



*Going the distance with  
a well ordered heart*

Wollongong Botanic Gardens  
Prayer Walk





**Azalea Bank and Middle Creek Collection 3** Hundreds of Azaleas feature within this collection as well as Rhododendrons, Camellias, Dogwoods, Maples and some magnificent Dawn Redwoods. Along the creek banks you'll find Iris, Daylilies, Flax, Arums and Swamp Cypress trees. A row of white flowering-cherry trees, the Japanese Tea House and the much admired Japanese bridge have been incorporated thanks to the city's Sister City Relationship with Kawasaki.

**How can you live peaceably with those different to you? How can you bless and discover more about people you interact with, who are of a different nationality? How can you appreciate them? How can you build bridges to others, for Jesus' sake?**

*Who shall ever separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or **persecution**, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? Romans 8:35*

*He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the stranger (resident alien, **foreigner**) by giving him food and clothing. Deuteronomy 10:18*

***Hatred** stirs up strife, But love covers and overwhelms all transgressions [forgiving and overlooking another's faults]. Proverbs 10:12*

*Seek **peace** and well-being for the city where I have sent you into exile, and **pray** to the LORD on its behalf; for in its **peace** (well-being) you will have **peace**.' Jeremiah 29:7*

- Pray for countries around the world – your country of origin, for countries that you have visited or lived in, for countries that are in the news – facing war, natural disaster.
- Pray for Christians in other countries that are facing persecution.
- Pray that times of refreshing may come from the Lord for suffering Christians.
- Pray for an end to racism and hatred.
- Pray for cooperation and peace in the world.

**Discovery Kitchen Garden 4** A sustainable home-grown produce garden complete with food plants, herbs and lively flowers.

**How can you sustain love in your family? How can your family stand for Jesus? How can you foster an atmosphere in your home that encourages strong growth and resilience?**

*Be devoted to one another with [authentic] brotherly affection [as members of one family], give preference to one another in honor; Romans 12:10*

*“Then your light will break out like the dawn, And your healing (restoration, new life) will quickly spring forth; Your righteousness will go before you [leading you to peace and prosperity], The glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Isaiah 58:8*

*Do not neglect to extend hospitality to strangers [especially among the family of believers—being friendly, cordial, and gracious, sharing the comforts of your home and doing your part generously], for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2*

*Salt is good and useful; but if salt has lost its saltiness (purpose), how will you make it salty? Have salt within yourselves continually, and be at peace with one another.” Mark 9:50*

- Thank the Lord for your family, for your home, and for your attitude in serving in the home.
- Pray for each family member, for their individual qualities and the struggles they face.
- Pray for their health and lifestyle.
- Pray for their spiritual health.
- Thank God for His healing in your life and for protection against illness.
- Pray for the gift of hospitality to be able to bless others with food and fellowship.
- Pray that you and your family will grow in Christ so that you will be “salt and light”.

**Dryland Garden 5** Arid inland Australian plant species that grow naturally in regions experiencing low average rainfall (under 500mm/year) are displayed in this collection. These plants have developed allowing them to survive extended periods of drought, extreme summer temperatures, saline soil and fire. The Salt Bush, Bottle Trees and ephemeral wild flowers create a stunning display during autumn, spring and summer.

**What are the dry areas of your life – in which areas of your life do you need spiritual energy, hope, freedom from fear?**

*“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavily burdened [by religious rituals that provide no peace], and I will give you rest [refreshing your souls with salvation]. Matthew 11:28*

*So, repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins] and return [to God—seek His purpose for your life], so that your sins may be wiped away [blotted out, completely erased], so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord [restoring you like a cool wind on a hot day]; Acts 3:19*

- Ask God to search your heart and ask the Holy Spirit to highlight what He wants to say to you.
- Ask God to fill you deeply so you have reserves for difficulties, to equip you with protection and strength.
- May the Lord help us to bounce back after hardship.
- May the Lord use the fires of trouble to make you vulnerable to the spiritual nutrients He wants to feed into you.

**Flowering Trees and Shrubs Garden 7** The Flowering Trees and Shrubs Garden was designed and planted in 1981. Following the discovery that the selected area had poor soils, tonnes of organic matter was imported onto the site to create kidney shape garden beds. These beds were then planted with a central windbreak of Cotoneaster or Oleander to offer respite from the howling westerly winds that at times ravage the site.

