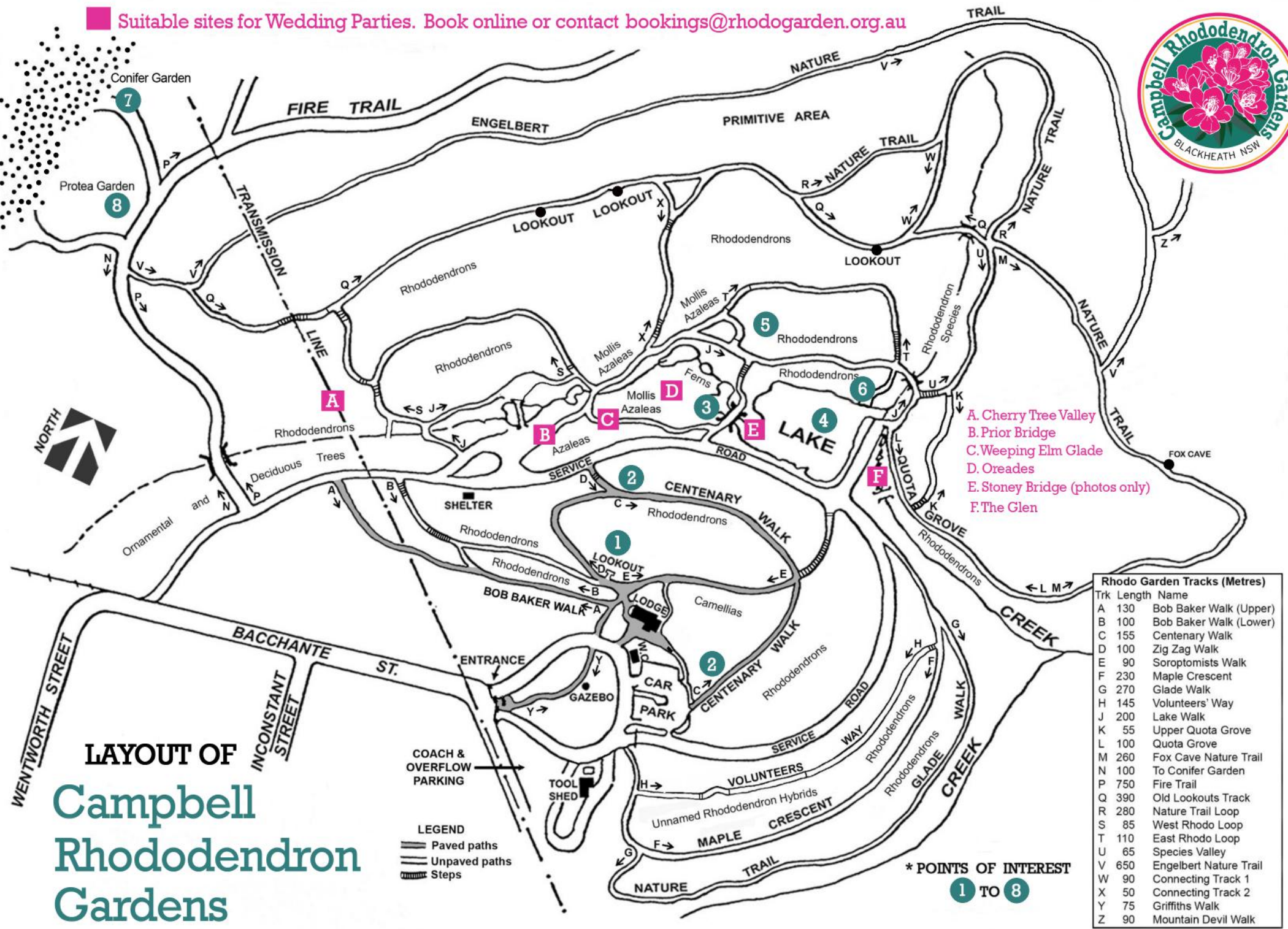


Suitable sites for Wedding Parties. Book online or contact bookings@rhodogarden.org.au



- A. Cherry Tree Valley
- B. Prior Bridge
- C. Weeping Elm Glade
- D. Oreades
- E. Stony Bridge (photos only)
- F. The Glen

Rhodo Garden Tracks (Metres)	
Trk	Length Name
A	130 Bob Baker Walk (Upper)
B	100 Bob Baker Walk (Lower)
C	155 Centenary Walk
D	100 Zig Zag Walk
E	90 Soroptomists Walk
F	230 Maple Crescent
G	270 Glade Walk
H	145 Volunteers' Way
J	200 Lake Walk
K	55 Upper Quota Grove
L	100 Quota Grove
M	260 Fox Cave Nature Trail
N	100 To Conifer Garden
P	750 Fire Trail
Q	390 Old Lookouts Track
R	280 Nature Trail Loop
S	85 West Rhodo Loop
T	110 East Rhodo Loop
U	65 Species Valley
V	650 Engelbert Nature Trail
W	90 Connecting Track 1
X	50 Connecting Track 2
Y	75 Griffiths Walk
Z	90 Mountain Devil Walk

LAYOUT OF Campbell Rhododendron Gardens

LEGEND
 Paved paths
 Unpaved paths
 Steps

* POINTS OF INTEREST
1 TO 8

The Blue Mountains Rhododendron
Society of NSW Inc.



