



Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

Primary and Secondary School Programs 2020

Melbourne and
Cranbourne Gardens





Learn with Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

A visit to the Gardens provides an opportunity to experience the wonders of the natural environment and access a rich nature-based classroom. As one of the world's leading botanic gardens, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria aims to support, and showcase how Victorian schools and teachers can bring curriculum to life through outdoor experiences.

Led by education specialists, our learning programs provide engagement through stories and hands-on experiences, drawing upon the rich sensory environment of the living plant collections.

Learn more at rbg.vic.gov.au/learn

Why visit in 2020

The year 2020 marks the International Year of Plant Health, which aims to raise global awareness on how protecting plants can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment and boost economic development.

Give your students an immersive, nature-based learning experience at Melbourne or Cranbourne Gardens and support the protection of plant health for the wellbeing of people and the planet.



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Discover the Gardens



Melbourne Gardens

The stunning Melbourne Gardens has long been the living heart of Melbourne and an important cultural site for Indigenous Australians for millennia. Deepen your students' engagement with nature and give them the chance to explore one of the city's most cherished landmarks with a learning experience in nature.

The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden provides green open spaces and plant life from all around the world creates rich biodiversity, fresh air and endless learning opportunities.



















































Cranbourne Gardens

Inspire your students through connection with the Australian environment at Cranbourne Gardens, which is less than an hour's drive from Melbourne's city centre. Untouched native bushland circles the award-winning Australian Garden, where living plant collections feature species from across the continent.

Home to more than 170,000 individual native plants, this 363-hectare site is also a hotspot for a variety of native wildlife and provides refuge for the last remaining population of Southern Brown Bandicoots within suburban Melbourne.

Supporting the Victorian curriculum

Our school programs are designed to support a range of Victorian Curriculum requirements across the following Learning areas.

Victorian Curriculum Learning Areas	Wellbeing	Sustainability	Indigenous	Science	Geography	Nature Play	STEM
Civics & Citizenship							
Critical & Creative Thinking							
Design & Technologies							
Economics & Business							
English							
Ethical Capability							
Geography							
Health & Physical Education							
History							
Intercultural Capability							
Personal & Social Capability							
Science							
Visual Arts							

 Central curriculum focus

 Supporting curriculum link

Accessible and Inclusive Learning Programs

RBGV aims to ensure all students receive the most inclusive and accessible learning experience possible. Please contact us should you wish to discuss how we can best accommodate the needs of your students, for example adjusting teaching strategies to support students with additional needs.



Garden Art Foundation to Year 6

Get creative using natural resources. Students will explore how biology and art can interact, identify different patterns in nature and draw inspiration from the natural world to create their own artwork.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Discussing how artists respond to and are inspired by nature
- ✔ Creating leaf rubbing artworks
- ✔ Using natural materials to create a collage or mandala

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Visual Art
- ✔ Science

Health & Wellbeing in Nature Year 3 to Year 10

Experience the physical, mental and emotional benefits of nature and spending time outdoors as you explore the diverse flora of Melbourne Gardens. Students will be encouraged to see themselves as part of the natural world and consider how being in nature can contribute to positive emotional and physical wellbeing.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Discovering healing benefits of plants
- ✔ Learning how to improve their wellbeing
- ✔ Discussing how different activities can impact emotions

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Health & Physical Education
- ✔ Personal & Social Capability



Scents & Senses Foundation to Year 2

Engage your senses as you explore the Australian Garden. Students will smell and taste the flavours of Australia, see the strong light illuminating our landscapes and listen for the sounds of nature often hidden by our everyday movement.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Investigating skulls, seedpods and scats
- ✔ Stamping handprints from ochre
- ✔ Sampling a taste of lemon myrtle tea

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Health & Physical Education
- ✔ Visual Art

