annan Botanic Garden we conduct research and trials on Australian plants for conservation and sometimes for commercial release e.g. the Wollemi Pine and Flannel Flower. Do you consider this work important?

The survey results (139 responses) overwhelmingly confirm public support for research into conservation and commercial release that complements that process. Full results in Statistical Analysis.

Question #11

Mount Annan Botanic Garden’s Millennium Seed Bank collects and saves seed from NSW including rare and endangered plant species. Do you think conservation should be an important function of the Garden?

Statistical Analysis of the survey results overwhelmingly endorse the Seed Bank’s role as a vital part of BGT and MABG.

Question #12

A goal of Mount Annan Botanic Garden is to manage fire and maintain a green corridor link to the Nepean River to safeguard growing numbers of native animals. Do you consider this work important?

Refer to the Statistical Analysis which shows 91% support for development of fire management strategies and maintenance of flora and fauna corridor links between the Garden and the Nepean River.

Question #13

How do you rate the importance of the Garden’s work to protect, extend and improve natural remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland on site?

79% high and 11% moderate importance. Full results in Statistical Analysis Table for Question #13.

Question #14

The road reversal had occurred just before the questionnaire was distributed and its impact was too soon to determine as indicated by the survey results in the Statistical Analysis table.

Question #15

What would improve access to the Garden for you?

There were 106 responses to this question. Refer to Statistical Analysis.
Question #16
Part One: How important do you believe Mount Annan Botanic Garden is to the local and regional community?

Survey results show that for 65% who responded to the questionnaire, MABG's importance to the local and regional community rates extremely high. For full results see Statistical Analysis.

Part Two: Why?

There was an even spread of reasons why as indicated by the tabulated results in the Statistical Analysis which follows.

Part 3: Other reasons?

There were 21 other reasons given for the Garden's importance to the local and regional community. Refer to the Statistical Analysis for the reasons given.

Question #17

Do you believe Mount Annan Botanic Garden should develop more partnerships e.g. with Local Government, RTA and Landcom so that the plantings and promotions outside the Garden can announce its presence?

72% responded in the affirmative as confirmed in the Statistical Analysis table for this question.

Question #18

Part One: The Garden is a full partner in the developing Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living. Do you believe partnerships like this are important to the Garden's future?

80% of responses were in the affirmative. Refer to Statistical Analysis for full breakdown of responses.

Part Two: Reasons to support partnerships?

There was a total of 132 reasons given to support partnerships as indicated by the anecdotal list presented in the full Statistical Analysis.

Question #19

Part One: Entry fees to the Garden assist with its running costs. Are you happy to continue paying fees which contribute to the Garden's facilities?

70% responded in the affirmative. Refer to Statistical Analysis.

Part Two: Entry fees comment

A total of 106 comments made about entry fees are reproduced in the Statistical Analysis.

Question #20

Part One: Are you a member of the Friends of the Gardens?

31% of respondees were members of the Friends of the Gardens and 54% were not. Refer to Statistical Analysis for full breakdown.

Part Two: If not, are you aware that for an annual fee of $64, a family of 1 or 2 adults and children under 18 living in the same household can come to the Garden for "free" as often as they please?

22% were not aware, 31% did know about household membership and 47% did not respond. Refer to Statistical Analysis for full results.

Part Three: Friends of the Garden – value for money?
There were 45 written, varied comments made as reported in the second half of this report. See Statistical Analysis for comprehensive list.

Question #21
Are you from ....?
46% were local people; 41% from the metropolitan area of Sydney; 5% were from country NSW. For tabulated response refer to Statistical Analysis.

Question #22
Part One: What is your age group?
There was quite an even spread between the ages of 18 and over 60. Refer to the tabulated results in Statistical Analysis.
Part Two: When you visit the Garden, do you usually come alone, as a group member ..... The majority of people come with one or more adults (42%). 34% did not answer – the questionnaire was obviously seeming very long at this stage as indicated by the Statistical Analysis.

Part Three: Visited the Garden with?
There were 31 responses to this question. Refer to the Statistical Analysis.

Question #23
Are you aware that the Garden has researched and developed plants which are commercially available?
83% responded in the affirmative – a surprisingly high total. Refer to Statistical Analysis.

Question #24
Do you know that the Garden can be hired for a range of functions including weddings, conferences, seminars, photography?
Again, 83% said “Yes.” Refer to Statistical Analysis.

Question #25
Part One: Did you know that Mount Annan Botanic Garden encourages individual sponsorship - such as for trees and bench seats in the Garden?
61% were aware of sponsorship available through the Garden. 30% were unaware. For full results, refer to Statistical Analysis.
Part Two: Comment about sponsorship response
There were 19 comments made which are reproduced in the Statistical Analysis which follows.

Question #26
Part One: Have you found staff in the Garden to be .....?
The majority of visitors responded positively. Refer to Statistical Analysis for full results.
Part Two: Comments about staff in the Garden
There were only 27 comments made. However these comments indicated that since the majority of visitors attend the Garden on the weekend or at after hours functions, it is no wonder that people made comments about seeing very few staff. See Statistical Analysis.
Question #27

Part One: What could the Garden improve?

There was an even range of breakdown in the statistics in Statistical Analysis Table for Question #27.

Part Two: Suggestions for Garden improvements

Visitor response 71 suggestions and 16 staff suggestions. See Statistical Analysis for full reproduction of suggestions.

Question #28

What do you want Mount Annan Botanic Garden to be like in 10 years time e.g. developments, facilities, attractions, events etc.

Visitor response 136 suggestions and 56 staff suggestions. These were lengthy comments in many cases which indicates that the majority of people who responded to this questionnaire very much cared about the Garden and having their point of view noted. See Statistical Analysis for full details.
### Question #1
Have you visited Mount Annan Botanic Garden before?

#### Visitor Surveys

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#### Staff Surveys

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#### Combined Surveys

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<td>%</td>
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Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Survey Analysis / Visitor Response

Question #2
Part One: What is/was the main purpose of your visit? / Recreation or other?

1. School cross country & development day visit
2. To botanise, recreate, self-educate
3. High School assignment back in 1993
4. HSC Case Study
5. School excursion
6. TAFE class, family picnic
7. Tour
8. Daytrip with Sutherland National Seniors x 2
9. Plant survey work
10. To go to the education centre during school holidays
11. TAFE excursions as teacher, recreational visitor during past 15 years
12. Horticultural studies, family picnics, general enjoyment of gardens
13. Horticulture course study and pleasure
14. To bring hort. students for education/picnics
15. Conducting bird surveys for Allen Powel as well as recreational purposes
16. For bush regen. training and native flower sale
17. Look at Cumberland Plain Woodland habitat, attend workshops and undertake bush care activities
18. Bush regen. volunteer, picnics, lunch at the restaurant
19. Volunteer work
20. To walk and enjoy Australian flora and to conduct tours for visitors
21. Pleasure, also volunteer guiding and volunteer bush regenerating
22. Horticulture/botany/picnicking/walking
23. Look at the Acacias and visit the shop to look at plants
24. Picnic & family get together plus see the native plants of the gardens
25. Place to walk, be in a beautiful place, support conservation of plants
26. To see what could be grown in the Sydney Environment
27. See native plant specimens & plant sales
   I think the Garden does a great job of showcasing Australian native plants, and I’d be delighted to simply see you do more of the same in the same fashion you do now. As the population of this area continues to increase, the demands on the Gardens will grow, so infrastructure such as parking, toilets, food outlets, etc will have to continue to expand. I hope a way can be found to keep as much open space as possible while still encouraging people to come, as open space is one of the qualities of the Garden I most appreciate. I’m torn between wanting to keep the Garden a secret and telling all of the Sydney area to come enjoy this wonderful place!
28. Visit the plant sale, visit the restaurant / cafe
29. Interest in what the gardens looked like, what species were used and the design of the gardens
30. See the gardens overall as well as specific interest in some species
Spring flower blooming, shop, restaurant
To walk around the gardens, look at plants and lunch in the restaurant
Showing Australian landscape and wildlife to French visitors
To see the variety of Australian native species being grown
Buy plants, eat, walk
To visit rainforest (Terrace Garden/Connections Garden)
View the plants/take part in Grevillea Study Group display and plant sale
I love the gardens. Wanted to see its gradual maturity.
Walking in beautiful, safe surroundings and learning about native plants
Looking at plants
To visit an Australian plants botanic garden
To work for the Grevillea Study Group’s April sale and buy plants
Photographic competition (last visit), show visitors our native flora, shop purchases, volunteering, Christmas gatherings
To visit the natural bushland area/bushwalk/cycle
Several visits – to see native plants, for annual plant sales and for picnics with friends
To see the Grevillea garden
To see spring flowering of natives, cycle the roads to view all areas of Garden
Enjoy the gardens and wildlife as well as the individual plants and trees
To walk in the gardens and get familiar with Australian native plants
Look at native plants
To have a picnic, see the wattle, take visitors to the Sundial, shop at the Gift Shop, walking, coffee
Relaxation/native garden
To purchase shrubs
Enjoy seeing a variety of Australian plants, for exercise and relaxation
Recreation, close, natural facility
Mt Annan Walk, family picnics
BBQ with friends
Enjoy a picnic in the lovely grounds
Picnic and walk around the gardens, different events eg World Environment Day, visit to the restaurant, Challenge Walk
Leisure, children enjoy the playground and I enjoy the gardens
Family time, BBQ, peaceful non-commercial nor over-entertained place to spend time
Picnic, take photos, children ride bikes
Bicycle riding with our family
Family get together x 2
Family picnic, bushwalking, BBQ, Soccer picnics/presentations, kids playground
Recreation, family get-togethers, walks
BBQ – family reunion
Day out with my elderly mother
Family BBQs, just enjoying the Garden
Family picnic and also tour with social group
Use playground, walking, join ‘Friends of the Gardens’ at gift shop, view the gardens
Family outings, interview panel, opening
Family get-together – seasonal visits to the changing face of the gardens and area
A family day out – view gardens – sporting club presentation
Cake and playground
Pleasure, family get-together, open day
Fun for kids, BBQ, education, bike riding, walking, study, bush regeneration, photography
Walking or dining or picnicking or to buy a gift. Taking grandchildren to play
Child’s playground, BBQ facilities, plant workshops
Family picnic
Family picnics and play with the children
It is such a magnificent place to visit especially with visiting grandchildren
To enjoy the playground and surroundings of the Garden.
Walks, picnics, family outing
Recreational activities with my young children
Meet family and/or friends for lunch. Visit shop for plants or gifts. Walking in the gardens.
To have a picnic x 3
Group Lunch visit
Recreation/picnic
Picnic and explore gardens
Picnics, eating at the café, purchasing plants.
To walk and to picnic/BBQ
Organised BBQ
Pleasure – picnic
BBQs, bike riding, work functions, meetings, school excursions
Picnics, lunch at the café, buy gifts at the Gardens Shop, walks
Walking – picnics - restaurant - volunteer
Bicycle Riding, Picnics
Relax / Restaurant / Special occasions
Breakfast at The Gardens’ Restaurant
Lunch
To go for a long walk and have lunch at the restaurant
Lunch at restaurant
Events like Mount Annan Walk, garden shop, restaurant
Just a leisurely stroll, or to take a break and have lunch
Quiet walks in the countryside
Experience a nice place that is quiet, green and healthy
Quiet time observing changing aspects of park – wildlife, flowers etc. Walking or a quiet picnic
To provide IT support and enjoy the surroundings
Attend meetings x 2
Function or event, business meeting
Recreational x 5
Recreation, walking, brunch with friends, simply to enjoy the gardens
1. Showing neighbour and having lunch at restaurant 2. Working at the Grevillea Spectacular 3. Picnic with Grandchildren
Recreation/relaxation x 2
Relaxation and exercise
Sports Function
Leisure
Day out
As a neighbour
Walking for pleasure & exercise
I visited the gardens and the education centre
Multiple
Enjoyment of surrounds – walking – dining – entertainment
Recreation – walking. Also to purchase wrapping paper in the shop
When I was looking to move to Mount Annan. The Garden was another reason for moving to the lovely area – now my home is at Mount Annan.
General visit
Relaxing sightseeing
Curiosity – to see what the gardens were like
Just to see it and take a friend
To have a look
Recreation and exercise
To enjoy the gardens and go walking
To go for a walk
Relaxation and exercise, feel and experience the openness
Cycling

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<td>23. Meeting and socialising with gardens staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>35. BDO</td>
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<td>37. Work</td>
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BDO and to see the Gardens

BDO Bonding day

BDO to meet people we are in touch with every day on the phone

BDO Work

BDO

BDO Work

BDO

Science

BDO

To play

Work

Work

Work

Work related

Work

Work

Work

Work

Work

Work and recreation

Work

Work

Work

Work

Work

Work

Work

Work

Work and picnics

Recreation

Study, family days out, work

Work

Work and pleasure
### Question #2
#### Part Two: Response rate to question?

