



# Open Garden Scheme



## Ming's Kingdom



A very special and secluded garden, full of interesting plants and unusual decorative items. Paved paths wind past fascinating corners and plant groupings. Look up, look down – there's lots to see in this delightful space. The front garden has had a major makeover since last year's great opening, so there's even more to inspire. Owner Mike Foley is a local jazz musician and there will be some cool live music on the weekend.



**46 Witherden Street, Nakara, Darwin.**

Telstra Map 17 J4. From Dripstone Rd turn into Goodman St, right into Kilfoyle St, and look for signs.

**OPEN 20 & 21 JUNE 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission**

## Retired



This relaxing rural garden is the perfect retreat for its retired owners, with its vista from the house to a billabong that is home to many water fowl. A thriving mix of native and exotic planting edges cool lawns, and sheltered corners abound. Lotus, vines, innovative use of recycled materials, an interesting planting of native grasses and a wide variety of fruit trees. Avenues of bird aviaries add to this garden's interest.



**50 McIntyre Road, Howard Springs.**

Telstra Map 66 B1. Turn into Girraween Rd from Stuart Hwy after Coolalinga, take Mahaffey Rd on left, then right at end into McIntyre Rd, look for signs.

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

## Anthills & Roses



Tall termite mounds give a distinctive welcome to this acclaimed country garden, re-opening after several years by popular request. Wander along grassy paths past raised garden beds, under flower-smothered arches and to quiet places for sitting. An elevated viewing platform is a new feature. Enjoy the huge collection of roses in flower: this is the place to learn the secrets of rose growing in the tropics. Allow plenty of time to visit this stunning large garden.



**455 Cox Peninsula Rd, Berry Springs.** From Darwin, turn right onto Cox Peninsula Rd from Stuart Hwy (12 km after Arnhem Hwy turn-off). Garden is 4.5km on left.

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

## Bismarckia Falls



Carefully crafted and professionally designed young rural garden offers verdant views from broad verandahs over lawns to curved beds of flourishing trees, palms, bamboos and shrubs. Massed heliconias and gingers screen fencelines, a large rock pool and waterfall welcome visitors, creative garden art draws the eye and an intriguing 'water wicking' system ensures year-round shadehouse grown vegetables.



**8 Beasley Road, Virginia.**

Telstra Map 65 E8. From Darwin, turn from Stuart Hwy into Morgan Rd on right after Howard Springs turn-off, continue to Brooking Rd, left into Beasley Rd.

**OPEN 18 & 19 JULY 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission**

## Back to Batchelor



Four quite different gardens are opening in the picturesque historic township of Batchelor during the Lingalonga Festival weekend.



The 'Batchelor Pad' is an architecture award-winning house set in a planned half acre of native and exotic plants; 'Swordfish' is the result of a single 'wet of work', with natural rock walls and paths creating new planting areas under established trees; 'The Wicked Gardener' is packed with delightful colourful cottage garden interest and the gardens at the Rum Jungle Bungalows give a shaded rainforest ambience to the accommodation units.

Experience the green and peaceful atmosphere of Batchelor while strolling its wide tree-lined streets. The Community Garden and a garden of cycads relocated from a minesite development are further evidence of the town's dedication to its green environment.

Enjoy the events of the Lingalonga Festival on the Saturday, when the town will be buzzing with markets, music, sport and creative activities. Sample delicious foods from many cultures while strolling through the market stalls, or inspire the mind and body with the sounds of local cultural dance groups.

Sky-diving activities will also be underway at the Parachute Club this weekend, so keep an eye on the sky. Batchelor is on the road to Litchfield National Park only 15km away – you could certainly have a wonderful weekend in the region.

**Turn-off to Batchelor 100km south of Darwin on the Stuart Highway, then drive 14km to the town and look for the yellow signs.** Begin your Batchelor garden visits at 32 Wandaree St ('Swordfish' - the first house on the way into town) and get a map for other gardens. An easy walk (or drive) to the other gardens.

**OPEN 1 & 2 AUGUST 10am – 4.30pm \$12 admission for 4 gardens**

## Gardening for Seniors



A Territory Housing-owned village complex for seniors will be the venue for another informative weekend of gardening pleasure. Each of the units in the village has a spacious side and rear courtyard, and the common areas provide a green and peaceful setting. Individual courtyards feature natives, tropical exotics, roses and flourishing vegetable and herbs.



Teas will be available from the community meeting room with its adjoining garden setting.

Demonstrations and talks will be given by health educators from Arthritis and Osteoporosis NT to promote healthy gardening for seniors, with tips and hints on maintaining flexibility, strengthening muscles, and equipment for making gardening easier.