The Campbell Rhododendron Gardens

Bacchante Street, Blackheath

WELCOME TO THE GARDENS

The *Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society* was formed in the late 1960s—a suggestion of a local nurseryman, the late Ib Sorensen—with the idea of establishing a garden. A block of Crown land, 18.5 hectares was secured in Blackheath, one kilometer north-east of the Railway Station. In 2019 the Society celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The Gardens are open every day of the year, from 9:00 to 6:00 in summer and the gates close at 4:00 in winter. Allow at least an hour to stroll along the easy walking tracks—some through native bushland—where many Australian birds will be seen. Dogs on leads are welcome. The Lookout presents a good overall view for those unable to walk far. There is always something lovely to see but the most spectacular months are:

April to May: dazzling autumn displays from the deciduous trees, followed by camellias.

September to early-October: spring blossoms and massed-bulb displays.

October to November: the peak blooming time for rhododendrons and azaleas.

ENTRANCE to the Gardens: via a **suggested donation of \$5.00, for each visitor**, into the blue-green Donation Box at the Information Kiosk near the car park.

We rely on your generosity for the upkeep, improvement and expansion of the Gardens.

* POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1. Dick Harris Lookout:** named after one of the first Society members, who also has had continuous input into the Gardens since their inception. The Lookout was opened on 27th September 2014 by Graham Ross VMM. Another plaque commemorates Ib Sorensen who conceived the idea, selected the land, and then initiated the planting of the Gardens, ably supported by local Blue Mountains nurserymen.
- 2. Centenary Walk:** this long walking path was established and opened on 23rd March 1985, to mark the proud Proclamation of the Village of Blackheath, and, and the centennial year of the Blackheath Public School. In all, 134 rhododendrons were planted along the sides of the walk and are recorded with the names of many of the older residents of Blackheath.
- 3. Stone Bridge:** this bridge possibly is the most photographed feature in the valley. It was built by Bob McCullough in 1974, and the lush surrounds are a popular backdrop for wedding photography.
- 4. The Lake:** construction commenced in 1971 in December, using a generous donation from the Blackheath Festival Committee.
- 5. First Official Function:** when this work was completed and the lake was full of water, it was officially opened on 23rd September 1972. Various dignitaries and organisations planted nine 'White Pearl' rhododendrons in the area.
- 6. Dr Nick Matheson-Lines Lookout:** at the far side of the lake, the lookout was constructed in June 2008, as a special tribute to this major benefactor of the Gardens.
- 7. Dr A L North Conifer Garden:** in 1984 this Gardens space was established for growing a number of different types of conifers.
- 8. Protea Garden:** this newest area was officially opened on 21st September 2019. In time, it will feature numerous genera and species of the proteaceae family.

ABOUT THE GARDENS

The Campbell Rhododendron Gardens are unique in the world—no other garden has planted exotics underneath and amongst their existing native eucalypts and bushes on such a large scale. There are now well over 2000 rhododendrons planted, as well as other exotic—azaleas, kalmias, camellias, maples, flowering cherries, a wisteria walk, and large trees underplanted with bulbs. At 1065 metres above sea level, the cooler climate is conducive to growing rhododendrons and other exotics amongst the native bush.

The soil type here—in contrast to the basalt soils of Mt Wilson and Mt Tomah—derives from the underlying Triassic sandstones. These sandy loams, enriched by decaying humus from the eucalypt forest and the understory of ferns and heaths provide the acidic conditions enjoyed by our rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias.

The area is a Public Recreation Reserve under the trusteeship of the Blue Mountains City Council, but is managed and maintained by the Blue Mountains Rhododendron Society of New South Wales Incorporated, formed in April 1969.

No Government funding is received, and the Gardens are maintained by volunteers members of the Society, whose work-scope relies solely on generous donations and occasional bequests.

Picnic tables are dotted around the Gardens, or you can spread a blanket on the lawns for lunch. Also there are two shelter sheds and a Gazebo.

For 5 weeks each year—mid-Oct to mid-Nov—the Lodge is open to the public, serving teas and offering plants and special souvenirs for sale.

Check our website: www.rhodogarden.org.au

CONTACT US

The Secretary: PO BOX 238, Blackheath, NSW 2785

The Lodge: (02) 4787-8965 (Mondays or voicemail)

Email: secretary@rhodogarden.org.au

Wedding Sites: book via www.rhodogarden.org.au