**Visitor Surveys**

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**Staff Surveys**

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**Combined Surveys**

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# Mount Annan Botanic Garden

## Survey Analysis / Combined Visitor & Staff Responses

### Question #3

**Part One:** Have you visited the Garden’s website [www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au)?

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Question #3
Part Two: If so, did it provide the information you required?

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<td>7%</td>
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![Combined Surveys](image)
Question #3
Part Three: Improvements to website

1. Wanted specific information on an upcoming event which was in the Friends of the Gardens magazine
2. I wanted to know about the horizon cinema, but I assume it is not happening anymore and hence that is why there was no information about it on the website.
3. No, more up to date detail is needed
4. No, more regular updates
5. More meaningful domain name?
   The project plan summary should be directly linked to the main page and the remainder nested in a compact manner. Please consider the Adelaide national park at Belair where extensive sporting fields complement use by the locals and is part of their community. Your mission does not appear clearly differentiated from the other Botanical Gardens. There appears no provision for updates, searches or links to other databases including weeds and plants for schools and TAFE to use. I could not see the enterprise accounting summary to support the management plan and allow donations for specific targets
6. Would have liked more information on the latest news about discovering more on the Wollemi pines
7. Eventually found it, but refining search engine could be good
8. Didn't say there was a $50 wheelchair hire charge
9. Poor info (or access to find info) on events + function info
10. Need more detailed information on location of where plants can be located or if in the Garden
11. I would separate Mount Annan website from RBG site (with appropriate links). Currently if you click on ‘Home’ you are taken back to RBG site. Also more ‘clickable’ plants with identification guide to major genera

Survey Analysis / Staff Response

1. Not sure
2. Not easy to navigate
3. Better navigation, better updating of info
4. Better layout of events and venue hire section
5. More current info on Garden’s exhibitions and projects
6. Categories and search facilities could be clearer? New version will look after this
7. It is sometimes hard to find out what section to look under, the search tool is very useful for this
8. The search function doesn’t seem to locate forms
9. It’s a bit hard to navigate like looking for maps
10. More plant information
11. Better plant info
12. Not sure
13. Up to date events, products for sale
## Question #4

**Part One: Have you visited or used: Playground, Garden Shop/Visitor Centre, Restaurant, Theme Gardens, Taken a guided tour, BBQ and picnic areas, Walking trails?**

### Visitor Surveys

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<th>Theme Gardens</th>
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### Staff Surveys

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<th>Survey Responses</th>
<th>Playground</th>
<th>Garden Shop</th>
<th>Restaurant</th>
<th>Theme Gardens</th>
<th>Guided tour</th>
<th>BBQ/Picnic area</th>
<th>Walking trails</th>
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### Combined Surveys

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### Question #4 Part One

- **Walking trails, 138, 15%**
- **Playground, 92, 10%**
- **Garden Shop, 192, 21%**
- **BBQ/Picnic area, 148, 16%**
- **Guided tour, 69, 7%**
- **Theme Gardens, 160, 17%**
- **Restaurant, 132, 14%**

**Combined Surveys**
Question #4
Part Two: What could be improved?

1. Labelling of plants
2. Better signage, for example, maps of the whole of the Garden on boards at key places
3. Walking trails - More signage/direction - Wasn't sure where the walkways lead to
4. Signage of trails
5. Interpretive signage
6. Plant names on plant labels / tags
7. Spectacular! More signs on the trees away from garden areas please
8. Map was confusing
9. More info on walks
10. The Garden Shop is fabulous, could be more signage on walking trails (about natural area)
11. Trail guides
12. More plants and interpretive information
13. Plant signage
14. More theme gardens etc to take beautiful photos
15. Weeding the gardens
16. Need more garden beds of flowers in my view
17. Finish the work in the woodland so that we can walk through Woodlands full area again
18. More examples of NSW ecosystems if possible
19. Keep the grassy paths mowed
20. Customer service in Garden Shop has much room for improvement
21. More plants and books for sale
22. Rubbish bins or bags
23. Seating between theme gardens, control of exotic weeds such as African Olive and Broad leafed Privet
24. Provide more sheltered areas
25. More shaded areas
26. More shaded areas and a better eating facility for the purchase and eating of food
27. More adult seating outside playground area
28. Parking surrounding the various picnic areas, especially when attending large functions
29. Surfaces
30. Walking trails
31. Maybe the odd bubbler or seat along the more distant parts of the drives
32. Terrace Gardens are difficult walk for some seniors
33. More marked trails of different lengths
34. Additional playground/recreation areas. By attracting families, you will increase interest in the maintenance of such beautiful gardens.
35. I guess one challenge facing Mount Annan is to provide what people expect to see and experience when visiting a botanic garden - well established gardens and lots of flowers. Mount Annan is young, so the gardens are still establishing themselves. Plus, most people expect exotic gardens from Europe or Asia when
visiting a botanic garden, and as Mount Annan is a native garden there is the challenge to make the garden different to what can be experienced by simply taking a bushwalk anywhere in Australia.

36 Restaurant should be open Saturday nights
37 Snack shop. Is there a snack shop to get simple food eg drinks and sandwiches? Or is it only the restaurant where you can buy food? I don't recall a snack shop as such when I visited
38 Bigger restaurant, function room
39 Kiosk food for young families using the playground; prices are high and not much to eat unless you pay restaurant prices eg. hot chips, meat pies, hot dogs etc.
40 The coffee making
41 Restaurant was closed – could be open weekdays
42 The service in the restaurant was very slow
43 The restaurant to be less up market
44 Restaurant menu could be more varied and change from time to time
45 Should not be charged an entry fee if only visiting the shop and/or restaurant
46 Free entry
47 Have the outdoor cinema there again - I wanted to go last year but it was not operating
48 Not wheelchair friendly
49 Unsure as unable to walk easily
50 Nothing specific, just continue to develop it as you are
51 We are very happy with the gardens experience as a whole
52 I was impressed with all of the facilities
53 Everything is very nice now
54 Visited mostly the walking trails – they are fine
55 Nothing I can think of
56 I like it as it is x 2
57 Tried to take a guided tour, was full (This as a note against the tour box, not a comment on what could be improved)
58 It's all great
59 OK at the time
60 Excellent
61 Nothing
62 Loved it all

Staff Surveys

1 Weeds along paths
2 Weeds across site
3 Restaurant not for families
4 Seats along walks
5 Signage and way finding
6 Budget
7 Restaurant food
8 Cheaper restaurant
9 Slip and slide for hot days
10 It's fine
11 More information
Bikes for hire
More plants big shade trees for picnics
Complete the Connections Garden
Turf areas are full of weeds
Better leaflets/maps of walking trails and directional signage
Signage and brochures for walking trails
More such facilities should be created
Walking tracks need improved paths and interpretation
More water features
Value for money at the Restaurant
The coffee at the Restaurant
More picnic areas
Make Saturdays “free entry”
Occasional seats along walks
More facilities at Banksia Garden
### Question #5

**Part One:** What do you like and enjoy most about Mount Annan Botanic Garden? Please number your preferences. (1 = best)

#### Visitor Surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Responses</th>
<th>Physical beauty</th>
<th>Fresh air</th>
<th>Recreation facilities</th>
<th>Education activities</th>
<th>Shopping</th>
<th>Remnant natural areas</th>
<th>Fauna</th>
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#### Staff Surveys

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#### Combined Surveys

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<td>3%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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</table>
Question #5
Part Two: Other things liked and enjoyed most about the Garden

1. Friendly staff
2. The gardens are great but the facilities are not always ample, parking in some of the themed gardens are limited and shaded areas and seating is also limited. I love the use of the land and the themed gardens are well spaced
3. I go to the gardens to enjoy nature. The restaurant is nice, shop good for a browse, but ultimately I for the natural side of things. Don't know much about the fauna, except for the birds, would be interested to know more
4. Spring flower gardens in bloom
5. Walking trails
6. The escape from high residential life
7. Bird watching
8. Peacefulness, uncrowded, plenty of space
9. Peace and solitude
10. Quiet, solitude, no dogs and few cars
11. Views and peace
12. Its atmosphere
13. Space for families to meet and enjoy the environment
14. ‘Top site’ green lungs surrounded by urban sprawl – great asset. A safe place to bring grandchildren – open spaces, walking trails and education activities
15. Cycling safely
16. Social contact
17. Playground
18. Guided tour
19. Did the ‘behind the scenes’ talk
20. Lawn areas
21. Being able to drive around

Staff Surveys

1. Views
2. Blue tree
3. Art in Gardens and events
4. Peace and quiet, calm
5. Panoramic views
6. Space
Question #6
Part One: Do you have a favourite area at Mount Annan Botanic Garden?

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<th>Visitor Surveys</th>
<th>Staff Surveys</th>
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**Combined Surveys**

Yes, 131, 54%

No, 68, 28%

Unanswered, 44, 18%
### Question #6

**Part Two: Please number your preferences**

#### Visitor Surveys

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<tr>
<th>Survey Responses</th>
<th>Woodland</th>
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<th>Terrace / Connections Garden</th>
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<th>Playground</th>
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<td>8%</td>
<td>21%</td>
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![Pie chart showing preferences for Combined Surveys](chart.png)

- **Woodland, 390, 19%**
- **Bottlebrush Garden, 301, 14%**
- **Wattle Garden, 337, 16%**
- **Terrace / Connections Garden, 454.5, 22%**
- **Playground, 160.5, 8%**
- **Banksia Garden, 436.5, 21%**
Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Survey Analysis / Visitor Response

Question #6
Part Three: Favourite area beside list

1. Outdoor café area
2. Restaurant
3. In front of shop
4. Terrace Garden because it is something different to what you can create at home in your own garden
5. The landscaping and water features of the terraced areas. The colour of the bottlebrush and wattle gardens and the picnic facilities
6. Terrace Garden – recent upgrade is excellent
7. The Terrace Garden - The walk is mostly well shaded, interesting and a bit like a maze
8. Rainforest area because of a personal interest in rainforest
9. By the lake near Narellan Road Why? Not many people there
10. Lake Gillingadanum and Lake Nadumgamba. Why? Relax and have lunch on the Lake side
12. Sundial – the view
13. The picnic area near the lake. Why? It’s just a pleasant spot to sit and enjoy the surroundings! I also like the hillside where the Sundial is
15. All the gardens and the southern ridge track because of the great views
16. Western Garden because it's quiet and beautiful
17. Grassland as equal number one because of space and fresh air
18. Area where Sundial is because you get wonderful views back to the city
19. Top of Cunningham Drive looking towards Blue Mountains (Need a picnic table there); ponds and lakes
20. 3 & 5yr olds love that playground!!!
21. Open grass area for picnics and open air cinema including music.
22. The duck pond back up towards Narellan Rd. Why? We take our handicapped son there in peace and quiet. It calms him.
23. Woodland – enjoy natural habitat
24. Woodland for bird watching
25. Cumberland Plain Garden and BBQ in Woodland Picnic Area because is representative of that part of western Sydney
26. Remnant natural areas because of conservation objectives – CPW.
27. More plantings in Bottlebrush Garden and Terrace/Connections Garden
28. Fig Walk leading to bottle trees and kurrajongs because I like those trees - and there are often wallabies in the evening
29. The theme gardens and terrace are complementary – enable walks, education, pleasure. Woodland = conservation, because it is rare!! Playground has ‘appropriate’ plantings is safe/clean!
30. Lakes because of the variety of birds
31. I like all of them
32. Different areas are best because of the time of year of the visit.
33. It is a great place for family
34. I enjoyed it all x 2
35. Loved it all!
<table>
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<td>Terrace Garden is peaceful</td>
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<td>Sundial area because of views</td>
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<td>All of it</td>
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<td>Haven’t seen most</td>
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<td>Cool attractive Garden in summer</td>
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<td>It’s all great</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Cumberland plain woodland / remnant</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Dams birdlife, vegetation</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>New garden / plant variety</td>
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<td>Shady cool site</td>
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<td>Like most areas</td>
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<td>Lakeside / lovely views</td>
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<td>Restaurant / good food though expensive</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Sundial hill / spectacular views</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Sundial – Functions, view</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Lakeside / open space, facilities, surrounding areas</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Variety of plants</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Lakeside – sheer beauty</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Shaded gully – can walk through, unlike Acacia gully and Banksia garden is the most interesting</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Lakeside</td>
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# Question #7

## Part One: Have you or your children attended any classes/courses at Mount Annan Botanic Garden?

## Visitor Surveys

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## Staff Surveys

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| %                | 21% | 78%| 1%         |

## Combined Surveys

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| %                | 26% | 66%| 8%         |

## Combined Surveys

- **Unanswered**: 19, 8%
- **Yes**: 62, 26%
- **No**: 162, 66%
Question #7
Part Two: What education activities have you participated in?

