

Pirianda Garden

A Woodland Garden of the Dandenongs

Pirianda is a beautiful woodland garden which contains a unique collection of plants which are botanically significant and considered rare in cultivation in Australia.

Unusual trees and shrubs, blend harmoniously with ferns and the impressive Blackwood Wattles and the Mountain Ash trees are fascinating as you walk through the garden to the terraces and peaceful fern gully below. The cool temperate conditions within this Garden, together with an average rainfall of 1250mm per annum, make it the ideal climate for these plants to thrive.

What to see and do

The entrance path at Pirianda Garden takes you through the top garden which features many exotic plants. Further down the path you can observe a bog garden and a terraced area with its neatly fitting stone walls. As you continue your walk you will enter a beautiful fern gully where Rough and Soft Tree Ferns can be seen along with a gentle stream which adds to the cool moist ambience of this shady world.

Garden History

At the turn of the century Pirianda Garden was selected and cleared, with the exception of tree ferns and the Blackwood Wattles in the gully. In 1910 the property was purchased by Mr Crooks who planted several exotic trees including hybrid Rhododendrons and seven Copper Beech situated on the slope below the present house site. Later the land was sub-divided and leased for carrot and potato production.

Harvey and Gillian Ansell bought Pirianda in 1959. By this time the property consisted of 23 acres, a further 5 acres were added some years later. The Ansell family gradually removed bracken and blackberries so that work could begin on the garden. With a great deal of imagination and hard work, the garden, which is a perfect balance between exotic plantings and beautiful native rainforest species, became a reality.

On their annual overseas holidays the Ansell's always used their time looking for new and unusual plants which could be imported and displayed at Pirianda.

The word Pirianda is believed to mean "sufficient" or "enough" in Aboriginal, and was chosen by Mrs Ansell because she believed the property would be sufficient for them to occupy for the rest of their lives.

This garden treasure was generously donated to the State Government of Victoria in 1977. Parks Victoria commenced management of Pirianda Garden in 1995.

Collections

Pirianda Garden features such delights as 28 different types of Maples and 13 Birch varieties. Collections of Magnolias, Eucryphias, Rhododendrons, Clethra, Styrax, Pieris, Viburnums and Conifers can also be seen. Three specimens of the unusual and haunting Chinese Handkerchief tree, (*Davidia involucreta*), are located at Pirianda Garden. They flower annually in early November. The large bracts are up to 5" (12 cm) long, pure white and conspicuous when waving in the wind. The sight of these trees in flower is reason enough to visit Pirianda Garden.

Other unusual plants at Pirianda include members of the Theaceae plant family, *Franklinia* and *Stewartia* which are both attractive and rarely seen specimen plants. Both species have delicate and beautiful flowers and are related to the better known Camellias. Pirianda Garden features beautiful spring displays but is renowned for its unsurpassed autumn colours.

Seasonal Highlights

Summer: Mock Orange, Eucryphia, Clethra, Hydrangeas and NSW Christmas Bush.

Autumn: Spectacular autumn foliage colours of a wide variety of exotic trees and shrubs including the unusual sight of *Franklinia Alatomaha* which flowers in Autumn whilst losing its leaves.

Winter: Luculia, Witch Hazels, Camellias and early Rhododendrons.

Spring: Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Magnolias, Camellias, Dogwoods, Davidia and Spring bulbs.



Community Involvement

The preservation of Pirianda Garden is actively assisted by a voluntary community group called the Friends of Pirianda Garden.

If you are interested in joining the Friends Group, please contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

A Lasting Gift

Leaving a bequest to these Dandenong Ranges Gardens in your will is a lasting way to help care for the gardens for the future. Your bequest is invested in the Dandenong Ranges Gardens Trust Fund and applied to areas of the gardens most in need of support.

For further information contact Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963.

Please return this garden note to the information shelter after use so it can be used by others. Thank you.