For information on this program contact 8932 9922.

A survey conducted by the Council on the Ageing (NT) shows that gardening is one of the most popular activities for our Territory seniors, and this weekend will be held as part of NT Seniors Month.

According to a recent Australian health study, gardening not only reduces stress, but it also keeps the mind sharp. Gardening is a fun and vital contributing factor to a healthy, active lifestyle. It keeps the body fit, lowers blood pressure and improves cardiac health. Gardening is a healthy activity, and is mentally stimulating for everyone, not just older gardeners. What better reason to get out into the garden?

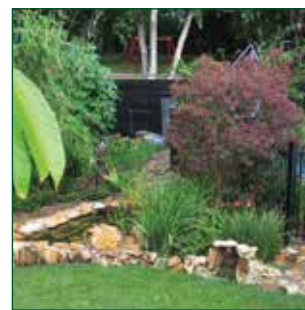
**Kurringal Court, Fannie Bay, Darwin.** Telstra Map 26 B9. From Ross Smith Ave turn into Philip St, right into Waratah Cres and look for signs.

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

## Elevenlee



A peaceful haven for its busy owners, this garden has been created on a small block on a busy road. A flourishing vegetable patch occupies the front garden, complete with passionfruit and dragon fruit vines. The tranquil and private back garden has a rock edged pond, stone paved paths and swimming pool.



A pottery sale and demonstrations will also feature during the weekend.

**11 Lee Point Road, Moil, Darwin.**

Telstra Map 18 A12. Near the McMillans Rd end of Lee Point Rd, next to playground. Park on McMillans Rd service road and look for the yellow signs.

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

## Myilly Point Heritage Precinct



The gardens surrounding the Beni Burnett houses in the Myilly Point Heritage Precinct are an oasis of cool old style tropical plantings in the centre of Darwin city. The National Trust is moving towards sustainable, waterwise gardening on the five large blocks in the precinct. Group plantings of traditionally tough plants, container gardens and native plants will assist in achieving this goal. Enjoy a delicious afternoon tea and guided tours of the houses and gardens.



**Kahlin Ave, Larrakeyah.** Telstra Map 35 G6. Take road down to Cullen Bay and look for signs on the right.

**OPEN 22 & 23 AUGUST 10am – 4.30pm \$10 admission**

## Tre's Tropical Retreat



A wonderful makeover garden that is sure to provide inspiration. The owner's vision and hard work have resulted in a personal tropical resort packed with great garden ideas. A custom-built Balinese-inspired bale (open air pavilion) is a perfect place to relax and gaze over a small formal pond, a spa is surrounded by palms and heliconias, and a dry creek bed garden adds interest as well as absorbing excess rainwater.



**38 Nakara Terrace, Nakara, Darwin.**

Telstra Map 17 H1. From Trower Rd turn into Bradshaw Tce, then into Nakara Tce and look for signs.

**OPEN 12 & 13 SEPTEMBER 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission**

**For information on possible Open Gardens in other areas of the Northern Territory, please call 08 8932 9922.**



# Northern Territory 2009 Season

	Date	Garden	Location
MARCH	21 & 22	Travelling North	Fannie Bay
	28 & 29	Productive Gardening	CDU, Casuarina
APRIL	4 & 5	Millner Native Garden	Millner
	18 & 19	The Dyer's Patch	Karama
MAY	2 & 3	The Hennessys	Noonamah
	9 & 10	On the Lagoon	McMinns Lagoon
	16 & 17	Treetops	Millner
	23 & 24	Hodgkinson's Hideaway	Palmerston
	30 & 31	Teresa's Tranquil Garden Pam's Place	Palmerston
	13 & 14	Gondwana	Palmerston
	20 & 21	Ming's Kingdom	Nakara
	27 & 28	Retired	Howard Springs
JULY	11 & 12	Anthills and Roses	Berry Springs
	18 & 19	Bismarckia Falls	Virginia
AUGUST	1 & 2	Back to Batchelor	Batchelor
	8 & 9	Gardening for Seniors	Fannie Bay
	15 & 16	Eleventee	Moil
	22 & 23	Myilly Point Heritage Precinct	Larrakeyah
SEPTEMBER	12 & 13	Tre's Tropical Retreat	Nakara

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 600 private gardens across every geographical region. The first Northern Territory gardens opened in 2000, and since then more than 150 Territory gardens have opened their gates to around 53,000 visitors.

The Open Garden Scheme is totally 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 and 65% covers the Scheme's operating costs, with surplus funds returned to the community via our Community Grants program. To date, nearly \$1 million has been given to community projects across Australia under this program.