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<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tree planting and other horticultural excursions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Propagation workshop, kids via school excursions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Friends activities x 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Guided tour, educational lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bush regeneration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Volunteer x 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Guide course x 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>School Excursion (Mt Annan P.S)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>School excursion and picnic to the gardens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>School excursion, school holiday activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Education centre – came on school excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>School excursion x 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>School Holiday Activities x 4</td>
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<td>A craft course making things out of natural objects. I think a man named Allen ran it</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Gumnut craft in the school holidays</td>
</tr>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Cumberland bird watching/ APS Autumn meetings</td>
</tr>
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<td>Educational tour by Ed. Officer</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>We have attended most things offered</td>
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<td>Attended Welcome Ceremony on Aboriginal Heritage and Culture weekend (Wirrimbirra course)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Bush regeneration with volunteers, VCN – Volunteer Co-ordinators Network</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Cumberland Plain vegetation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>School education, bird walk, propagation, Kew info</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Educational</td>
</tr>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Cumberland Plain Woodland fire regimes talk, bush care</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Courses held at the Education Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Sydney wildlife animal care, propagation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>With Grandchildren – Ed Centre + many seminars/workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Plant ID workshops/ open air cinema</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Various workshops associated with bush care</td>
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<td>Talks by APS members and MABG staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Propagation; stone walling</td>
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<td>Dry stone walling x 2</td>
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<td>Bush tucker</td>
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<td>We have no young children now, years ago they did</td>
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<td>Dry stone walling</td>
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<td>Nocturnal walk, Opening Sustainable Living Centre</td>
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<td>Aboriginal culture, native gardens, window gardens</td>
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<td>Sydney metropolitan wildlife training</td>
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Question #7
Part Three: What educational activities would you like to see offered in the Garden?

1. More workshops for schools and other groups
2. More planting plants during school holiday activities.
3. Free or inexpensive craft/exploration activities for children 3-10 years
4. More things for children in holidays, shows or activities
5. Physical school holiday activities
6. More lessons about the different animals
7. Bird watching, guided
8. Activities related to Australian Native Animals
9. School stuff. Advice on growing natives
10. More excursions to a place like this
11. Permaculture courses
12. Education on native gardening, water wise gardening etc. More structured weekend activities like breakfast with the birds. A Saturday/Sunday breakfast walking club would be good
13. Classes on designing water wise native gardens
15. What are the best plants for drought, reptile shows, to show children the dangers and what to do if they see a snake
16. Plant propagation
17. Propagation classes, bush tucker plants – how to grow, classes about what local natives to grow
18. ½ day courses on specific propagation issues
19. The use of native plants in private gardens
20. How to use native plants in a home garden/garden design
21. Would like to see ‘experts’ talk about their specialty areas
22. Collecting seeds from native plants, and germination of native seeds. Bush Tucker or cooking using native plants, dry rock walling, basic landscaping
23. Seed collecting and storage, water plants and native grasses
24. The growing of native plants
25. Learning about Australian plants including indigenous plants
26. Intro to Aust. plants/cultivating at home/activities of botanists at botanic gardens
27. Education on planting young seedlings – plants
28. Subjects that you can apply in our own garden
29. Programs re dry gardens, using less water, planting home gardens with Australian natives to achieve sustainable gardens (replacing lawns etc)
30. Plant identification and propagation. Indoor facilities for educational lectures
31. Courses in plant identification
32. Local plant identification, children’s shows, early not late
33. Courses on growing natives, designing and planting a suburban backyard for children
34. Australian Gardening courses, Eco Friendly gardening.
35 Ecological Concepts, Plant Identification and Earth Education Activities (activities which increase connection to nature)
36 Greater emphasis on information and education in the area of native plant propagation and cultivation.
37 The role natives play in the soil. The importance of the Cumberland Plain Woodland – a workshop for children to gain a good understanding
38 Single topic workshops on Cumberland Plain Woodland flora and fauna species
39 Cumberland Plain bushland courses; regen. courses; native genera courses
40 Sustainability
41 Anything that raises awareness of Australian Flora & Fauna
42 I go to the gardens to relax and enjoy nature, so don't really think much about educational activities. I did enjoy a bush tucker tour some time ago.
43 Any needed by community in general.
44 Fresh exhibitions only
45 Entertainment from which provide education to families
46 An education program to enable people to fully appreciate native flora.
47 More explanations at interesting sites
48 Excellent program already established!
49 Art workshops
50 Further Aboriginal heritage/awareness/plant uses
51 Educational activities for adults-family groups
52 What has been on offer eg. Dry stone walling etc – sound terrific – it's just a matter of getting to them
53 Environmental theme park incorporating alternative energy technologies, non-fossil fuel forms of transport
54 A carefully planned modern educational facility/area incorporating outdoor ‘natural’ features and more interesting features and funding
55 More on bush tucker
56 The excursions attended by school students are excellent. Why not similar opportunities for the general public?
57 Workshops for all!
58 Uses of timber, timber preservation outdoors
59 Evening identifying walks in summer
60 The sustainable house will be good.
61 Happy with what is offered
62 Program looks comprehensive already

Staff Surveys

1 Horticulture college
2 Native Plant Horticultural
3 Practical horticulture
4 Local plants for local gardens
5 Jewellery making, Aboriginal language classes
6 Historical talks & guided walks, including aboriginal subjects
7 Weed identification
8 Good flora/fauna and scenic tours eg sculpture/sundial etc
9 Weekend activities / clubs/ plant sales/ society displays
10 Whole day interactive environmental education
11 Working nursery tours
12 Not Sure
About plants
Education about weeds and how to control them
Hands on courses in the horticulture/propagation of native Australian plants
Water wise gardening. Select how to and grow Native trees at home
Introductory bird watching courses
Lectures/talks by visiting flora fauna experts
Under 5 years
Use of plants, materials, by products, other and different play uses
Other craft activities eg silk screening printing, photography, etc
I think we could have art in the park (like the seaside one in Sydney). This would appeal to high school students etc
Australian flower arranging + Australian Bonsai
Live displays of interaction between fauna and flora
Question #8
Part One: There are a few artistic installations at Mount Annan Botanic Garden. Please tick what you have seen.

### Visitor Surveys

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<tr>
<th>Survey Responses</th>
<th>The Room with a view sculpture</th>
<th>The snail family wooden sculptures</th>
<th>The Blue Ruin tree</th>
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**Question #8 / Part One**

- **Federation Maze, 101, 17%**
- **The Room with a view sculpture, 101, 17%**
- **The Wallabies, 74, 13%**
- **The snail family wooden sculptures, 57, 10%**
- **The Blue Ruin tree, 99, 17%**
- **The Sundial, 160, 26%**

**Combined Surveys**
Question #8
Part Two: Would you like to see more artistic installations?

**Visitor Surveys**

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**Combined Surveys**

- No, 14, 6%
- No opinion, 61, 25%
- Yes, 120, 50%
- Unanswered, 45, 19%
Question #8
Part Three: Artistic installations comment.

1. Blue Ruin is a doubtful idea, seems to have discouraged birds from using the tree
2. So busy looking at beautiful plants, didn't notice these, but certainly will on our next visit
3. Where were they?
4. I'm sure I've seen them but they don't stick in my mind as I'm more interested in plants
5. Yes, more exhibitions
6. Most of the sculptures are quite good but I can't see the significance of the penguin – part of an educational bird walk.
7. Depends – some ‘reference’ to the Cumberland Plain woodlands’ ‘history’/use and its current status and value (future generations). Mount Annan could well contain the last, healthy example pre-European settlement! – Perhaps some ‘fun’ interpretive feature e.g. involving a living tree?
8. Yes, but only if it is not kitsch
9. Some installations impose on the natural beauty – e.g. metal wallabies when there is a group of living ones to be seen in the same area
10. It is good to have a few because of the element of surprise. If there are too many then it could be less natural and more like a sculpture garden
11. So long as it reflects the place and isn't just there.
## Survey Analysis / Combined Visitor & Staff Responses

### Question #9

Part One: Is the signage about Mount Annan Botanic Garden .....?

#### Visitor Surveys

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Question #9
Part Two: Signage Comments.

1 Some of the signs are beginning to fade. Better signage on walking trails would help
2 Walking trail signage (distance etc) insufficient
3 Must be kept in good condition for walkers, only 10 weeks ago we got lost in ACT Bot Gardens, even with a map – roads are unsigned and by 5 pm it was dark, we headed down hill 'til we came to the lit area – very embarrassing!!
4 Has improved since road reversal.
5 On the brochure it would be good to have descriptions of each area - vibrant, dense, romantic etc
6 The newer, larger signs with pictures are very good
7 I like new coloured boards and explanations
8 New signage excellent. Please ensure all signs are maintained and visible
9 Excellent
10 All signage is adequate and clear
11 The information conveyed by them is good and helpful. I'm not sure what you mean. The sign on Narellan Road is very bright, the colour changes are good. I don't recall my thoughts on the information signs in the garden. It has been a while since I have been
12 I like how it changes colour every year (the sign on Narellan Road).
13 Changing colours on sign at Narellan Road is interesting and easily noticed
14 Very minimal
15 More could be better
16 Larger, simpler
17 Noted that improvements are being made, more could be done
18 Getting better
19 Needs to be longer
20 I think could be improved to highlight features within the Gardens
21 Need more
22 Need more signage, especially interpretive
23 Plant labelling could be better maintained
24 The size of printing in some signs is difficult to read without getting close
25 Probably very difficult but names on plants are sometimes missing – I am interested in knowing names of plants
26 Information useful but there's not too much of it
27 Not enough of it
28 Plant identification signage lacking
29 Some can be hard to find
30 Signage not sufficient. Information is a large part of your job!
31 Some things that were of interest were not marked
32 Road to Sundial not clear
33 Better markings on map given at entrance would be helpful, more info on things of interest
34 Not a big issue but a better map would help
A bigger sign with Garden hours of opening and close times

The entry to Mount Annan Drive used to read 1.5 km every time this sign has been repainted I waited for the missing .5 to be replaced

Some directional signage confusing

Signage particularly at the high spots in the Gardens identifying surrounding features eg Glenlee House, Glen Alpine, directions to the extinct volcano crater

Can sometimes impinge on natural beauty if too large or eye-catching

Needs a significant sign at roundabout

Have only visited once

Not particularly aware of it

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Staff Surveys

1. Slightly confusing
2. Too much signage around roads
3. Is much better than at the other 2 Gardens
4. More artistic/catchy boards on freeway could help
5. These stood out as beautifully done!
6. Obscure
7. Some poor condition but most good
8. It is getting better (less boring)
9. Could be more
10. I love the new sandstone signs on entry
11. Haven’t had a chance to look
12. Need more and better Botanical information
13. More contextual gardens
14. Need more – simple and complex information
15. Need more
16. There should be a lot more interpretive signage explaining about plants/features/etc throughout the garden
17. Generally the signs are in good condition
18. Need more “interpretive”/telling story – connecting – rather than just information/directional signage
19. Some signs need replacement
20. The coloured signs in the arboretum areas encourage people to stop and look at them. Keep doing them
21. Sufficient, but could have more, can never be enough
22. Direction and interpretation signage should be different
Question #10

Part One: At Mount Annan Botanic Garden we conduct research and trials on Australian plants for conservation and sometimes for commercial release e.g. the Wollemi Pine and Flannel Flower. Do you consider this work important?

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### Staff Surveys

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**Combined Surveys**
Question #10
Part Two: Why do you see research for conservation and commercial release important?

1. So we have plants which will tolerate our weather conditions
2. My children certainly gained a greater respect for the environment and the extent of scientific input required in such research
3. Maintenance of biodiversity
4. Conservation and fund raising
5. Or conservation of these species and to promote their propagation and use in horticulture
6. Some one needs to
7. Commercial propagation is also critical to preservation
8. Yes, one reason why I support gardens. Valuable scientific work and conservation
9. For education and conservation of biodiversity, keep it up
10. This is true conservation, especially for the Wollemi Pines. Marketing it and the Flannel Flowers also make the Gardens a viable commercial entity that is not so sufficient with this inept State Govt when it comes to funding
11. Creates greater awareness & interest in conservation & biodiversity
12. Important role of botanical garden to do this – if you don't, who will?
13. Think its important to maintain and care for our environment
14. Surely this kind of work is very much part of why Botanic Gardens exist. Ultimately, as “consumers” we benefit from your scientific endeavours, whether in plants we enjoy in the Gardens, or in plants we can plant in our own gardens
15. Because it is a botanical garden and that is the appropriate place for such research programs
   Because it is ensuring that plants that are sometimes rare and endangered are going to be around for future generations. It is also important if it encourages more people to plant native plants in their gardens rather than exotics. Native plants help provide food for our native wildlife and birds and are more adapted to the Australian environment
16. This should be one of the purposes of a botanic garden
17. I believe conservation to be extremely important
18. It is pleasing that someone cares enough to do what is important for the environments future
19. For the conservation of significant vegetation in the area
20. I think that it is important that the Campbelltown area is associated with these types of activities. It highlights some of the good things that are happening in our area
21. Preserving Australia’s endangered floral heritage
22. These are important Australian Species
23. It is important to protect and maintain the biodiversity of all species
24. For conservation purposes
25. It stimulates interest in native flora and support for conservation from the community
26. It is important to educate people on protected species such as the Wollemi Pine
27. I value a sustainable future and the preservation of our native plants and animals
28. Assume you make money on this as well although I am not impressed with the Flannel Flower or the cost
29. Conservation is always an important issue especially for future generations
30. Native Plants facing extinction have been saved
31. It raises awareness ie: Wollemi Pine, and ensures we protect and save what we have that is so uniquely Australian
Keep up the good work!

To set a good example and make more native varieties available

Environment very important

To improve community awareness

Care for the environment

Development of Aussie hort.

Critical for preservation

Who else is going to do it? X 2

Essential for conservation

Heritage

It is important for the species and Mount Annan is the best place for it

To stop plants becoming extinct and making easier to grow in home gardens

It helps to manage preservation of our native plants and allows the public to enjoy them

Income for the Garden

Conservation – important for the future

Will increase number of plants and places they are in

To prolong the preservation of these plants

Conservation, floristry industry, home gardening with improved varieties

Increases knowledge base, keeps it in public hands

Who else other than commercially driven operators (= price)

To try and save these plants from dying out x 2

Much more research into native plants is needed and native botanic gardens should be in the forefront; earning money from plant releases helps fund research

Knowledge necessary for conservation: also good income source

Otherwise the plant may be lost; and needed for purchase for domestic gardens

For the future – to have a record and maybe seed should something go wrong

Broadens interest base

Brings the bush to the public

Conservation and biodiversity are two of the most important issues of our day. If commercial aspect helps Mount Annan, this is wonderful!

It is important to conserve our native plants, especially those on the threatened species list

For the preservation of rare species and increased use of native in horticultural uses

For conservation

Yes - Self-explanatory – I’m a Senior Head Teacher (of TAFE)

As more of our native vegetation disappears it is very important that we do not lose these unique plants so research and availability to the public is vital

Need for conservation is obvious – also provides more money for or within the gardens

A useful way for you to gain more funds

This is the ideal facility for research and development

Future sustainability of Australian fauna

More use should be made of native plants

Sometimes can’t leave it all to economic or commercial growers

For preservation for future generations

Research preserves and protects our environment

Who else would do it? More informed – the better the decisions regarding conservation etc

So the research may be able to continue the species for a longer period of time
Essentially conservation and also helps pay for the park
So generations to come have plants to view and to learn and understand conservation
Mount Annan could/should ‘lead the way’ in research/conservation on Australian native plants. It often does eg Wollemi pine
To get more people growing natives
If nothing else to avoid repetition of past mistakes
Preservation for the future
Because the gardens are in strong position to provide this research (especially in relation to eastern Australian species) and because the work is important to preservation/propagation of our unique flora
Knowledge is good
Raising awareness of native plants through conservation
I consider that research is important to discover aspects of these native plants that can be used for conservation and commerce
To extend availability of endangered plants
If an institution like yourself doesn’t do it, no one will
Just because we depend on Bot Gardens for such things
Increase profile for Gardens, potential income for gardens
Appreciate the scientific concerns of the Gardens’ charter
Best for government to do it
Raises profile of Australian plants in the community
Conservation speaks for itself, commercial fields fund the garden
I think conservation of native flora is important
To develop and maintain our flora’s heritage and future
The question is what should the commercial nurseries do and what the Garden should do
Gives people a chance to have their own plants
Conservation for future generations
General public is aware and has access to these Australian plants
Funds for the gardens. Training for young staff. If you don’t do it, who will?
For the survival of species
This work is associated with the plants of our country and we need to understand as much as we can about our flora

Staff Surveys

1. To help release more plants to the public
2. The local community and nurseries need to be aware of good Australian plants which could substitute exotics
3. Good for the Garden to set standards, good for all sites
4. Conservation and research development $ to be raised and awareness. Also in my opinion, that is part of a Botanic Garden’s responsibility
5. To raise money to fund other important projects
6. Increase understanding of flagship and less well known species
7. Need more money for conservation
8. Increase knowledge and awareness of Australian plants
9. We must protect our biodiversity
10. Sustainability, revenue
11. Very important to use local plants
12. Conservation of Australian heritage plants and rare plants
13. Knowledge is power to improve
Promotion of native plants is very important
Preserve our native plants
Conservation
Conservation and knowledge
Who else could do it? Essential
Links science with Horticulture
To conserve plants in the wild
Conserving, promoting Australian flora
Conservation is important for future generations
To encourage people to use Australian plants / celebrate their beauty
Good source of learning
Because the natural assets need to be preserved
For conservation of plants
Helps secure the future of those plants and promotes Australian natives
It adds to the scientific role and world renown of BGT
The importance of conserving Australian Native plants is important for future Australia – preventing salinity, erosion, weed invasion etc
Assists with preservation of species and raises profile of native plants
Branding / image of BGT and promotion of Oz plants
Because then everyone can appreciate the work done
Introduce new plants, conservation through commercialisation
Preservation and promotion of our Native species is important
For research in plants
Because we are well positioned and set up to conduct research, so we should continue to further research and trials etc
Preservation of species / broaden access to the public
**Mount Annan Botanic Garden**

**Survey Analysis / Combined Visitor & Staff Responses**

**Question #11**

Mount Annan Botanic Garden's Millennium Seed Bank collects and saves seed from NSW including rare and endangered plant species. Do you think conservation should be an important function of the Garden?

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**Combined Surveys**

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- No opinion, 3, 1%
- Unanswered, 19, 8%
A goal of Mount Annan Botanic Garden is to manage fire and maintain a green corridor link to the Nepean River to safeguard growing numbers of native animals. Do you consider this work important?

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![Pie chart showing responses to Question #12](chart.png)
Question #13
How do you rate the importance of the Garden's work to protect, extend and improve natural remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland on site?

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**Combined Surveys**

- High: 189 (79%)
- Moderate: 27 (11%)
- Low: 1 (0%)
- No opinion: 6 (2%)
- Unanswered: 20 (8%)

No opinion: 6, 2%
Unanswered: 20, 8%
Low: 1, 0%
Moderate: 27, 11%
High, 189, 79%
Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Survey Analysis / Combined Visitor & Staff Responses

Question #14
Following the recent road reversal, do you believe access and views have improved?

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**Survey Analysis / Visitor Response**

**Question #15**

What would improve access to the Garden for you?

1. Fee should not punish families but encourage them! Reduce the fee significantly for families. Macarthur is no longer a dormitory area and tourism from family and friends is increasing. Need to capture this market, not push it to go shopping!
2. Lowering the entry fee - I used to find it OK when it was just a fee per car, now that it is per person I find it a bit expensive, especially when you have several children. The botanic gardens in the city are free for users, why shouldn't this apply to the Garden as well?
3. Cheaper entry fee
4. Free entry, and more seats for those of us with medical conditions and disabilities, and for the general able bodied population too
5. Free entry
6. Lowering the cost of admission. This has stopped friends of mine from visiting on a few occasions
7. Payment per car, not per person
8. Free entry for people dining at restaurant
9. Advertised free days to country areas
10. Cheaper fees
11. We really appreciate the opportunity of access during the hours of daylight
12. Nothing really. Maybe opening later in Summer, say till 8pm on a Saturday or Sunday, even if only every now and then
13. Being able to go there for an early morning BBQ or maybe just an early morning drive to see the animals
14. Open later in the afternoon
15. Longer hours in Winter. Having to leave at 4.00 on a beautiful Saturday or Sunday afternoon a real bummer
16. As a ‘Friend’, being allowed to park inside during daylight hours rather than on the road outside prior to 10 am or after 4 pm in Winter
17. Longer opening hours eg. 8 am to 5 pm from May to September and 7 am to 7 pm October to April
18. Longer opening hours especially in Summer months
19. Longer opening hours in Winter – should be open to 5 pm – I could come after work, see sunset from the Garden etc
20. Suggest temporary signage to focus areas (eg this month’s focus area – Bottlebrush Garden) to encourage people to explore areas that they wouldn’t always go to eg. specific plants in areas that are in flower
21. OK but larger signs
22. Less road signage
23. More signage along Narellan Road would help visitors to locate where the Garden is
24. Better signage indication various area and times/distances for walks
25. A better map x 2
26. Better maps and signage
   - A consistent and stable road situation which will allow infrequent visitors to get to know the place and want to return. I am a frequent visitor, so I know of the changes but it can be disconcerting for infrequent visitors who’ve arranged a group to visit the Garden and find their directions were meaningless to others of the group who asked how to get there. Its especially important in recreational situations to keep frustration levels low
27. 2-way roads?
28. Front entrance, would allow me to walk to the gardens, rather than have to drive
29. Entrance from Narellan Road
30. Moving the entry to Narellan Road as noted in Site Master Plan – beautification of the Garden’s side of Mount Annan Drive
31. Very accessible as is. If there was an access via Menangle Park would be much closer for many people

---

Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Survey Analysis / Visitor Response

**Question #15**

What would improve access to the Garden for you?
The sharp right turn near the exit (40 m from the Entry Booth) seems a little clumsy in design

At entrance on Mount Annan Drive from footpath on other side of road from Garden – need a crossing to go across to Garden as it is unsafe

I find access to the correct road to follow at the entrance is confusing and the car park also. It would be good to have an entrance nearer Narellan Road, perhaps

I think present access is good but perhaps if the local bus service came along Mount Annan Drive, it may be better for some of the local people

Public transport link to, say, Campbelltown or Macarthur station

Public transport to the Garden

Explorer type buses running regularly between exhibits

Transport- golf buggy? I regularly bring my elderly parents and my husband who needs a stick to walk and find that here are numerous place that they can’t manage

Public transport access

More walking trails with possibly harder surfaces or raised platforms for better viewing of areas around the Garden

Reaching the carpark immediately on entry

Inclusion of more playgrounds around the gardens for children to use

Increase entry points for walkers

Lower the cost of Friends’ membership

More natural bushland area – improved condition of what is there

Less traffic on roads

More disabled parking on special occasions

Screening the tip and waste collection from view at entrance

Have not visited the Gardens since the road changes

I just need to find more time in my week to get there – you’re doing a great job!

Wouldn’t make a difference

Nothing x 5

OK as is

It’s OK for me

If I lived a bit closer

Easy to find, came from Sydney on tollway

Helicopter service from Wollongong!!

Nothing you can change, I live 1.5 hours away

No improvement needed at this stage

It’s easy!

It’s fine the way it is

For me nothing

I have no problems with access

I like the access road

Access OK

Access acceptable now

As I cycle, reducing the inclines would be good – ha ha ha

Staff Surveys

1. More paths
2. Traffic management on Narellan Rd, access from Narellan Rd
Electric cars
I feel it is sufficient
Public Transport to within close walking proximity
Public transport more available
Easier access by public transport
Freeway access, better public transport eg train, bus
Public transport
Bus at station and signage at Campbelltown station
Allow dogs on lead or off lead in a fenced off area
Bicycles for hire
Satisfactory
Parking not so good
More options to turn left off freeway if you miss Narellan Rd
Link to train station, bikes for hire
More colourful wildflower displays
More signs on approach
The exit is confusing and the corner too sharp
Rail link – combine with Thirlmere steam engine run
A boom gate
Narellan Rd entrance and free entry
Bus to door
Buses
Entrance off Narellan road
Don’t know as this is first visit
Parking closer to lakeside for families with children and picnic gear
Regional cycleway/footpath linking the garden to the Nepean River/Narellan/Camden
Increased/better signage, particularly along M5 and at Narellan Rd exit, which would show the actual distance to the Garden and provide good directions
If I lived closer to Annan. At present it is 1 ½ hour drive one way
Easier availability of public transport to Garden’s entrance
Free days, more facilities for other activities
A better public transport link or Gardens shuttle bus
Better public transport
Nothing for myself, but for others the entry fee should be altered, thus allowing more visitors to frequent our gem
Public transport more available
Question #16
Part One: How important do you believe Mount Annan Botanic Garden is to the local and regional community?

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### Question #16
#### Part Two: Why?

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### Question #16 / Part Two

- **Green Lungs of the region, 168, 14%**
- **Open recreation space, 181, 15%**
- **Cultural activities, 90, 8%**
- **Scientific hub, 125, 11%**
- **Natural areas, 170, 14%**
- **Fauna haven, 124, 10%**
- **Tourist gateway to the Macarthur, 79, 7%**
- **Australian plants showcase, 168, 14%**
- **Other, 9, 1%**

---

*Combined Surveys*
Question #16
Part Three: Other reasons Mount Annan is important in local and regional community?

1 Retain corridors and sanctuary for flora and fauna
2 Lovely restaurant
3 Unfortunately - not very important, perhaps because the focus of the majority of local residents and visitors is on money, greed in general and narrow minded selfishness rather than environment, peace and sharing ….in my opinion
4 The area needs something to take pride in. Mt Annan will be an icon for the future
5 Important as urban area grows around it
6 It's our show piece
7 Enhances bushland link of Macarthur region
8 Available for local area residents and families
9 Not enough cultural activities
10 Best cure for feeling low!
11 Restaurant and playground – we don't have much of this standard in the region
12 Fantastic preserved area, teaches respect for the environment
13 Educational environmental facility
14 All reasons – perhaps
15 Improve publicity/focus by having entrance off Narellan Road, improve view from freeway
16 Its value will be even greater as development proceeds apace

Staff Surveys

1 Education & awareness of nature
2 Last green oasis in 100 years in region
3 No idea as I don't live in the local community
4 Education of the public
5 Help people to grow their connection to Australian native plants and understand the importance of conservation
Question #17
Do you believe Mount Annan Botanic Garden should develop more partnerships e.g. with Local Government, RTA and Landcom so that the plantings and promotions outside the Garden can announce its presence?

Visitor Surveys

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Question #18
Part One: The Garden is a full partner in the developing Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living. Do you believe partnerships like this are important to the Garden’s future?

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Question #18
Part Two: Reasons to support partnerships?

1. To continue development and attract more people
2. Such partnerships also mean support for Mount Annan’s endeavours and greater exposure of its activities and mission to the public
3. The area is being swallowed by development – needs to be protected
4. Western Sydney needs indigenous plants to be planted and be sustainable
5. Knowledge
6. Don’t know. Will it take away the main focus from the gardens?
7. We need collaboration of experts from all different fields to develop a sustainable cultural repertoire
8. Applying your knowledge of the environment to a useful endeavour
9. To become an integral part of the local community. Encourages ownership of the Garden by the local community
10. Important to be involved; not sure how important to sustainability of botanic gardens
11. It creates awareness of the importance of our environment and how the Garden contributes to this
12. While I think things like this are great, I have to confess I don’t know much about the Centre.
13. If the Garden is not involved who else is going to undertake important ecological sustainability promotional work?
14. Because partnerships show that the Gardens are actively trying to broaden their role and the experiences available (many people do not know of the activities that go on behind the scenes). It becomes more than a passive recreation venue
15. I believe there should be more focus on sustainable living in our area which is becoming more densely populated
16. To promote environmental awareness to the community
17. Much of the Garden’s responsibilities are about maintaining the natural environment. If they can help encourage that outside of the Gardens that is important
18. Promotion and funding would be greater
19. We all need to be aware of and be careful of the use of our natural resources
20. I think the Gardens and the Centre work hand in hand, the partnership is important in promoting the objectives of both facilities. I would be more likely to visit the gardens as a result of the Centre being there.
21. To help it become more self sufficient
22. No, not necessarily. Why? Perhaps the Garden could be viewed more as a peaceful oasis and sanctuary
23. Yes, they have like goals for the future of our environment and have a natural link with each other
24. Raise community awareness regarding sustainability
25. Because it is raising awareness and is a place of education
26. Teaching our youth
27. I am not sure what this means to Campbelltown or to the Garden.
28. Bigger profile adds to awareness of the community
29. It is important we learn to live in a sustainable manner. It is important we have examples of how we can achieve this
30. Garden makes a contribution to the living standards and appeal of our area
31. To encourage community involvement
32. Help develop the big picture for the region
33. Relationship to sustainability is critical
34. Don’t know much about the Centre for Sustainable Living
They complement each other

Good PR for the Garden plus better integration with other planning for the area

If the community is involved, everyone can benefit

It will develop people's awareness to healthy ways of living

Co-operation is always good to achieve common goals

Otherwise developers would overrun such a large parcel of land

It will give the Gardens more opportunity to promote themselves to a wider audience

Who else available?

If we work together we can save endangered plants and animals x 2

Improved quality of life for region

Demonstrates relevance of Gardens to community

Good for promotion of native fauna

The involvement of all interested bodies can only be good

To help plant gardens which are more resilient to drought conditions

Viva permaculture and organic gardening forever!

Because it brings it to the attention of the public and promotes Australian plants

Everyone should work together for the common good

For educational purposes

Hands on gardening. To live a better and sustainable life through education etc

Need a link to transport people without cars

No, but I believe it is a very important function of gardens and fully support

The public have to 'see' that the Gardens are 'relevant' – then hopefully they will support the Gardens and the sustainable living concepts

While both have individual value this partnership has the potential to increase the garden’s educational/scientific base

It will help you to not be regarded as a museum

For more resources and input

Can assist in financial revenue

Because sustaining the garden’s flora is important to the area

Provides resources and contact point to enable these initiatives to happen

Need to keep and improve and extend natural landscape for many reasons

Keeps the community involved

Anything that extends information, education and awareness of the environment is a good thing

I haven't looked into the Centre for Sustainable Living – I will make sure I do soon

The more involvement and ownership by the community of organisations through partnerships will ensure the work undertaken by MABG continues its long term sustainable operation.

Particularly if somewhere in the future the term 'sustainable living' is explained

Absolutely – could we not create an environmental theme park like the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales, UK. The Centre for Sus. Living could be the first step.

It will become a hub (meeting place) for all plant lovers

Add interest, educational and informative ideally sited to encourage ‘flow-on’ visitation to Mount Annan Garden

A holistic approach to the environment

Both organisations have crucial functions. An ideal site for MCSL

Community involvement assures survival of the Garden

Because they provide additional resources. I would like to see the gardens utilise recycled water as a model to other communities and to better showcase rainforest plants
Education/conservation
No, I feel that the Garden should pursue scientific plant research firstly and anything else secondly
Just because it is!
Showcase environment potential
In terms of research scientific, I can see that such a partnership is in the Gardens interest
Gardens will be used more
Raises profile in community
I’m not sure
Not much to show for it yet – so it is hard to comment at this stage
Promotes both the Garden and related activities
Promotional work
It is about preserving the environment
No, not the most important partnership. Need lost of partnerships with lots of community groups
To keep the gardens developing and keeping up with current world thoughts. Any partnership or sponsors should be encouraged
Co-developers in these initiatives – integration and importance for publicity and scientific advances
In context
I think this is a very good partnership and it will be great to have ‘model’ gardens for new home owners. The two programs will go well together

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### Staff Survey

1. To further promote the Garden and help people to get a better understanding of horticulture in Australia
2. To create a better world for future generations
3. No Money at RBG
4. Important educational facilities should and can be promoted through as many avenues as possible
5. To maintain relationships
6. Probably
7. Relevance in the community
8. Broader range of activities, displays, expertise
9. Unfortunately necessary to secure funding etc
10. Sustainable living is becoming a more and more important issue
11. Promoting the Garden, educating the public about sustainability
12. Education on sustainability and local plant usage
13. Should be seen to be green
14. Local support
15. Mt Annan could help showcase sustainable living with examples for visitors to follow
16. Maintain a public profile in areas of relevance to broad community c.f. more specialist roles
17. To make it more relevant to society and help improve and highlight sustainability in the community
18. Gardens / living landscape needs to be sustainable and community based
19. Shared interest increase visitation and education
20. Link between community and the Garden
21. Ensure future funding and relevance
22. Community involvement > complimentary
23. To better serve the local area
Community involvement, education re sustainability

Garden’s outreach

To highlight the importance of conservation and low impact habitation of this earth by man

They will attract more members of the public to the Garden

To maximise opportunities for the Garden to increase its regional profile

The Garden has its own charter and role and it is funded by the state government, so such partnerships only play a secondary role

I am unaware of the full details of this partnership so I am inclined not to comment. Should be partnering with care of choice of company RTA perhaps is not a compatible match

Complementary activities and philosophy extend the reach into the public’s understanding of sustainable practices and hopefully contribute to improving behaviour in relation to the environment

Alliances get government and community support

Because as people learn more they can hopefully learn to appreciate more what we are about

It involves the garden with the local community in an active rather than passive way

Broader appeal

The Garden has a better chance of surviving if it is attached to other educational facilities (or facilities that deal with issues that are the current trend)

Essential to long term relevance

Yes if they can complement each other without competing with each other

Cross promotion assists both groups and will complement each other’s operational and presentation features
Question #19

Part One: Entry fees to the Garden assist with its running costs. Are you happy to continue paying fees which contribute to the Garden’s facilities?