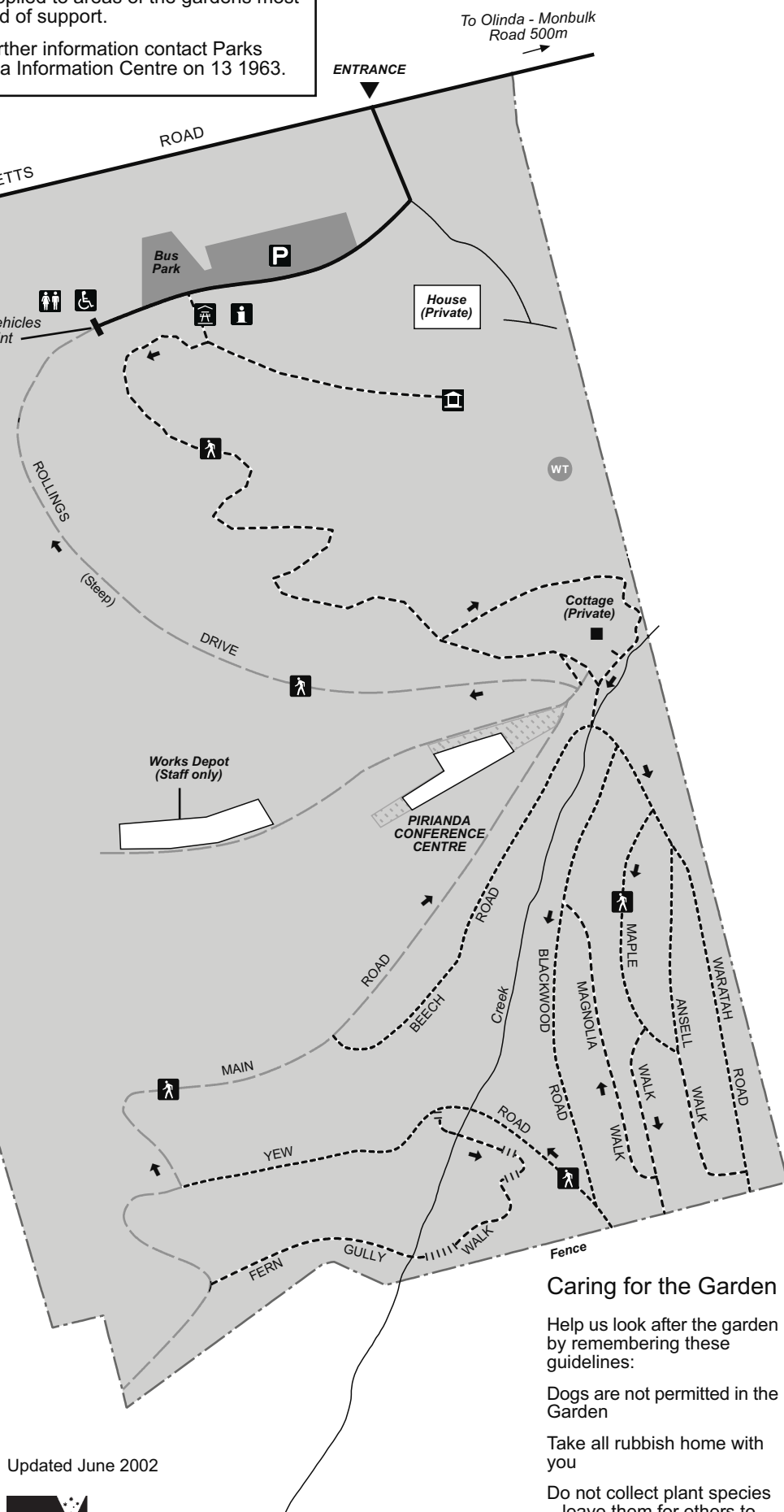
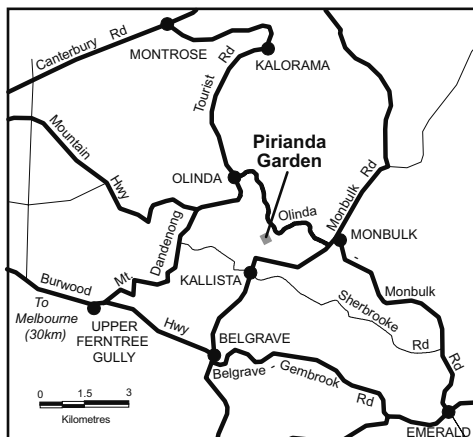
Pirianda Garden

- Garden Area
- Rockery
- Car Park
- Road
- Walking Track (Management Vehicles Only)
- Walking Path
- Steps
- Suggested Walking Route
- Park Information
- Toilets
- Toilet for Disabled
- Gazebo
- Picnic Shelter
- Walking Track
- Water Tank

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METRES

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Cartography by Spatial Vision & Parks Victoria 2002 M7186



Caring for the Garden

Help us look after the garden by remembering these guidelines:

Dogs are not permitted in the Garden

Take all rubbish home with you

Do not collect plant species – leave them for others to enjoy

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