

## Considerations for the Terrace Garden



As discussed in the Site Management Plan, the Terrace Garden was a feature of the original Master Plan for the Garden, and was a very complex and expensive feature to construct. Currently the Terrace Garden consumes a considerable proportion of the Garden's staffing and financial management resources. Although the Terrace Garden is highly valued by members of staff and volunteer guides, it is generally not understood or appreciated by visitors. The evolutionary messages are not clear, there is a lack of hierarchy in the Terrace's paths and access for persons of limited mobility is restricted.

The Site Master Plan recommends the redevelopment of the Terrace Garden, which extends the messages to include other prehistorical and historical messages to enhance the taxonomic displays. The physical layout of the Garden also needs to be reconfigured, improving access and movement through the Garden.

The detailed design of the Terrace Garden will require a detailed and separate design consultancy. However, a number of considerations for the redevelopment of the Terrace Garden are presented here which may aid in the formulation of a brief for further development. The following page presents a timeline that details the evolution of the Mount Annan area, and may form the basis for interpretation within the Terrace Garden.

The potential messages for the Terrace Garden could include:

*The evolution of plants*

*The broad themes of evolution*

*The evolution of western Sydney with a focus on the Mount Annan district*

*Geological evolution and its interrelationships with plants, climate and animals*

*The development of Western Sydney and the resulting flora and fauna*

*Medicinal and food uses of plants*

*Plants and their role in water purification*

*Plants and their role in land remediation*

Further issues and interpretative themes to be resolved as part of the detailed design of the Terrace Garden include:

*Equity of access*

*Innovative information dissemination*

*Engaging experiences*

*Hi-technology interactions*

*Spectacular and impressive appearance - the 'WOW' factor*

*A series of internal spaces or rooms with interconnecting pathways*

*Expresses a dynamic sense of time, scale and movement*

*Utilises a simplified version of the current layout*

*Expresses notions of control and artificiality*

*Controls vegetation to enhance topography and maintain views*

*Opportunities to interpret changing patterns of landuse in the region*

**Figure 3 (above)**

The existing ponds and stands of mature palms will be important to retain as part of the redevelopment of the Terrace Garden

**Figure 5 (below)**

The front view of the Terrace Garden, adjacent to the current carpark entry, illustrating the importance of massed plantings of distinct plants to enhance the entry to the Terrace Garden

