

Highway Haven



Although on a busy highway, careful planting provides peace and privacy for the two dwellings in this rural garden, with a mix of native and exotic plants. A bush track winds through the rear of the block, part of the Land for Wildlife scheme. A landscaped pool with rock waterfall and an outdoor shower are features. Note the later opening times to catch the evening light.

330 Stuart Highway, Coolalinga. Telstra Map 65 G-2. From Stuart Hwy turn into Virginia Rd, then first left onto dirt track. Look for signs.

OPEN 24 & 25 JUNE 11am – 6pm \$5 admission

Apple's Rainbow Garden



A suburban garden packed with colour. Swathes of orchids tumble from palms in the front garden and a climbing rose scrambles over an arch. The back garden is a private retreat leading from a wide shaded patio. Palms, bananas, durantas, bromeliads, heliconias and gingers thrive in the rich soil. On the front footpath is a Queensland boab tree (*Brachychiton rupestris*).

18 Wilmot Street, The Narrows, Darwin. Telstra Map 27 A-11. Turn into Narrows Rd from Bagot Rd, and follow signs.

OPEN 15 & 16 JULY 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission

Green Vision



Striking landscaping sets off this modern tropical home built on a sloping block in Palmerston. Rocks and planting lead the eye up to a unique elevated swimming pool, while a shaded area tucked in under the high-set main house provides a cool retreat next to a unique fountain and fish pond. Enjoy a cuppa on the spacious deck and take in the view.

10 Ormiston Court, Gunn, Palmerston. Telstra Map 52 G-6. From Chung Wah Tee turn into Lakeview Drv, left into Kakadu Drv and follow signs.

OPEN 5 & 6 AUGUST 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission

BOP Garden



What's BOP? Bromeliads, Orchids and Palms. Tropical garden with hundreds of bromeliads on show, from big and beautiful to tiny and delicate. Whether growing among rocks, clambering up tree trunks or doing a solo turn in a pot, these plants provide glorious colour in leaf and flower. Orchids in flower and tall palms set off the garden. Assistance and advice from NT Bromeliad Study Group members.

24 Margaret Street, Stuart Park, Darwin. Telstra Map 36 D-4.

OPEN 9 & 10 SEPTEMBER 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission

Henbury Sensory Sanctuary



Henbury School is the recipient of an AOGS Community Grant towards the development of a sensory garden, where students can relax and feel part of nature. The school gardens offer an inviting and stimulating environment, with opportunities to explore and experiment. Enterprise activities include plant propagation,

composting, worm farming and craft, with many items for sale, and tempting treats available from the cooking classes. Artist Paul Hill will be on hand to discuss his sculptures, designed by students.

4 Henbury Ave, Wanguri, Darwin. Telstra Map 8 B-16.

OPEN 16 & 17 SEPTEMBER 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission

Creative Courtyards



Two courtyards, one in Stuart Park and the other in Leanyer, demonstrate the great possibilities of small and very personal garden spaces. The Stuart Park courtyard brims with bromeliads and understorey plants, and has spilled out into the units' driveway area. In Leanyer, a spa has a serene and green setting, with dense planting providing privacy and interest.

Unit 1, 31 Coronation Drive, Stuart Park (Telstra Map 36 C-2) and Unit 2, 16 Gotham Street, Leanyer (Telstra Map 18 G-4).

OPEN 7 & 8 OCTOBER 10am – 4.30pm \$4 admission to one garden, \$3 for the second (\$7 for both gardens).

BATCHELOR

Batchelor Weekend



Historic Batchelor again showcases some of its special gardens, this year in conjunction with the Lingalonga Festival. The wide and shaded tree-lined streets, lush green public parks and delightful private gardens make this town a peaceful oasis. Every garden offers something special. Stay overnight and enjoy all the fun of the festival.

Batchelor. 100km south of Darwin. Look for signs.

OPEN 17 & 18 JUNE 10am – 4.30pm \$10 adm. to all gardens

KATHERINE

Gardenvilla



Large country style garden with lawns, shade trees, palms and an orchard of mangoes, citrus fruit and bananas. A tiered turning circle flower garden provides seasonal colour, while poinsettias, poincianas, roses, crotons and snowflake euphorbias add striking contrasts throughout the garden. The flowers of *Petrea volubilis* (the tropical wisteria or sandpaper vine) hang in soft mauve swags.

Lot 1807 Zimin Drive, Katherine. Take Stuart Highway north of Katherine app. 1.95km, turn left into Zimin Drive app. 1.9km. Look for signs.

OPEN 29 & 30 JULY 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission

Jurassic Cycad Gardens



A stunning and unique garden in a breathtaking setting of majestic giant red boulders and grey limestone rocks. The garden features 1.4 km of walking trails through a huge variety of rare and unusual plants from all over the world. The ferny green fronds of the cycads and the triffid-like Pachypodiums are in striking contrast to the spiky and alien shapes of cacti, succulents and euphorbias.

3128 Morris Road, Katherine. From town centre travel 4 km along road to Nitmiluk Gorge, past hospital and follow signs.

OPEN 19 & 20 AUGUST 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission

AUSTRALIA'S

Open Garden Scheme



2006

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO AUSTRALIA'S OPEN GARDENS

105.7 ABC Darwin



Northern Territory

Northern Territory Season 2006

Australia's Open Garden Scheme is a not for profit organisation founded in 1987. Its mission is to promote the knowledge and pleasure of gardens and gardening across Australia by opening inspiring gardens to the public. Each year the Scheme opens around 700 private gardens across every geographical region. The first Northern Territory gardens opened in 2000, and in 2006 gardens will open in Darwin, Batchelor and Katherine.