Charities and local causes have also benefited to the tune of more than \$4 million thanks to the generosity of garden owners donating their gate share and proceeds from refreshment sales and stalls. (Last year, Northern Territory garden owners donated more than \$25,000 to charity from their openings.)

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

Visit our website - [www.opengarden.org.au](http://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 08 8932 9922, [nt@opengarden.org.au](mailto:nt@opengarden.org.au)

Please note that admission to all gardens is free to those 18 and under.

Cover: Treetops, opens in Millner on 16 & 17 May

## Travelling North



Being relatively new to the Territory means coming to grips with a smorgasbord of new and exciting plants. Sharon and Ash have given a tired and overgrown garden an inspiring new lease of life in suburban Fannie Bay. Walls, paving and edges define a formal elegance and stylish planting sets off the renovated house. A pre-cyclone Tracy frangipani tree has pride of place in the pool garden and colourful shrubs provide boundary privacy. A sheltered patio and a poolside terrace offer tempting places to sit and enjoy the garden.

**6 Brogan Street, Fannie Bay, Darwin.** Telstra Map 26 C11. From Ross Smith Ave, turn into Brogan St towards racecourse and look for signs.

**OPEN 21 & 22 March 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission**

## Productive Gardening Weekend @ CDU



The Horticulture Aquaculture Group at Charles Darwin University is again hosting a series of talks and workshops on vegetables, herbs and fruit for the Top End. Topics will include soil preparation, propagation, best varieties for our climate, fertilisers, pests and diseases.

This weekend offers a perfect chance to learn productive gardening techniques from the experts. Get those garden beds ready and your seedlings planted in time for the peak growing season.



Check out organic gardening and aquaponics techniques, sort out your gardening problems, and find out how to get those lemons fruiting properly!

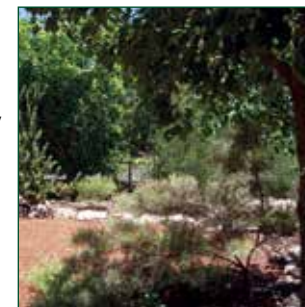
Cooking demonstrations using local produce (and free sampling!) will be a highlight of the weekend. Guest speakers will include Chris Nathanael (tropical fruit guru), Leonie Norrington (author and Gardening Australia host) and Emily Hinds (popular gardening lecturer). Locally-grown vegetable and herb seedlings will be available for sale.

Then enjoy a wander round the campus grounds, and be sure to make time to visit the beautiful Chinese Garden. Sessions start at 9am and 1.30pm on both days. Call 8932 9922 for more information on the program for this terrific weekend.

**CDU Campus, Ellengowan Drv, Casuarina.** Telstra Map 17 F3. Look for signs.

**OPEN 28 & 29 MARCH 9am – 4.30pm \$8 admission**

## Millner Native Garden

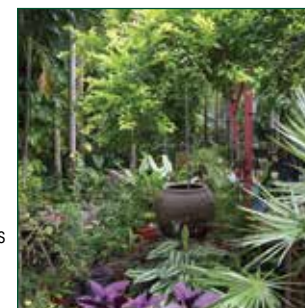


Attractive suburban garden featuring an extensive range of Top End native plants, many of which are not in common cultivation. The front garden houses an open woodland collection, leading to monsoon forest plants at the back with a rainforest section around the spa. A map and species list will provide additional information, beautiful photos by Nicholas Smith will be on display, and local native plants and the book *Native Plants for Top End Gardens* will be for sale.

**11 Cheong Crescent, Millner, Darwin.** Telstra Map 17 A13. From Sabine Rd turn into Tong Luck St, then into Cheong Cres and look for signs.

**OPEN 4 & 5 APRIL 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission**

## The Dyer's Patch



Welcoming urban retreat, with exotics and native planting, succulents, orchids, bromeliads and a vege area. Gravelled walks lead to hidden corners, while changing levels, intriguing pottery and old and recycled bits and pieces provide added interest. Effective use of groundcovers, and an arid zone. Studio for the owner's quilting activities blends with the garden. A delightful garden with a great atmosphere.

**5 Lippia Court, Karama, Darwin.** Telstra Map 19 E13. From Vanderlin Drv turn into Calytrix Rd, then into Livistona Rd, Applegum Drv, Mistletoe Cct and Lippia Cr, and look for signs.