### Visitor Survey

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### Staff Survey

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### Combined Survey

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**Combined Survey**

- Yes, 171, 70%
- No, 21, 9%
- No opinion, 13, 5%
- Unanswered, 38, 16%
Helps with protection as all visitors want to be there for the right reasons/prepared to pay
Few people value what they don’t pay for!
Yes, if fees are abolished it will become a local speed track and the park will degenerate
If there is a small fee then I think people respect the area more and will be less likely to damage it
Reduces vandalism to some extent
Paying entry avoids abuse of area, it attracts only responsible visitors
It's a delight, well worth every cent!
The main reason I support the entry fee is that it means that only people who want to visit, access the gardens (not people likely to cause nuisance/litter etc.)
The small entry fee is only a token to run a place such as the Botanic Garden
Yes, a great day, even the movies cost money for a few hours entertainment
It was very reasonable for a family outing
Reasonable at present
Yes, if used for this purpose
Yes, definitely
Always a bone of contention (very reasonable though). Nice if we could be ‘self-sustaining’ in the future
Yes, current fees are very good value, however, I would hesitate to suggest they be raised and it might lower utilisation
Yes, if the fees were to remain reasonable
The Garden doesn't receive enough finance from other sources, and needs a little donation from users
Friends member so don't pay
Membership is a great way to offset costs and keep me connected with the Garden. I feel a sense of “ownership” now
Being a member of the Friends is very worthwhile
RBG Member but yes
I think offering Friends’ membership as an alternative to just collecting entry fees would encourage more families to join. Many may consider annual membership when compared to cost of single entry. The benefits of becoming a ‘Friend’ seem to be poorly advertised, if at all, and your front gate may be the best place to do this.
Membership could be a little cheaper for local residents eg. Mount Annan residents
Why don't you have 5 year memberships, or 10 years? I'd like to pay like that
Membership is expensive
My family is a member of the Friends of the Gardens
Entry is covered by membership, which is great
Friends of Gardens members x 2
I became a Friend of the Garden to avoid the entry fee and feel sometimes it is a bit expensive. But I suppose the cost is justified when you see what you get
Annual membership great value for repeated visits
Why is an entry fee payable at Mount Annan but not at the harbourside Gardens?
Why is the Garden in town free. It must have running costs too?
Should be publicly accessible as is the Royal Botanic Gardens or reduced nominal fee – this could well enhance attendance and improve contribution overall.
Unfair that Royal Bot Gardens are free to public
I understand why fees are charged but feel there is an injustice that there is no fee payable to access facilities of Royal Botanic Garden in Sydney
Entry to Royal Botanic Gardens is free. More people would use the garden if entry was free. It was better when you paid per car rather than per person
Disincentive to go there I think it is better to have free entry (cf. Sydney RBG) and donation boxes placed strategically. Fee is high for Seniors
Must be cheap
Obviously I would prefer not to pay fees, but knowing these contribute to the running costs, and providing the fee remains reasonable, this is OK
As long as they are made affordable for low income earners or charged on a sliding scale
Fee should not punish families but encourage them! Reduce the fee significantly for families. Macarthur is no longer a dormitory area, and tourism from family and friends is increasing. Need to capture this market, not push it to go shopping!
Although I do think there should be reduced rates for coach tours (less than the reduced rate already provided). The entry fee does make it expensive if you are just going to the restaurant for a quick lunch - I think it acts as a deterrent for business lunches
I work so can afford fees, but some of my friends/neighbours won’t come because of the fees
But I do feel that a per person fee is excessive. The per vehicle fee that you had previously was much better. The gardens are in a lower socio economic area, people cannot afford the higher fees. I used to be a regular at the Garden until the fees were increased. The whole community has a right to enjoy the Garden, the per person fees make it very difficult for families to make use of its facilities
Because of the fee I will go to a local public park more regularly as opposed to the Garden. Also I can take my dog to a local park. However, I don’t begrudge paying a fee as the money goes to a good cause
Yes, but it is expensive for families to visit
No, fees strongly limit mine and others’ access to the garden. I believe that the government should accept more responsibility for running costs
Yes, I am happy to pay but the fee discourages some & they miss out on the experience
No charge open days might help boost numbers
Yes, we are members, so you don’t really feel like you are paying other than once a year when you pay your fee. Maybe you could have free days or cheap days or family days so that more people will come and see the place and realise how great it is (although that means it will be less peaceful for us, but that’s life).
Suggest one or two ‘free days’ to encourage new visitors
Whilst I am happy to pay a fee, a smaller fee would get families there more often
Payment per car, not per person
But it would be good if the charge was lower for us – we are self-funded retirees and have limited means
Must be affordable
Yes, unless they are too high – that would stop people visiting
Yes, but if fees become too high it would be a deterrent to visitors coming often
I am happy to pay but for many people this would be a deterrent
I stopped visiting when fees were introduced. We are low income working family – this penalises the poor who probably could most benefit!
I think entry should be free. The educational value is immense, government should pay
As long as the fees are kept within the limits that people can afford on a regular basis – I wouldn’t like to see the Garden priced so that families and the elderly can only afford to go occasionally
There is a need to get more people ‘through the gate’ and while recognising the need to finance the Garden's facilities maybe promotions such as first weekends of the month free – voucher given to rate payers/ new home buyers etc could encourage return visits – domino effect
I thinks fees should be kept to a minimum to encourage a broad a cross section of people access to the gardens
Do buses run past the gate for people without cars?
I think it can be relaxed for locals taking children for a walk or to play – or walking groups to promote good health without having to pay. For groups using the facility for picnics and get-togethers a blanket fee could be used
Should have one free pass per ratepayer per year to encourage first time users to utilise the facilities
No, because most of the dollars find their way into town
Yes, but it could be cheaper to locals
Maybe a lower rate for pensioners and families – to encourage more visits and avoid denial of access due to affordability issues
Yes, but too high compared to other National Park fees
Yes, the entry fee is minimal compared to National Parks

No, if you are walking in alone it should be free to rate payers

Yes, lower fees preferable (discounts?)

Yes, it should be cheaper for the yearly pass, then you will encourage more families to join.

Yes, provided there is a discount for Friends of the Gardens. I would like to see a special rate of entry for residents of the Camden and Campbelltown LGAs.

The current entry charges discourage families and groups of local residents from using the gardens, if they do not have ‘Friends’ membership

Obviously would prefer not to. Perhaps charge per vehicle, not per person. Would probably use more if no fee, and bring other people

Yes, payment should be per vehicle

Local ie Macarthur postcodes should get a discount

No, original charges (by car) were reasonable. Increase during Howarth directorship was excessive and affected attendance

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Staff Surveys

1. I don’t have to pay, I work here
2. All Gardens should charge a fee, especially Sydney
3. Only if there is an entry fee at all 3 sites, does it really assist with running cost or just cover wages
4. I think if it was free to get in we would attract more people through the gate. They become a captive audience and we could charge them for parking, tours, BBQ’s and other commercial activities
5. I do however personally think that they should be supported by everyone ie Gov.
6. As long as it is a manageable price
7. I would prefer that adequate government funding paid for all the Gardens
8. Sydney should charge too
9. $2 is a more reasonable price for adults
10. As long as the fees are kept low
11. If free more people will come in and then hit them with fees for tours etc – but get them inside first
12. I’m staff so I don’t pay
13. Have to pay the workers
14. Should be a flat car rate of $5 - $10, currently too expensive
15. Staff so don’t pay fees
16. Should be per car
17. Cheap at half the price
18. Staff don’t pay
19. Need to trial a set period of no entry fee
20. Entry fees ensure that only those people who are genuinely interested in visiting the Garden are allowed inside and any undesirables are kept outside, although the fee structure could be simplified (eg per car and round – figure fee)
21. I think charging to visit via the booth a negative. Would rather see revenue collected via parking meters, shop/visitor centre sales, restaurant, café and a request for donations in prominent places – also coin operated BBQs
22. Not relevant personally, but believe the moderate entry fee is reasonable
23. It’s a cheaper family outing than going to the movies
24. Entry fees should be scrapped. They discourage the local market from visiting on a regular basis. And, the money the fees make would barely cover the attendants’ pays. A cheap pay per parking system may be a viable alternative. Or make the charge a flat rate per car
25. Fee free Saturdays (or Gold coin donation) and go back to $5 per car, regardless if people all cram into the one vehicle. At least they are through the gate and more likely to spend money at restaurant and or Visitors Centre and more likely to return
26. A minimal fee per car will help keep the trouble makers out. A face at the entry booth promotes our presentation and provides vital information to visitors
Question #20
Part One: Are you a member of the Friends of the Gardens?

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Question #20
Part Two: If not, are you aware that for an annual fee of $64, a family of 1 or 2 adults and children under 18 living in the same household can come to the Garden for "free" as often as they please?

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**Question #20 / Part Two**

- Yes, 75, 31%
- No, 53, 22%
- Unanswered, 115, 47%
Question #20
Part Three: Friends of the Garden – value for money?

I think subsequent family subscription renewals could be lowered for families who want to be ongoing members (eg. $50 for each subsequent subscription after the initial $64, as you may retain family memberships which may otherwise be allowed to lapse because of the new renewal system)

Already a member

To much $$

I cannot afford this membership fee

Member of APS

Our pension doesn’t allow that expense

Very expensive for elderly people like us

Yes, but the annual fee is expensive. And maybe prohibitively so for many

My family could not afford $64

Not everyone has $64 spare to spend but would like to go to the Garden once or twice a year

What about bigger families?

Was not aware, and don’t have children

But why can’t I bring in friends instead of children?

Having joined the friends we can visit more often, however it is too expensive for visiting relatives

The fee is good value and I wish to support all the Gardens anyway

This will save me paying entries all the time

I am not a member but the idea of a family pass is excellent

I’m not a member, but this sounds like a good deal for locals

Just looked at your website and it seems to indicate no limit on children under 18, and members benefits page does not indicate any limit. Perhaps should be per car?

Not interested – too far from home for frequent visits

Joined for a few years but too far away to go regularly. Maybe when I return

My family was not aware of this x 2

Don’t have opportunity to visit often due to distance

I’d like to join

I’m not a member but should be

TAFE pays my fee, I’ll join when I retire next year

Great idea. Are seniors catered for in some way?

How about 1 adult + 2 pensioners getting in as a ‘family’ – it’s my family!

Sometimes a family consists of more than 2 adults and 2 children

Make the fee less and limit the number of visits

Not now

Used to be a ‘Friend’ – missed renewing!! (oversight)

Now aware
34  It should be free to local rate payers. I do not have children
35  May be cost effective for locals but otherwise not attractive unless membership offers more
36  Am a member now (after reading questionnaire)
37  No comment – we pay enough fees!!
38  Excellent idea for the families who visit on regular basis
39  Don’t manage to visit as often due to distance/time
40  This is excellent and should be kept this way
41  Terrific value for repeated visits

**Staff Surveys**

1  I have ceased membership as value has depleted from being a member
2  Very good value for money, considering the value of the daily per person fee
3  I am staff and have free access to the magazine
4  Current employee
### Question #21
Are you from.....?

#### Visitor Surveys

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#### Staff Surveys

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#### Combined Surveys

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Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Survey Analysis / Combined Visitor & Staff Responses

Question #22
Part One: What is your age group?

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**Combined Surveys**

![Pie chart showing age group distribution](image)
**Mount Annan Botanic Garden**

**Survey Analysis / Combined Visitor & Staff Responses**

**Question #22**

Part Two: When you visit the Garden, do you usually come....?

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**Question #22 / Part Two**

- **As a large group of family and/or friends**, 47, 17%
- **With one or more adults**, 118, 42%
- **As a small family (two adults, two children)**, 46, 17%
- **Other**, 13, 5%
- **Alone**, 53, 19%

**Combined Surveys**
Question #22
Part Three: Visited the Garden with ….

1. With school excursions x 2
2. Educational purposes
3. With APS or TAFE group
4. As a TAFE class
5. Students from Yallah TAFE college
6. As part of Grevillea Study Group fraternity
7. As a teacher, I bring my class with special needs to the Garden for picnics.
8. Meetings and lunches
9. We regularly have BBQs with the same group of about 12 friends
10. Occasionally as a large family group
11. As a small family (two adults, two children)……but we have four children
12. As a small family (two adults and up to 5 children)
13. Tourist bus
14. I occasionally go alone but not often
15. With grandchildren (two)
16. With grandchildren (different) for playground and bush experience
17. Sometimes with play group
18. Mount Annan suits each of the family/social visits/functions
19. Meet friends there
20. Meeting with friends and young children
21. We use the Garden for a variety of reasons with varying numbers of people

Staff Surveys

1. Place of employment
2. With work
3. For work only to date
4. With work, this is the first time here
5. Work
6. With RBG staff
7. Work outing
8. Haven’t been before
9. For recreational visits – small, but extended family group
10. Working or with family
### Question #23
Are you aware that the Garden has researched and developed plants which are commercially available?

#### Visitor Surveys

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#### Staff Surveys

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</table>
**Question #24**

Do you know that the Garden can be hired for a range of functions including weddings, conferences, seminars, photography?

**Visitor Surveys**

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Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Survey Analysis / Combined Visitor & Staff Responses

Question #25

Part One: Did you know that Mount Annan Botanic Garden encourages individual sponsorship - such as for trees and bench seats in the Garden?

Visitor Surveys

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Combined Surveys

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<tr>
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<td>61%</td>
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Question #25
Part Two: Comment about sponsorship response?

1. A good idea x 2
2. Think that tree sponsorship is great, but I think that bench sponsorship is corny
3. It is a good idea x 2
4. Don’t know how to apply
5. OK
6. A good source of income for improvements
7. On a few occasions I have tried to arrange an individual sponsorship of a tree in memory of my late father and have been advised that I would have to wait until ‘some time in the future’. I’m still interested.
8. Just found out.
9. There is a need for more publicity in this area eg. Bench seats appear/seem to be high in price
10. I want a seat, but they are expensive
11. More info please!!
12. Now aware. Great idea
13. Yes – prices recommended would help those considering sponsorship as well as more publicity
14. Not broadcast enough

Staff Surveys

1. Great for promoting ownership of our land
2. A great opportunity
3. Should be more
4. Very good idea and there should be more of it, given how low the current level of state government funding is
5. Streamline the donation process
Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Survey Analysis / Combined Visitor & Staff Responses

Question #26
Part One: Have you found staff in the Garden to be....?

**Visitor Surveys**

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**Staff Surveys**

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**Combined Surveys**

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**Question #26 / Part One**

- **Helpful, 175, 31%**
- **Informative, 148, 26%**
- **Friendly, 172, 30%**
- **Visible, 69, 12%**
- **Other, 6, 1%**
Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Survey Analysis / Visitor Response

Question #26
Part Two: Comments about staff in the Garden.

1. Not visible
2. Haven’t seen
3. Staff are good
4. Haven’t had the opportunity to deal with any staff
5. The staff you do see are helpful, but there does not seem to be a large number of staff present at the Garden
6. Don’t recall, only really spoke to the booth attendant
7. No comments as I have not spoken to any except the entrance gate person
8. Not visible - can be seen as good or bad
9. We believe our family game of cricket with adults and young children using a tennis ball was really not going to damage the lawn near our BBQ. The Ranger thought otherwise and stopped the game
10. I only deal with people in restaurant, shop, gate
11. Invisible, except in shops
12. Supportive
13. Friendly at entrance gate, haven’t seen others except restaurant staff and tour person
14. Very informative at entrance, friendly at café and entrance
15. More staff needed?
16. Person on entry gate is helpful – others not really visible
17. Didn’t really notice them
18. Volunteers – great
19. Allen Powell particularly helpful and informative
20. On the whole fabulous, but on one occasion a male staff member was extremely rude
21. Shop/info staff very good
22. Staff in the shop are always extraordinarily helpful
23. Only person here was cashier
24. Another loaded question

Staff Surveys

1. It’s all good
2. Very good looking especially the Illustrators
3. Varies with individuals
Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Survey Analysis / Combined Visitor & Staff Responses

Question #27
Part One: What could the Garden improve?