Health & Wellbeing in Nature Year 3 to Year 10

Surrounded by the beautiful native plants of the Australian Garden, explore the physical, mental and emotional benefits of nature and spending time outdoors. Students will consider how being in nature can contribute to positive emotional and physical wellbeing and learn how to nurture greater awareness of themselves and others.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Learning mindfulness techniques
- ✔ Designing mandalas using natural materials
- ✔ Sampling a taste of native tea

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Health & Physical Education
- ✔ Personal & Social Capability



Plants & Animals Foundation to Year 4

Get to know the plants and animals that live at the botanic gardens. Learn about cycles in nature and the fascinating plant and animal interrelationships and adaptations that exist in different environments.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Observing invertebrates in soil and learning about microbes
- ✔ Creating their own creature using clay and plant materials
- ✔ Meeting carnivorous plants

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Geography
- ✔ Science

Carbon Futures Year 7 to Year 10

Investigate carbon in the environment and how it relates to climate change. Students will learn about the carbon cycle, discover the role fungi play in balancing the ecosystem and the importance of soil carbon sequestration.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Discussing climate change mitigation techniques
- ✔ Measuring a tree to calculate its carbon content
- ✔ Cultivating their own plant to take home

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Geography
- ✔ Science



Sustainable Gardening Foundation to Year 6

Learn about the needs of Australian plants and consider the challenges of creating gardens suited to Australia's climate, while discovering how to create beautiful and sustainable garden designs.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Designing and constructing a landscape
- ✔ Learning the importance of worm farming
- ✔ Potting up their own plant to take home

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Geography
- ✔ Design & Technology



Endangered Species Year 7 to Year 10

Learn how to identify Southern Brown Bandicoots, discover the conservation work being undertaken to save this vital species from extinction and uncover why Cranbourne Gardens has become a home for the only population remaining within suburban Melbourne.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Discovering how Southern Brown Bandicoots contribute to nutrient cycles
- ✔ Looking for evidence of Southern Brown Bandicoot activity
- ✔ Learning about conservation and land management considerations

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Science
- ✔ Geography

Melbourne Gardens

Indigenous



Connecting to Country Year 3 to Year 6

Develop a greater understanding of and respect for local Aboriginal culture. Students will learn about the people of the Eastern Kulin Nation and examine the sustainable land practices used by Aboriginal people.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Discovering the significance of indigenous plants and plant knowledge
- ✔ Learning how Aboriginal people care for plants and Country
- ✔ Examining Aboriginal tools and technology

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Visual Arts
- ✔ History
- ✔ Geography
- ✔ Intercultural Capability

Aboriginal Heritage Walk Year 7 to Year 12

Journey into the ancestral lands of the Eastern Kulin Nation with an Aboriginal guide. Gain insight into the rich history and thriving culture of the local First Peoples, and discover their connection to plants and their traditional uses for food, tools and medicine.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Discovering indigenous plant uses and their significance to Indigenous Australians
- ✔ Enjoying a refreshing cup of lemon myrtle tea
- ✔ Sharing stories and reflecting on the significance of Aboriginal culture

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Visual Arts
- ✔ History
- ✔ Geography
- ✔ Intercultural Capability



Shared Country Foundation to Year 6

Students will discover the importance of the environment and connection to Country, as they develop greater insight into Aboriginal culture and how plants can be used for fibre, medicine, tools and food.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Learning about Aboriginal tools and native plants
- ✔ Using ochre to make paint and create art
- ✔ Tasting lemon myrtle tea

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Civics & Citizenship
- ✔ Visual Arts
- ✔ Geography
- ✔ History
- ✔ Design & Technologies



Bush Foods Year 7 to Year 10

Discover a variety of Indigenous bush foods and learn about Aboriginal knowledge of agricultural systems and food-related tools. Become familiar with regional edible plants and discover how land is managed for food production, harvesting and preparation.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Learning about Aboriginal tools and edible plants
- ✔ Grinding wattle seed
- ✔ Tasting lemon myrtle tea

