

Daffodil Delights

Visitors are in for a sensorial treat at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden as winter prepares to sign off with its grand finale of Daffodil blooms!

The Brunet Meadow is hosting its annual fragrant winter festival with the unsuspecting lawn transformed from its usual sea of green to a vibrant array of golden hues. This year is even more spectacular with the planting of hundreds of new bulbs of thirty six additional narcissus cultivars. The visual delight of new blooms accompanying the heritage varieties of past years, is a sight to behold!

The land on which Mount Tomah Botanic Garden sits was previously owned by Alfred and Effie Brunet and was operated as a cut flower farm supplying the Sydney market. The Brunet's narcissus plantings included such varieties as "King Alfred" and "Minor Monarch". With their passing and with no children to inherit the farm, the Brunets bequeathed their property to the Royal Botanic Garden of Syd-



ney, giving life to what is now known as the cool climate garden of the Botanic Gardens Trust.

Perched on a basalt capped peak at 1000 metres above sea level in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Listed area, Mount Tomah Botanic Garden is now home to a collection of cool climate plants from around the world. With rich volcanic soil and cool mountain temperatures, the Garden provides the ideal growing conditions for plants not suitable to Sydney's climate.

Early narcissus plantings



within the Garden were supplied as gifts by neighbours

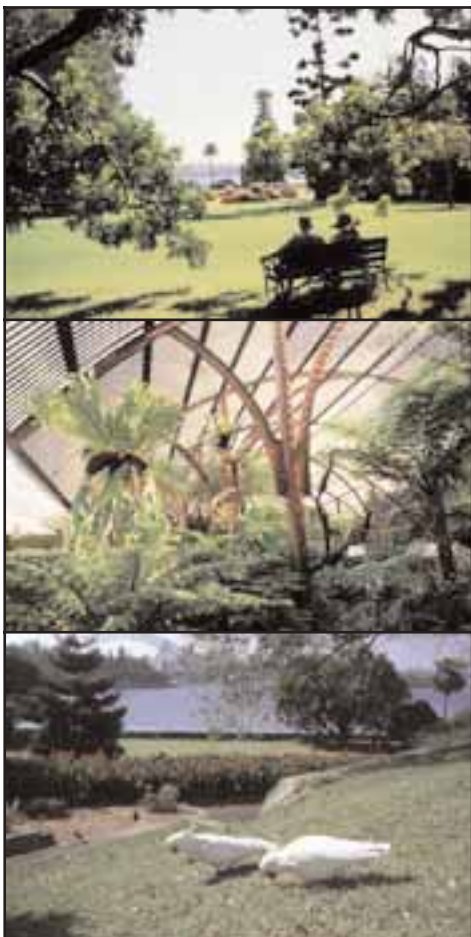


who had originally received their stock from Alfred and Effie Brunet. With optimum growing conditions at Mount Tomah, the new daffodil blooms are expected to reach their peak during mid to late August, heralding the impending arrival of spring. We invite

visitors to come and view the new varieties including "August Pink", "Bliss", "Fortissimo", "Gigantic Star", "Money-maker", "Spellbinder" and "Tiddly Wink" and see this daffodil extravaganza as part of the Garden's grand farewell to winter!

SATURDAY 22 AUGUST, 6 PM – 9 PM

The Sky's the Limit Evening Talks and Star-gazing



Come star-gazing in the Royal Botanic Gardens to celebrate Charles Darwin's 200th birthday and the 400th anniversary of Galileo Galilei's astounding discovery when he turned his telescope on the heavens. Join well-known astronomer Prof. Fred Watson and Botanic Gardens Trust Scientific Director Dr Brett Summerell as they discuss how these two scientists, separated by 250 years, transformed the thinking of their age and of those that followed.

Was it worse to shift the earth from the centre of the universe or to plummet human beings into the animal kingdom and kinship with apes?

The talks will be followed by an exploration of the night sky through telescopes in the Gardens.

Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens, Mrs Macquaries Road.

\$15 per person, Bookings 9231 8134
Sunday 23 August, 10 am – 4 pm

The Science We Do! Free Open Day
Get into the scientific action. On Sunday 23 August, the Royal Botanic Gardens will open its gates and its doors with tours, talks, demonstrations and hands-on activities for all ages



throughout the day.

Go behind the scenes of the DNA and plant pathology laboratories and the National Herbarium of NSW specimens dating back to those that Joseph Banks collected on the voyage of the Endeavour. Bring along your obscure plants and their obscure diseases for identification. For those who must touch, there will be microscopes to look down and seeds to sort, and for those who must talk, there will be scientists to chat with. Kids and their adults can make their own pressed plant badges, mount ferns and algae and cook up ships biscuits. The whole family can also get their hands dirty potting in the Cryptogam House, or join a lesson on bush tucker in the Gardens.

The Charles Darwin guided tours will introduce you to the world-renowned living collections of the Roy-

al Botanic Gardens through the eyes of the Father of Evolutionary Theory who visited in 1836.

Talks through the day by leading scientists of the Botanic Gardens Trust are a tight 20 minutes each. Topics range from native plants of your area to DNA research that has re-drawn the Tree of Life. In the Red Box Gallery inside the Herbarium, Darwin's Descendants': 200 years of Scientific Adventures explores the adventures of Botanic Gardens Trust scientists, past and present, who have followed in Darwin's footsteps. The multi-media exhibition, full of the weird and wonderful contraptions and imagery, is an eye-opener about evolutionary research and where it is taking us.

Red Box Gallery and Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens, Mrs Macquaries Road.