Many species from within this collection have uses beyond the garden. These include Lippia citriodora Lemon Verbena from the Verbenaceae family which has aromatic foliage useful as a tea. The Citharexylum spinosum Fiddlewood Tree from the Bignoniaceae family, is a useful timber used to make musical instruments. The Catalpa bignonioides Indian Bean Tree from the Bignoniaceae family, is valuable for medicinal purposes and highly used in the creation of posts, fencing rails, interior finishes and cabinet work.

Regular pruning of these plants encourages new flowers, improves their shape and maintains good health. The peak flowering period for this garden collection is during spring and into the summer period.

**Where do you need God's truth to be a strong foundation in your life? What Bible verses will equip you to face life's challenges?**

*He who walks with integrity and strength of character, and works righteousness, And speaks and holds truth in his heart. Psalm 15:2*

*Be on guard; stand firm in your faith [in God, respecting His precepts and keeping your doctrine sound]. Act like [mature] men and be courageous; be strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13*

- Seek the Lord's rich Word to fertilise your life.
- Seek to build strong faith as a barrier against attack.
- Pray for family and for each family member.
- Pray for protection against secular and enemy attack.
- Pray for productivity & effective contributions where we are planted.
- Pray to be a blessing to others.
- Pray to see the Lord's perspective when we are pruned.

**Rainforest Collection 10** The current rainforest collection consists of both native and exotic rainforest communities. Dense plantings of tree species form the canopy and complement the remnant stands of Turpentine and Melaleuca to form part of the closed canopy, allowing only filtered sunlight as seen in natural rainforest systems.

Rainforests require high annual rainfall and are usually associated with high nutrient volcanic soils. These soils are well drained, deep and fertile. Generally, rainforest plants are evergreen and have leaves with large surface areas to catch sunlight and shed water quickly. For this reason, most of the collection can be viewed all year round though the epiphytes flower in spring.

Rainforest species require shelter from westerly winds and thrive in a south easterly aspect where moisture loss from winds is minimised.

Rainforest seedlings are able to germinate in dense shade and will sit dormant until a gap in the canopy opens; this is usually the result of the death of older trees. Young seedlings then compete for the newly created space in a process called 'gap phase dynamics'.

**What gifts and skills has God blessed you with, to be a blessing and witness to others? What are the fruits of the Spirit evident in your life? Give thanks to God for current and new opportunities to use these to mentor and share with people around you. What passions are sitting dormant in your life, waiting to bear fruit? What doors need to close in your life so that other doors may open?**

*He will cover you and completely protect you with His pinions, And under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and a wall. Psalm 91:4*

*The LORD is my Shepherd [to feed, to guide & to shield me], I shall not want. He lets me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still & quiet waters. He refreshes & restores my soul (life); He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Psalm 23:1-3*

- Seek God's covering and anointing over yourself and your family.
- Seek to see God as your Shepherd, nourishing you as you hide yourself in Him.
- Seek a deeper hunger for His Presence and His Word to you.
- Pray that your spiritual walk and your testimony will be evergreen, all year round.
- Pray to be able to mentor and be mentored so you can share your gifts with younger women and learn from older women.



Greenplan  
**P**

Greenplan  
Nursery

Operational Area

Kooloobong Oval

**10** Rainforest Collection

**10**

Amphitheatre

- 1** All Abilities Playground
- 2** Australian Open Forest & Grasslands
- 3** Azalea Bank & Middle Creek
- 4** Discovery Kitchen Garden
- 5** Dryland Garden
- 6** Edible Herb Garden
- 7** Flowering Trees and Shrubs Garden
- 8** Herb Garden
- 9** Palm Collection

- 10** Rainforest Collection
- 11** Rose Garden
- 12** Sandstone Garden
- 13** Sir Joseph Banks Glasshouse
- 14** Succulent Collection
- 15** Temple Garden
- 16** Temperate Garden
- 17** Towri Bush Tucker Garden
- 18** Woodland Garden

Gleniffer Brae

**18**  
Wood  
Gard

Conifer Lawn

**P**



Robsons Road

- Main footpath
- Garden tracks
- Bubblers

Murphys Avenue

Gleniffer Brae Entry

## GARDEN COLLECTIONS



Administration Entry

Pedestrian Entry



Pedestrian Entry

Murphys Avenue

Main Entry

Madoline Street Entry

Paulsgrove Street

**Rose Garden 11** The Rose has long been a symbol of love, beauty, war and politics. The cultivation of roses began in 5,000 BC in Persia and China with the flower being used for display, food, medicine, and most commonly, perfume.

This Rose Garden is designed to portray a walled sunken European garden popular in the early twentieth century. Built in 1975, the high brick wall, covered by *Ficus pumila* Creeping Fig, shields the area from strong winds whilst the entrance paths are offset to encourage visitors to explore what lies within.

Some of the roses on display include 'Peace' which was smuggled to America from occupied France in 1945 and The Wollongong Gold Rose, developed to mark the 50th anniversary of Wollongong City in 1997. The peak flowering period for roses commences in mid-October and continues to April, with many weddings and celebrations taking place during this time.

**How can you be the fragrance of Christ to the world around you? How can you develop a stand for Christ that is evident in your thought, action and opinion? How can you live to encourage people to ask questions about your faith? How can you celebrate Christ's love for you each day?**

*But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us spreads and makes evident everywhere the sweet fragrance of the knowledge of Him. 2 Corinthians 2:14*

*"Blessed [spiritually calm with life-joy in God's favor] are the makers and maintainers of peace, for they will [express His character and] be called the sons of God. Matthew 5:9*

- Pray, thanking God for those who have been and are a sweet aroma of Jesus in your life.
- Pray for encouragement to know others deeper and cultivate deeper relationships with a select group in your sphere of influence.
- Pray to be a peacemaker and to be open to the Lord's romantic love – as His beloved.
- Pray for your spouse if you are married. If you are single, pray for a godly spouse who will model Jesus to you.
- Pray to be open to change in your life to grow and to display your beauty in Jesus where He plants you.

**Succulent Garden 14** The Succulent Collection features Aloe, Agave, Euphorbia, Mesembryanthemum, Crassula, Euphorbia, Yucca, Sedum, Kalanchoe and Echeveria species, many mature specimens when planted. One of the more spectacular specimens is the *Dracaena draco* Dragon Blood Tree. The red resin exudes from the bark after wounding. The medicinal and colouring properties of this resin, and that from other dragon trees, was recorded by the ancient civilisations of Greece and Rome. It continues to be used in medicine, dyes, varnish and incense to this day.

Many succulents grow in semi-arid or temperate regions which receive intermittent rainfall each year. Succulents thrive in poor shallow soils and have shallow root systems allowing them to utilise water from small amounts of rainfall. Succulents have unique morphological (function) and physiological (form) adaptations to cope with drought and defend themselves against enemies. Most retain water in their leaves, stems or roots. Many protect themselves with spines or thorns whilst some have waxy or woody protective coverings to reflect sunlight and decrease water loss.

**Where are you hurting right now? Who has offended you that you need to forgive? How can you learn from your pain? How can you use what you have learned in the future? How can you release the injustices you have faced so that these do not taint the purity of spirit Christ desires for you and died to give you?**

*Be kind and helpful to one another, tender-hearted [compassionate, understanding], forgiving one another [readily and freely], just as God in Christ also forgave you. Ephesians 4:32*

*For if you forgive others their trespasses [their reckless and willful sins], your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Matthew 6:14*

*For He will command His angels in regard to you, To protect & defend & guard you in all your ways [of obedience and service]. Psalm 91:11*

- Pray for the insurmountable obstacles in your life.
- Pray to be a Christian, who when wounded or hurt, releases new gifts and blessings to others.
- Pray for compassion and to be healed through reconciliation with others.
- Pray to thrive in difficult situations.
- Thank the Lord that He is & will be your Defender when there is injustice.

**Bush Tucker Garden 17** The Towri Bush Tucker Garden named by Traditional owners of this land and meaning 'learning place bounded by flowers and trees', is the dedicated space in the Wollongong Botanic Garden for interpreting Aboriginal plant uses. The Towri Bush Tucker Garden is a learning garden where you are encouraged to look and pick at plants to learn about their use in Aboriginal culture for food, medicine, and shelter. Positioned between the Botanic Garden Australian Dryland and Rainforest Collections, the Towri Bush Tucker Garden is planted with species that would have been used by Aboriginal people living throughout the Illawarra along the coastal flats, in the rainforest and escarpment areas, and over the mountain on the heath areas.

**How can you show good citizenship of your country? What areas can you serve or volunteer in to benefit your country? What can you do to learn more about Australia, if you currently live, study or work here?**

*Now therefore, I pray you, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways so that I may know You [becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with You, recognizing and understanding Your ways more clearly] and that I may find grace and favor in Your sight. And consider also, that this nation is Your people." Exodus 33:13*

*First of all, then, I urge that petitions (specific requests), prayers, intercessions (prayers for others) and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all people, 2 for [a]kings and all who are in [positions of] high authority, so that we may live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 1Timothy 2:1*

- Pray for Australia and to learn more about this wonderful country we live in and to give thanks to the Lord that you do live here.
- Pray that you will be useful here, fulfilling the Lord's purposes here.
- Seek to know what He wants to do in this season of your life.
- Pray for your neighbours and people you interact with, daily.
- Pray that you will enjoy the wonderful creation evident in the beaches and the escarpment of Wollongong.
- Pray that Australia – The Great Land of the Southern Cross will stay true to its Christian heritage.
- Pray for Christian politicians to stand firm in their values.
- Pray for all politicians to be people of integrity and wisdom, seeking to do what is best for Australia.

**Woodland Garden 18** Initial plantings included a range of exotic trees, including Magnolia, Maple and Dogwood. These trees now form the mostly deciduous canopy that allows light to penetrate in winter whilst filtering the harsh summer sun.

An intensively planted area, the Woodland Garden features a tiered design of canopy trees with an understorey of small trees and shrubs sheltering the ground dwelling herbaceous perennials, bulbs and annuals. Many of the species are not commonly grown on the coast, but are thriving in this developed environment.

Woodland plants require a humus rich cool soil that imitates the natural accumulation of leaf litter or leaf mould. This habitat is achieved through the regular addition of organic matter aided by falling autumn leaves and the abundance of groundcover plants keeping the plant roots cool.

Whilst many species within the Woodland Garden are recognisable for their blooms, some of the more interesting species within this garden are not as visible including the Sweet Osmanthus, a shrub that possesses tiny, strongly apricot-scented perfumed flowers that is highly valued in cooking in Asia as it is used for flavouring desserts and tea. Another interesting species is the Ruscus. The plant's leaves have flattened stems or cladodes, hence its tiny white flowers appear in the middle of these leaf like structures and are followed by small red berries.

**Have you acknowledged the Lord's covering over EVERY area of your life? If you did surrender every area of your life to Jesus, what would that look like? What blessings are promised to those who come under the Name of Jesus? How can you be more inclusive?**

- Pray for those who are newly arrived migrants and refugees that they might be welcomed and transition successfully.
- Pray that a multicultural Australia will be a blessing to others in co-operation.
- Ask the Lord to bring into your life, that which will help you flourish.
- Ask Jesus to come into situations where you are, or might be angry, that He will teach you to be cool and learn self-control.
- Ask the Lord to give your life flavour, bring flavour into your marriage, your family, your workplace.
- Thank the Lord for the characteristics of your unique personality.





# Wollongong Botanic Gardens Prayer Walk

*These Prayer Walks are designed to take the reader through some of the garden collections of the Wollongong Botanic Gardens. They are designed for stillness, contemplation and meditation as one pauses in each of the designated areas. The Wollongong Botanic Gardens is a sublime setting for spiritual focus. The questions here stimulate focus on one's personal journey and address relevant issues that the Lord then reveals through prayer and listening. The information, Bible verses and questions are to facilitate the contemplation process. The number next to each garden collection relates to the map of the Botanic Gardens.*

*I acknowledge the Wollongong Botanic Gardens for the information contained in [www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/botanicgarden/gardencollections](http://www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/botanicgarden/gardencollections)*



  
*Keiraville International Church*