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Geography
- ✔ Design & Technologies

Melbourne Gardens



Plantworks Year 3 to Year 6

Explore the structure and function of plants and discover their evolutionary purpose. Students will investigate their amazing adaptations and features from a variety of the Gardens' botanic collections, and, using microscopes, will identify the anatomy of a flower and other plant features.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Observing plant adaptations, features and functions
- ✔ Drawing distinctions and connections between plants and their related biomes
- ✔ Cultivating their own plant to take home

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Geography
- ✔ Science



Sustainable Gardening Year 7 to Year 10

Develop the basic skills of good gardening practice. Students will learn about water conservation, organic gardening, composting and worm farming and consider ideas for designing and developing their own garden.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Observing organic and sustainable gardening methods
- ✔ Working in the garden
- ✔ Cultivating their own plant to take home

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Science
- ✔ Design & Technologies
- ✔ Geography



Minibeasts Foundation to Year 2

Investigate some of the creatures that share our bush and wetlands and discover how they help gardens grow. Students will explore the life cycle of insects and learn how they live in Cranbourne Gardens. They will identify invertebrates and consider why plants attract or repel insects and creatures.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Observing minibeasts through magnifying glasses
- ✔ Ponding for aquatic invertebrates
- ✔ Examining worms at work in the worm farm

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Science



Freshwater Ecosystems Year 9 to Year 10

Investigate the biotic and abiotic components of an aquatic ecosystem. Students will learn how the recirculating wetland acts as a natural bio-filtration system to support aquatic life.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Conducting physical and chemical tests to investigate the health and biodiversity of the wetland
- ✔ Ponding for aquatic invertebrates to support findings

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Science
- ✔ Geography

Melbourne Gardens



The Rainforest Foundation to Year 6

Explore the diversity of rainforest plants from Australia and around the world. Students will investigate the structure and ecology of a rainforest and be challenged to consider the importance of rainforest conservation.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Discussing rainforest structure and ecology
- ✔ Understanding the value of rainforests for the wellbeing of people and the planet
- ✔ Creating rainforest creatures using natural materials

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Geography
- ✔ Science
- ✔ Economics & Business

Food Forest Foundation to Year 6

Learn about nutrient cycles and food chains. Students will develop connections between plants and healthy diets and be introduced to organic and sustainable gardening methods.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Learning composting methods
- ✔ Discovering the role of worms in the garden
- ✔ Cultivating their own plant to take home

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Geography
- ✔ Science
- ✔ Design & Technologies
- ✔ Health & Physical Education



Australian Environments **Year 3 to Year 6**

Discover the diversity and adaptations of animals and plants living amongst the Australian landscape. Students will explore the wetlands and plant collections in the Australian Garden and venture into the conservation zone to discover the natural wonders of the Australian bushland.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Investigating seedpods, skulls and scats
- ✔ Exploring the health and biodiversity of the aquatic environment
- ✔ Ponding for aquatic invertebrates

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Geography
- ✔ Science



Water in a Dry Country **Year 7 to Year 8**

Discover water conserving properties of plants and learn how the presence or absence of water shapes landscapes. Students will consider the extreme conditions of drought and flooding that can be experienced in Australia.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Constructing a landscape incorporating water-saving techniques
- ✔ Observing the adaptations of native plants to different environmental conditions

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Geography
- ✔ Science

Melbourne Gardens



Cranbourne Gardens



Homes & Hideaways Foundation to Year 2

Explore how plant material can be used as homes for animals and people and learn what plants need to help them grow. Students will engage their senses as they explore the Gardens, looking out for animals in their natural habitat and discovering different plant materials.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Learning how plants can be used for food and shelter
- ✔ Using natural materials to create shelters and cubbies
- ✔ Cultivating their own plant to take home

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Design & Technologies
- ✔ Science

Baby Bilby Foundation

Join us for a journey through the Australian Garden to discover animal habitats. Students will create landscapes, build burrows and make tracks using natural resources and explore the rhythm of animal movements through music and dance.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Creating habitats using natural materials
- ✔ Building burrows in the sandpit
- ✔ Joining in simple song and dance

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Science

The program was outstanding. Our students and teachers cannot speak highly enough regarding the program and the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria education team.