### Visitor Surveys

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<th>Walking tracks</th>
<th>Garden presentation</th>
<th>BBQ and outdoor settings</th>
<th>Education / conference facilities</th>
<th>Food outlet</th>
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<th>Parking</th>
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### Staff Surveys

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### Combined Surveys

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<th>Garden presentation</th>
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**Question #27 / Part One**

- **Customer focus, 19%, 6%**
- **Parking, 28%, 8%**
- **Children's attractions, 36%, 11%**
- **Walking tracks, 42%, 12%**
- **Garden presentation, 33%, 10%**
- **Food outlet, 51%, 15%**
- **Education / conference facilities, 40%, 12%**
- **BBQ and outdoor settings, 30%, 9%**

**Combined Surveys**
Question #27
Part Two: Suggestions for Garden Improvements?

1. Sometimes a simple café/kiosk meal is all you want, not the cost associated with a sit down lunch. Having said this, the restaurant is delightful.
2. Restaurant is not open Saturday nights which is inconvenient
3. A better range of plants for sale and more importantly a food outlet that is not so upmarket as the restaurant – like $13 for a plate of soup – hello. Why not a few sandwiches/pies take away coffee etc – anything but full table service and an expensive wine list. Anyway for those prices the restaurant needs to be better located at least a bit off a view thrown in.
4. Food outlet (the little take-away shop could do with more variety and some more interesting stuff, healthy alternatives etc)
5. Walking into posh restaurant to buy kids an ice block
6. My only disappointment is the coffee. I avoid going there for morning and afternoon tea because it’s so badly made
7. Is it possible to have coffee/drinks vans further out during busy times?
8. Restaurant is far too expensive for simple family snacks
9. Only appeared to be one restaurant – closed
10. To buy coffee we had to enter the restaurant. It was not clear
11. Whilst we have enjoyed the food outlet and found the staff very friendly, it has become too expensive for families with children and pensioners. There should be light snacks available
12. Cheaper food outlet for visitors – a gourmet restaurant is too much for local and regular visitors
13. There could be more affordable food
14. Restaurant is great but a little expensive. Garden to open longer hours.
15. The restaurant building is very unattractive – dark and ‘closed in’. Need to take advantage of garden views and offer light meals. The bar along wall seems inappropriate for such a place
16. Food outlet with shaded outdoor terrace; interactive water garden for children
17. Garden presentation
18. The garden will improve with time as plants mature and plantings are extended
19. Specifically, just continue to develop as you are. Maybe a total perimeter walk eg: very top of range and right down the bottom near freeway. Also please get rid of African Olive shrubs which are very invasive
20. More floral displays!
21. More plantings
22. I think the Garden is beautiful and have seen it dramatically improve over the last couple of years. It looks wonderful. I haven't had a chance yet to fully explore but I know that the potential of the Garden is very high. I would like to see it continue its development.
23. I love visiting the Garden. There is always something new to see, but attractions and facilities need to be spread out throughout the Garden and not just all at the playground / Information Centre area
24. There is a natural lake on Narellan Road. Perhaps that area could be made more enticing in the fullness of time to attract more visitors to the gardens
25. Naturalistic settings rather than cladistic ordering. Nice Australian setting, bush scenes etc
26. More plantings and research into reliable and desirable species
27. Concentrate/encourage local councils, green corridors conservation/planting, and preserve Cumberland Plain Woodland areas
28. There’s quite a bit that has been under repair and renovation for a while as work was concentrated on the Terrace, Room with a View etc. Will it get done soon? More shade on walking tracks and BBQ and outdoor settings. Current developments good start on garden presentation. Very limited parking in main parking area. The map handed out to visitors is poor – the Sydney street directory is better. Suggest National Gardens as good example. Very small area for plant sales – range poor. Why not contract commercial nursery to provide this service?
30 Continue the asset management; ongoing maintenance will be beneficial
31 More outdoor settings
32 More disabled parking near facilities
33 Toilet facilities could sometimes be cleaner
34 Wheelchair access could be better
35 Parking is a problem when the Garden is busy
36 Kids play area near BBQ areas; a sign at the blue tree
37 Demountables appear in poor conditions and look like demountables
38 A program of fresh presentations and upgrades plus more weed control programs
39 More tours on weekends for working people. Loved watching the birds being tagged. Would have liked to know more about the small bird that nested on the ground near the duck pond. That should have been an important event
40 Promote woodland plants for local gardens
41 Perhaps special presentations that the Botanic Gardens in Sydney has.
42 Weed identification display (lantana, olive, celtis, madiera vine). Whilst a native garden – maybe a bit of Tasmanian Bot Garden inclusions (Vegies, espaliered fruit) and various European style cottage gardens. Sections devoted to a) natives as hedges, b) natives as climbers etc. Too far for me to travel but lectures on plant identification and if you do (professional) plant identification, please publicise the fact especially weed identification (WIN 4 might do some free co-operation on this matter, too late now for weed busters week – next year!
43 My husband and I once came an hour before the Garden was due to open so as to be the first ones in to book a table area for a family get together. We had come the week before to choose the area we felt would cater for our needs. After being the first ones through, we discovered people already in the area had taken all the tables. The man there said he had arranged it with someone on staff prior to the day. We found this very disheartening and have never gone back again for family functions.
44 I realise there must be rules in the park to keep it nice for everyone, but we thought the Ranger should perhaps look at each activity individually, rather than just a ‘no cricket’ policy
45 Not sure if walking tracks are good or not - I've only driven around the park
46 Possibly link the longer walks or make some short ones
47 Safe walking tracks for people, not just on edge of roads
48 Walking tracks sometimes need mowing
49 Everything is excellent as long as the grassy tracks are kept mown (snakes, you know!)
50 Affordable entry. I only go on the free events as my family can't afford entry
51 Native animals that children can be in a natural environment
52 Less ‘man-made’ items of ‘interest’ I didn't like or agree with removal of garden/plants for the change in road access to the Education Centre
53 More things to do for families, more play areas
54 More areas where ball games, group games can be played – the Gardens are very restrictive on activities for older children, other than walking tracks
55 Not sure – a few years since I've visited
56 Everything is very nice
57 Turf near opposite gift shop
58 Public transport?
59 I like the gardens the way they are
60 Impressed as it is
61 Most facilities well located and adequately resourced!
62 It's lovely!
63 Hard to answer – can always improve
64 I think these are all fine
65 Carry on with your good work
66 Doing all very well!
67 Most of the above if money was available
68  Presentation and facilities are good  
69  Great the way it is  
70  Free entry  
71  I would like to be able to take my dog. But I know that does not go hand in hand with environmental protection

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<th>Staff Surveys</th>
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<td>VC foodstuffs are so expensive; weeds</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Need more government funding</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Like more sculpture, but no more blue trees please</td>
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<td>Bikes please</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Big shade trees, more plantings, more plants</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Toilet signage could improve, the block behind the shop</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>More densely planted gardens ie more trees</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>A garden for the disabled and elderly; a garden specifically designed for children</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Creation of more theme gardens. All current facilities are reasonably well maintained, but many more such things should be created for public use</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>More attractions for kids would obviously boost visitation through their parents and or extended family</td>
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Question #28
What do you want Mount Annan Botanic Garden to be like in 10 years time? eg. developments, facilities, attractions, events etc?

Expectations for the Garden’s future?

Comments:

1. Want it to maintain its present ambience - wish to see it grow and adapt to the needs of the community and scientific research but would not like to see the garden modified to such an extent that it loses its appeal within a maze of commercial products.

2. A place that is a haven in the city, protected and secure from the ugly side of city living (eg. graffiti, rubbish). At the moment it is a place you can go to escape the hectic noisy world – it is quiet and peaceful. I’d like to see that continue and “green up” a little more. I wouldn’t like to see it overdeveloped since the focus should always be the plants and nature. If this remains the focus, kids can be taken into a world which for once doesn’t have to be “lights, bells and whistles” distracting them from what is real. Using their imagination and learning should be the focus.

3. I think the Gardens do a great job of showcasing Australian native plants, and I’d be delighted to simply see you do more of the same in the same fashion. As the population of this area continues to increase, the demands on the Gardens will grow, so infrastructure such as parking, toilets, food outlets, etc will have to continue to expand. I hope a way can be found to keep as much open space as possible while still encouraging people to come, as open space is one of the qualities of the Garden I most appreciate. I’m torn between wanting to keep the Garden a secret and telling all of the Sydney area to come enjoy this wonderful place!

4. In 10 years there will so much thoughtless development in the Macarthur region that areas like Mt Annan will become a critical refuge for animals and plants in the region. The garden needs to maintain a focus on the core goals of promotion and preservation of Australian native plants. In ten years I would still like it to be pretty much like it is now, by that I mean not over developed but as a peaceful oasis in the urban sprawl. The Garden to be a real visual experience, with the return of native wildlife and well established gardens. Busloads of people visiting the venue daily. Tours guided by professional guides, not horticulturalists who would rather be out in the garden. A variety of different events held each month - cinema under the stars, Shakespeare in the Park, concerts - an entertainment hub for the region. An Indigenous experience as well, especially for group tours and international tours - bush food tours and cooking, didgeridoo and boomerang making and playing/throwing, dreaming stories. Large conference facility for the business tourism market.

5. More trees and plantings, more like a forest

6. As a local I would not like to see it commercialised but to retain its beauty and natural wonder.

7. A natural environment, larger function centre, I would like to see access for local residents to be free or cheaper than Friends’ rate, as there is not enough parkland in the area; fun walk to continue, open air cinema; the Garden has come a long way but still needs to have more garden attractions for visitors and to be a prettier place to visit as other botanical gardens are.

8. To still be a place to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends and to see the fauna and flora that is in abundance at the moment.

9. An oasis for families to enjoy; a research centre of excellence.

10. Not too much overdevelopment for me. One of the major attractions is the natural state of large areas.

11. A haven that represents the variety and diversity of the Australian bush that has not sold out to commercialism and cheap, cruddy entertainment and food outlets etc. A place that is classy and well respected. A centre of education that also brings to life and educates people about our diverse cultural heritage including our indigenous culture.

12. Wild animals to roam about. Love to go koala spotting. I’d like to see a native orchid area. I’d also like to be able to go into a heavily wooded area and stroll along some paths.

13. I like it the way it is, natural.

14. Keep it as natural as possible; encourage more plants to grow.

15. A haven for Western Sydney that sets an example of how native plants can help maintain biodiversity in Western Sydney.