**OPEN 18 & 19 APRIL 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission**

## The Hennessys



A working heliconia farm is combined with an outstanding garden bordering the Elizabeth River. Stroll along bushland tracks beside the water, wander the inviting lawns and follow secret pathways, take a guided tour of the heliconias and gingers and enjoy a terrific tea on a shaded deck. This is a repeat opening for this wonderful garden, and a great way to learn about these brilliantly colourful tropical flowers for gardens and arrangements.

**Elizabeth Valley Road, Noonamah.** From Darwin travel 45km south to Noonamah, turn left into Elizabeth Valley Rd and follow signs.

**OPEN 2 & 3 MAY 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission**

## On the Lagoon



Enchanting rural garden looking over a picturesque lagoon. An avenue of cyprus pines leads from the entrance past paddocks of Haflinger horses. Stands of mature trees shield expansive lawns and gardens from the road, and lush foliage and flowers, including bromeliads and roses, surround the rammed earth house. Extended opening hours on Saturday so visitors can enjoy an evening drink as the sun sets over the lagoon. A special Mothers Day weekend treat.

**64 McMinns Drive, McMinns Lagoon.** Telstra Map 66 H9. Turn into Girraween Rd from Stuart Hwy after Coolalinga shops, turn right McMinns Drv, then drive 2.5km.

**OPEN 9 & 10 MAY Sat 10am – 7pm, Sun 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission**

## Treetops

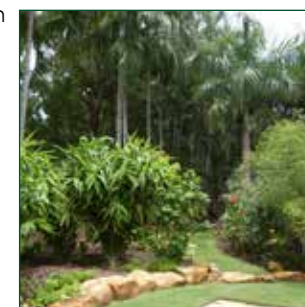


Feng Shui principles have guided the transition of an overgrown suburban garden into a calm tropical oasis. Selected rocks and stepping stones guide the way through lush planting under sheltering palms. The garden provides delightful play areas for children, and is complete with a sandpif and bunny hutch. Enjoy an organic food treat on the large elevated deck and view the garden plan from above.

**20 Robinson Road, Millner, Darwin.** Telstra Map 17 A12. From Sabine Rd or Rapid Creek Rd turn into Robinson Rd and look for signs.

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

## Hodgkinson's Hideaway



A Palmerston 'battle-axe' block garden tucked away down a hidden driveway has received a professional makeover, turning it from a dank and depressing, badly drained block packed with self-sown palms, into a refreshing garden designed for relaxation and entertainment. Bamboos, cycads, frangipanis and palms keep the tropical feel, and a pool, cubby and outdoor cinema area are family friendly features.

**5 Helio Court, Woodroffe, Palmerston.** Telstra Map 52 C10. From Emery Ave or Baldwin Drv turn into Harrison Cct, then into Gunter Cct and follow signs.

**OPEN 23 & 24 MAY 10am – 4.30pm \$5 admission**

## A pair of petite Palmerston gardens

Two Palmerston gardens show that there's absolutely no limit to gardening pleasure, even in smaller spaces.

**OPEN 30 & 31 MAY 10am – 4.30pm \$4 admission (\$7 for both)**

## Teresa's Tranquil Garden



This garden brims with plants, offering privacy to the owner and a haven for birdlife. Lots of places to relax and enjoy garden views. The house is screened from the road by massed planting, a side dining terrace opens off the kitchen, and the back garden looks over a creek reserve. This garden was a finalist in the 2008 Gardening Australia 'Gardener of the Year' awards.

**4 Latram Court, Gunn, Palmerston.**

Telstra Map 61 A11. From Chung Wah Tee turn into Lakeview Bvd, then Rose St, and look for signs.

## Pam's Place



A lush garden surrounds all four sides of this freestanding unit, and extends out into a bushland reserve. Tropical plants thrive in the ground, in pots and in baskets, providing a living backdrop for their creative owner's mosaic works and a display of paintings. A shaded grotto and sheltered resting places add to the appeal.

**Unit 1, 15 Redshank Court, Bakewell, Palmerston.** Telstra Map 52 G10. From Chung Wah Tee turn into Buscall Drv, then into Shearwater Drv, Greenshank Cr and Redshank Cr.

## Gondwana



A mid-year opening for the ever-popular Gondwana garden, showcasing Top End natives combined with exotics in a water-efficient garden, packed with interesting plants, including many cycads. The garden owner, Dale Dixon, is in charge of the NT Herbarium and will give regular informative talks during the weekend. The Top End Native Plants Society will be on hand to provide local plants and advice.

**12 Triller Court, Bakewell, Palmerston.** Telstra Map 52 G10. From Chung Wah Tee turn into Buscall Ave, then Shearwater Drv and follow signs.

**OPEN 13 & 14 JUNE 10am – 4.30pm \$6 admission**