— St John's Primary School Teacher



Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens



Designed by Nature Year 3 to Year 6

Learn how nature can be used for design inspiration and problem solving through biomimicry. Students will observe the tried and tested biological strategies and patterns of nature and design their own nature-inspired STEM ideas for a healthier planet.

Student Experiences Include

- ✔ Exploring the function and form of plants
- ✔ Developing their own nature-inspired design ideas
- ✔ Engaging in systems thinking

Links to Victorian Curriculum

- ✔ Science
- ✔ Mathematics
- ✔ Technology
- ✔ Design & Technologies
- ✔ Critical & Creative Thinking

Bio-Design Challenge

The inaugural Bio-Design Challenge will launch in 2020. Through a project-based learning experience, students will be introduced to the field of bio-inspired design whilst working to find innovative solutions to problems within their local community.

To find out more and register your interest visit rbg.vic.gov.au/designchallenge

Inside a classroom it gets stuffy, outside I'm in fresh air. When I'm at the botanic gardens I feel like I'm having fun because it is so big and I think better out there. — Lam (Year 4 Student)





Professional learning

Our curriculum-based professional learning experiences and resources support teachers in engaging student learning in, and connecting with, the natural environment. Programs are delivered in partnership with Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and leading education organisations.

ECO LEARNING NETWORK CONFERENCE

When: 20–21 March, 2020

Location: Melbourne Gardens

Join us for the Early Childhood Outdoor (ECO) Learning Network Nature Education Conference. Hear from a range of speakers and attend workshops from leading professionals across Victoria.

STEPS TO SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

When: 25 March, 2020

Location: Melbourne Gardens

Be part of Victoria's largest sustainability education conference focussed on the UN's International Year of Plant Health.

View the full range of professional learning opportunities available during 2020 at rbg.vic.gov.au/learn/professional-development

Plan your visit

Here's what you need to know to plan and book your visit to the Gardens.

Program availability

Programs run twice daily, 10.15am to 11.45am or 12.45pm to 2.15pm, during the Victorian school term.

Programs are available Monday to Friday at Melbourne Gardens and Monday to Thursday at Cranbourne Gardens.

Program cost

Each program is \$13.50 per student (incl. GST). A minimum charge of 18 students per class applies. Teachers and adult helpers are free.

Arriving at the Gardens

Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled start time. We recommend using this time to have a snack, use the bathroom and store school bags.

Program restrictions

We can cater for a maximum of 30 students per class, per program.

Booking a program

All booking requests can be made online at rbg.vic.gov.au/learn/booking. We will be in touch after receiving your request to confirm your visit.

Invoicing & payment

A Tax Invoice will be sent to your school's Account Officer following your visit. Payment of invoice is required within 14 days of receipt.

Need more information?

Visit rbg.vic.gov.au/learn or email edserv@rbg.vic.gov.au

Alternatively, you can speak to our Learning Team on (03) 9252 2358. Office hours are 8am to 4pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.

Learning in the Gardens provides a nature-rich environment in which students can wonder, explore, investigate and imagine.

— Emily Barrow, Senior Learning Facilitator
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria





Stay in touch

Visit the Gardens

Melbourne Gardens
Birdwood Avenue
Melbourne VIC 3004

Cranbourne Gardens
Ballarto Road & Botanic Drive
Cranbourne VIC 3977

Join our mailing list

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Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is dedicated to the conservation, display and enjoyment of plants. At Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens, we share our knowledge and innovative science to foster an appreciation for the inspiration and value plants provide to our lives. Find out more at rbg.vic.gov.au



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