A world renowned centre for Australian native plants and a local ‘green lungs’ asset for the community of Macarthur, southwest Sydney region and the greater Sydney region

Preserved woodlands, open quiet spaces, fauna and native plant displays

Natural. A research leader. Socially responsible

I’d like to see it retain its natural appearance

It should not be overdeveloped as far as facilities go - need for peace and quiet while enjoying natural surrounds. Some attractions throughout year – cinema, drama, music

Calm, green, no blackberry, no African olive, big trees, lots of shade

To stay as natural as possible

Natural bushland areas expanded and enhanced by regeneration (ie. Limit mowing and weed invasion. Shop continues to stock attractive items. The Garden has become an escape for people being crowded by rapid development

A green space with plenty of activities for family and education

Keep it green please?! Open areas, walks, native plantings are the greatest assets

Flora and fauna nature reserve

A welcoming green oasis where families, friends and tourists come to enjoy the Australian bush/flora/fauna experience – children/locals learning in a facility purpose built

Bigger and better let the trees grow

Facilities are good. It will be good to see the plantings evolve over time

The garden will improve with time as plants mature and plantings are extended

Somewhere that Sydney-siders may talk about to their friends and encourage them to visit our area

Modern facilities always look nice and make the place seem well-cared for, but providing the critical functions are maintained. Research, preservation, commercialisation of plants. The Garden displays are wellkept and an interesting diversity of plants and habitats is maintained. I think this is a worthy vision

Mixture of recreational space (visit gardens, BBQs etc) and research to support botanical/fauna of region

As inviting as the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens - advanced trees, safe relaxing and educational atmosphere. Showcasing the latest in innovation

As is but better maintained display gardens – yes that takes money but I assume that your CORE business is to showcase Australian plants in a natural presentation

10 years: Trees have grown. More plantings and gardens. Maybe more picnic “nooks”; maybe more walking and riding trails. Essentially more of the same

More native flower exhibits

Continued plantings, you’re doing a wonderful job

To have a long bike track through the trees and gardens and to see lots more beautiful flower beds

To have a bike trail through nice gardens and lakes

Extended garden areas, especially the long promised Grevillea Garden; continued and extended research facilities; possibly extended for commercial use eg weddings and conferences to help fund the other activities

More plantings and more species of Australian plants grown

The same with higher vegetation/trees to block out the houses over the back

More advanced with respect to plant material, better funded – I could write to an MP about this

The internal area of the gardens has developed well. Plantings along Narellan Road and Mount Annan Drive to form an avenue driveway to the Garden’s entrance would be spectacular; similar to the streets of Adelaide

More plantings of Grevilleas etc and removal of weeds

As it is, but obviously established planting will be more developed, and the new plantings will make an impact

Continued growth of Australian native plants and events to highlight these

Continue to develop Terrace Garden

I would like to see continuing integration of the Theme gardens and natural woodland leaving some wild areas for those who wish to get away from the crowds. An effort to screen the boundaries from encroaching housing development and make it secure against dogs. A regular annual concert, Shakespeare in the Garden etc

More plantings eg more theme gardens; more information and signage on Australian native plants

Less scrub, with more gardens featuring natives as the predominant planting and also natives that flower at different times of the year
Botanical displays that are located centrally and more easily accessible

More development as a 'botanical garden'

Many more beautiful flowering garden display beds, seats and free entry

A completely child friendly environment with continued development and research into endangered and rare species of fauna and flora. I would love to see sculptures and other artworks scattered randomly around the Garden as this provides curiosity and surprise for visitors eg. along walking trails, around bends in paths etc.

Demonstrate some sustainable living principles, with built infrastructure etc

Like Centennial Park, but with more public art space! A maze that you could actually be lost in would be a real attraction!

Still as big as it is for even larger. Green and beautiful

A showcase for the management of remnant Cumberland Plain flora and fauna + as a context for other Australian plants

To remain a space for people to enjoy and learn more about our Australian plants and fauna

I will continue to enjoy watching the Gardens mature. I would like to see the restaurant become a little more sophisticated

All I really want is for the restaurant to not burn the milk in my coffee and for the Garden to be a hub for education and conservation in Macarthur

Attract more people, more advertising as people in the area are unaware of what the Gardens have to offer

Needs outdoor lighting in the car park and between car park and restaurant given the restaurant is open at night

More events would be good including regular events such as a weekend walking club and education on native gardening

Not that you want to make it too commercial or detract from the natural beauty that is present but other facilities such as a more adequate eating facility or small water features for children to play in would be great, so that even on the really hot days visitor numbers will still be high. More evening events such as jazz nights, rock and roll nights, kids shows like “The Wiggles”. A larger multipurpose function centre that could cater for large weddings and conferences.

Bike hire, equipment hire. Mobile confectionary van that drives through the park selling ice creams, coffees and drinks to the themed gardens that are further away from the visitor’s centre

I would like to see it teeming with people, especially those between 20 and 40 years that seem to be underrepresented in the visitors

Have RAVE parties once a year in open space

A family friendly place where parents and children can enjoy picnics and discover the environment together. More opportunity for outdoor performances and shows

More events attracting the community similar to movies under the stars or of that nature. Possibly have Christmas/Boxing Day picnics and events for those people who either don’t have big family gatherings or can’t afford to go out for Christmas. I think a picnic in the Garden would be a lovely way to spend Christmas

Have regular events - Outdoor movies, plays, concerts

Family activities – more film, drama, music in the Garden

More family events. I’m not sure what activities would interest teenage children – that would be something worth considering

I would like Mount Annan to be the community hub of the area. More annual events for all members of the community

Very happy as it is. Strengthen community activities – this isn’t like the city where lots of attractive facilities are available in a family friendly way. I think 10 years is too far down the track. I would like to see more events both day and night. More sculptures and artistic displays. Toilets off carpark should be larger and updated and the shop is way too small. Pottery and paintings and works of art including silver and gold flora and fauna should be on offer similar to Mt Tomah. What is meant by developments?

More family things, which is very important

More outdoor community events, incorporating access to Garden, art in the Garden (sculpture displays etc), beautiful native gardens for Sydney siders to enjoy

I think usage of the garden by various groups eg. cycling groups, especially on summer evenings for a small fee would be great. PS perhaps this already happens - if so, great!

All features are currently outstanding. Perhaps a venue for outdoor children’s concerts and regular craft activities involving nature

A major tourist and visitor centre. Have more planned picnic areas

Perhaps more shelters in picnic areas and more outside theatre events

I am happy with its current progress; just would like to see it more affordable for families

More on site educational activities at each theme garden along with better signage on species; maybe concentrate on more man made water features (such as running water) similar to that of Garden Magic at Narellan.

Facilities to be kept up-to-date and to cater for expanding population
More community facilities and the inclusion of more protected / endangered species in the gardens

Just make sure the amount of facilities keep up with the number of visitors eg. add playgrounds if the playgrounds are always full

A financially self-sustaining enterprise by hiring out of areas

I think it would be great if there were more plants for sale that you see around the Garden (maybe even if they are only as seeds to purchase). People to talk to about growing different plants seen in the garden, gardening advice. More signs explaining the types of plants and their habitats and where they are from. Some walking or running clubs set-up, and some type of club for teenagers to get involved

Improved walking tracks. Much larger garden with some native wildlife? The lakes full of water. More BBQs

To slowly continue to develop so that every time you visit there is something new to see

A great place to go and enjoy a day out

More facilities etc (toilets, shade)

More displays of Australian fauna with explanation notes/signs

Keep doing what you are doing at present

I believe the Garden to be excellent at present and further improvements (signage, walking tracks, garden presentation) would make it even better

More maturity will hopefully bring more fauna. Improvement of natural spots eg. removal of weeds etc.

Free of African Olive and other weeds. Employ more staff to work with volunteers

Weed free!

1. Mount Annan summit replanted with natives after removal of African olives. 2. Hopefully by then, koalas will have reached the Garden, encouraged by appropriate plantings

The wild olives replaced by natives (I know that’s difficult). Keep it a wonderful place to visit

I’d like to see the African Olives disappear. What a blot on the landscape!

Keeping its bush areas and reducing the weeds which infest them, and maintaining the garden areas in current good state

I think you do very well but the development of the research and educational element make the Garden unique. I would like to see this aspect developed

More of the same, so that the next generation will learn to appreciate and love their unique Australian bushland

There should still be peaceful places, educational areas, ‘natural’ places. Show cases for Australian plant genera and families and education on speciation, natural selection and long-term evolution. Focus on Cumberland Plain species

To be maintained, kept to same size or larger, and presented as is today

Shady, bigger restaurant veranda, interactive centre for children

More science, more Aboriginal culture/heritage features, especially plant uses; seasonal plant display occasions. We would like to congratulate Mount Annan Botanic Garden staff. We have spent many happy days there since the Garden was started. Thank you

More plants, more plant sales with person to advise, more art and cultural activities, development of the sustainable living centre, free entry

More shady trees, more sculptures

I’d love to see more fauna – if some koalas found their way in it would be great. You should promote the walking tracks for health more

To keep up with the times, and keep the good work up

Continue what it has been doing for some time now. I think it is an excellent facility for a wide range of activities

Four wheel drive tours – use of the unsealed tracks at the Hume Highway side of the Botanic Gardens

Continue as is but definitely less sculptures or building structures called ‘Art’ – it’s a natural environment and not enhanced by walls, ornamentation etc.

I like it the way it is. Not too commercial. Peaceful, fun, getaway place

All of the above as long as it doesn’t sell off any of the land to private developers

Centre of biodiversity education, centre leading international research in NSW flora and fauna, more fauna exhibits, more events

Similar to what it is today – but not getting carried away with constructing walls etc

A section for an environmental theme park where the Centre for Sustainable Living is, but the rest kept from overdevelopment

Removal of pest species. More artwork

Free to locals

At present, the Gardens seem very low key, used mainly for their picnic/BBQ facilities during weekends of warmer months. In 10 years, garden should have major visitor facilities, auditorium, indoor exhibits, student education facilities. Desert Park in Alice Spring is a good model. A high profile benefactor would help
1. Demountables replaced by permanent/well-built education facilities.
2. Distinctive Australian garden art.
3. Healthy growth of theme gardens.
5. Great Australian plants resources and bookshop.

Just improve the present layout – it’s so beautiful now, it can only get better.

More signage detailing interesting botanical, cultural, historical facts about plants, sites etc. More playground facilities like the one near the kiosk.

An iconic jewel in Macarthur’s crown. Develop its uniqueness, yet allow people to enjoy.

A central hub with facilities, walks to escape and recreation facilities for families.

Unsure

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**Staff Surveys**

1. Have an even wider range of Australian plants maybe have some exotic garden beds as well
2. Interesting exhibitions, more highly developed garden beds and plant displays, the very best native gardens
3. A working part of the community
4. Continual improvement to current format. More children’s attractions
5. I would like to see it develop along the lines of the Desert Park Alice Springs combining flora and fauna in sympathetic enclosures
6. More of everything already here
7. More theme gardens
8. Other pleasant food outlets, walking trails
9. Good facilities for conferences
10. Keep it as natural as possible
11. More events, outdoor concerts, large playground, improved public access
12. More promotion and awareness among public
13. Reserve of remnant bushland, research hub, a centre for recreation and education
14. Beautiful, more trees and native plants in the local area / developments
15. Not too much built development – a good education/ conference building but not much else
16. In ten years time it should improve more on education and conference facilities
17. Just pleasant to come and relax
18. Tourist destination
19. A showcase for Australian native plants for overseas/interstate as well as local visitors & a large green open space for Western Sydney
20. A green and educational refuge from the surrounding suburban sprawl
21. Continue with science and hort research as well as becoming/ remaining an important recreation and educational resource for the local community
22. Sustainable, educational, community garden promoting the environment
23. Continue to have more BBQ/shelters and attractions such as Durie sculpture/ sundial
24. Just more well established Australian flora
25. Well established garden plantings and regular community events
26. To grow, it looks more beautiful each year
27. Restaurant with a view to gardens new facilities / research facilities, more floral displays
28. Increase area of use for Australian plants in landscape design
29. Emphasis on natives to continue
30. Well interpreted themed plant displays complemented by recreation area 9 Australian plants focus)
31. More art work – large scale
32. Large tracts of Cumberland plain woodland, more trees, interesting information above incidental plants, insects – more like a real native walk in out of the way places
More horticultural displays and complete connections garden
More planting, woodland, less grass
Trees
More advanced trees, shrubs and gardens
Hopefully not too much different from now
More attractions
To become the focal green space for the region, supported by a comprehensive program of ecological research and first class horticulture
More theme garden/ artistic installations/attractions should be developed, esp. on first part of Cunningham drive to make the garden develop a true “gardenesque” setting
Free entry with paid parking and donation encouraged, Connections Garden completed and attracting more people
Areas of natural remnant (woodland) vegetation to be in healthier (less weedy etc) condition and self sustaining and respected by people
Range of artworks/ installations around the Garden
More horticultural displays
I think they need more points of interest, interactive sites and recognisable features that people can relate to
I want it to be an integral part of the Macarthur community and a well known and well-loved in Greater Sydney. Plus an under cover sheltered area which can be booked for weddings, parties etc
Control and revegetation of African Olive areas. Some sort of lookout at the top of Mount Annan
1. There is potential for wedding reception venue to be built and surrounding gardens. The hall needs to function independently from the restaurant and allow for their own catering etc. There is plenty of money to be made from this type of facility in this location
2. Perhaps a bimonthly produce and craft markets, or international food fair theme etc. maybe an annual environmental market etc
3. Art exhibitions (temporary ones) and demos, for educational purposes
4. Community services eg mobile blood bank day – free entry to donors on the day etc
5. I could go on and on but that’ll do for now
6. Forgot one – yoga in the park
I would like it to be a place that is well developed and managed, have areas that can be kept up to scratch 24/7, don’t open up lots of areas if they cannot be kept up to standard and well presented. Keep us “Royal Botanic Gardens” we should be referred to by our proper title “Mount Annan Royal Botanic Garden”
More theme gardens
Live displays of interaction between fauna and flora eg. as per Taronga Zoo. Cumberland Plain Woodland.