The Open Garden Scheme is self-funding, with entry fees divided as follows: 35% of the gate fee is returned to the garden owner or to a charity of their choice; 65% covers the Scheme's operating costs, with surplus funds returned to the community via our Community Grants program. To date, more than \$700,000 has been given to community projects across Australia.

Charities and local causes have benefited to the tune of \$3 million thanks to the generosity of garden owners donating their gate share and proceeds from refreshment sales and stalls.

Australia's Open Garden Scheme is supported by ABC Radio.

Visit our website - www.opengarden.org.au - to find out about gardens open across Australia. For local information, including updates on Northern Territory gardens, call the NT Co-ordinator,

Sue Dibbs: ph/fax 08 8932 9922, nt@opengarden.org.au



Above: Mitcheldene on the Lake (11 & 12 March)
Cover: Jurassic Cycad Gardens (19 & 20 August)

DARWIN AND LITCHFIELD SHIRE

Mitcheldene on the Lake



This modern garden of many 'rooms' is owned by a landscape architect, his dedicated wife and the dog. Includes a formal front entry area with stylish water features, a kitchen garden with compost heap, a parterre garden with entry pavilion and a large pond planted with bird-attracting native shrubs and grasses. Terrace vistas take advantage of the lake and parkland. An inspiring garden packed with new ideas.

12 Piper Court, Durack, Palmerston. Telstra Map 51 G-1. From Wishart Rd turn into Woodlake Blv, then into Majestic Drv. Park opposite lake and stroll to garden, or follow signs to the front door.

OPEN 11 & 12 MARCH 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission

Bill's Retreat



Serene and practical combination of a lush and colourful house garden and productive orchard in a parkland setting. Palms, gingers, mussaendas, acalyphas and bananas add privacy around the house and pool area. Green lawns set off bright shrubs, flowering plants and a fish pond. Orchard of mangoes, avocados, guava and jackfruit.

34 Ziil Rd, Girraween. Telstra Map 66. From Stuart Hwy, turn into Girraween Rd south of Coolalinga and follow signs.

OPEN 1 & 2 APRIL 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission

Hidden Treasure



Secluded half acre block in suburban Darwin, packed with native plants and indigenous and exotic palms. A tree canopy provides dappled shade for shrubs and ground covers, while a 'mini-mountain' shelters ponds with native water plants. Fascinating and unusual plants from around the Top End. A must-see garden, with Top End Native Plant Society members on hand to provide advice.

7a McArthur Court, Leanyer, Darwin. Telstra Map 18 J-3. From Leanyer Drive turn into Hodgson Drv and follow the signs.

OPEN 8 & 9 APRIL 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission

Girraween Parc



Orchids thrive throughout this rural garden with its enormous shadehouse brimming with flowering orchids. Sweeping lawns, shady palms and spectacular bird's nest ferns are also memorable features. The owner, an orchid specialist, will share the secrets of good orchid culture.

85 Girraween Rd, Howard Springs. Telstra Map 66. From Stuart Hwy turn into Girraween Rd south of Coolalinga and follow signs.

OPEN 15 & 16 APRIL 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission



Festival at Finlays



A unique event at a stunning location, home to a large stonemasonry and garden supply business. The Top End's ABC Radio gardener Darryl South will give conducted tours of the new landscaping in the extensive grounds, and there will be demonstrations of stone work and stone carving. A range of other gardening stalls and activities will keep visitors occupied and informed. The licensed restaurant and café in the complex are available to visitors.

4 Pierrsene Rd, Yarrowonga (Palmerston). Telstra Map 42 G-14. Turn into Tulagi Rd from Stuart Hwy, and look for signs.

OPEN 6 & 7 MAY 10am – 4.30pm

\$5 admission



Wood 'n Pots



This spacious garden features a wide range of flowers and foliage against a backdrop of tropical palms. Much of the planting is in containers, which are moved around to suit the seasons. Large gravelled areas are delineated with timber walkways and edgings, and there are shaded sitting areas. Rambutan and mandarin trees thrive in the back garden, and visitors can seek out the many 'critters' tucked away among the plants.

36 Haritos Street, Wanguri, Darwin. Telstra Map 18 D-4. From Lee Point Rd turn into Wanguri Tce, then right into Haritos St and follow signs.

OPEN 13 & 14 MAY 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission

Urban Oasis



The back garden wraps around a stunning blue-tiled pool, complete with a cool covered entertainment deck and shaded patio. Palms and shrubs provide privacy, winding pathways lead to secret garden corners, and everywhere are pots, statues and intriguing items from around the world. Recycled concrete makes 'rock' retaining walls and stepping stones, while Balinese wedding flags add vibrant colour.

20 Graham Street, Stuart Park, Darwin. Telstra Map 36 C-1. From Stuart Hwy turn into Eden St, then second left into Graham St and follow signs.

OPEN 27 & 28 MAY 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission

Rural Lifestyle



A rural lifestyle of peace and tranquility with shade trees, sweeping lawns, cricket pitch, bougainvillea arbour, fruit trees, heliconias, gingers and freshly cut hay. Cool paths meander through the garden past bromeliads, bird's nest ferns and bonsais. Chickens and geese, peacocks and guinea fowl add to the relaxed atmosphere.

180 Whitewood Road, Howard Springs. Telstra Map 61 F-13. From Stuart Hwy turn into Howard Springs Rd, then right into Whitewood Rd. Follow signs.

OPEN 10 & 11 JUNE 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission