

Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne Regulations



Welcome to the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

Please help us to protect the Gardens by observing the Royal Botanic Gardens Regulations 2014 ('the Regulations'). These Regulations are designed to protect the plants, animals and other features of this garden while allowing you and other visitors to enjoy and experience the Gardens.

Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne is one of Victoria's most precious areas of native bushland and offers visitors the chance to explore 363 hectares of untouched heathlands, wetlands and woodlands. This bushland is home to thriving bird and animal life, including several rare and endangered species.

Protecting the Gardens for future generations

To protect the Gardens, Regulations governing the use of the Gardens have been drawn up and Authorised Officers have been appointed to enforce these Regulations. The Regulations have legal force and a breach of the Regulations can result in a fine (infringement notice), similar to a traffic infringement notice.

Most visitors to the Gardens do the right thing, not just to avoid an infringement notice, but because they have a sense of pride in the Gardens and a desire to protect them for future generations. The Regulations are designed to ensure that visitors can enjoy their experience of the Gardens without undue disturbance from other people.

If you are unsure of what you can or cannot do in the Gardens, please check with staff at the Visitor Centre or ask a Ranger. The following useful guide to the Regulations will help you enjoy your visit to Cranbourne Gardens.

The following are prohibited in the Gardens under the Regulations:

Feeding and disturbing the Wildlife

Feeding the birds or any other animal (including fish or reptiles) and disturbing them is not allowed. Cranbourne Gardens is a well-known haven for a variety of birds and other animals and provides plenty of natural foods and habitat for these 'native' animals. We ask visitors to respect our wildlife and to help us to keep them healthy by not feeding or handling them.

Giving birds (or other wildlife) inappropriate foods, such as bread, is unnecessary and potentially harmful. These foods can cause dietary problems, leading to sickness or malnutrition.

Climbing on trees and removing plants

Cranbourne Gardens was established in 1970, for the purpose of conservation, research, display and enjoyment of Australian native plants. In order to preserve the bushland, we ask visitors to not climb on any trees or plants and to remain on the pathways. Visitors are not permitted to remove any plants or plant material. This also includes not removing any wild flowers.

Bringing plant material on to our site:

Under the Regulations (part 3, 13), a person must not in the Gardens - knowingly bring in or introduce any plant, seed, pathogen, spore or any part of any plant.

Recreational activities

The Gardens covers a wide area with numerous unsealed walking tracks. In the interests of visitor safety, we do not allow rollerblades, scooters or skateboards in the Australian Garden or the bushland at any time and the use of trail bikes is also prohibited. Bicycles are permitted on the main roads and designated tracks in the bushland only.

Ball games

Ball games (such as football, soccer or cricket) are not permitted in the Australian Garden. The use of Frisbees and playing cricket and bocce is also not permitted except in designated areas. These types of activities pose a significant risk to plants, animals and other visitors and as there is limited open space we ask that you leave all ball games at home. Further details on nearby recreational parks and reserves are available from the City of Casey website www.casey.vic.gov.au.

Dogs and Pets

Dogs and pets are **not** permitted within Cranbourne Gardens, including the Australian Garden and car park areas.

Cranbourne Gardens is an isolated fragment of remnant vegetation and is classified as an area of State and regional significance for the conservation of biodiversity. It also provides habitat for a number of 'endangered', 'vulnerable' and 'at risk' native animals.

Native animals are extremely sensitive to the barking and the lasting scent of dogs and other animals. They can be disturbed and frightened which can cause them to change their behaviour, for example leaving their young unprotected. Native animals are also vulnerable to the diseases, pathogens and parasites that dogs can unwittingly bring into the Gardens. Smaller animals can be killed and larger animals disturbed and frightened by dogs and cats.

- Assistance animals are permitted throughout the Gardens.

The following are permitted under the Regulations in the Gardens:

BBQs

Visitors may only use the barbeques provided at the Stringybark Picnic Area and the Woodland Picnic Area in Cranbourne Gardens. Portable BBQs are not permitted in any part of the Gardens including the Australian Garden. **On days of Total Fire Ban the use of barbeques is prohibited** and Cranbourne Gardens, including the Stringybark Picnic Area and the Woodland Picnic Area, will be closed.

Persons may be exempt from a number of the Regulations if they have a permit.

Permits are required for:

- wedding ceremonies
- wedding and commercial photography and filming
- commercial videotaping and filming
- commercial functions and activities

Permits for all commercial functions and activities are subject to approval based on the objectives and values of the Royal Botanic Gardens' Victoria.

Wedding ceremonies and photography

The Australian Garden provides a perfect backdrop for a wedding ceremony. A permit must be obtained prior to the ceremony. Please contact Sorrento Catering Company for further details on **0400 414 173** or <https://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/functions-venues> for more information. Permits must be obtained at least 24 hours prior to your visit.

Commercial functions and events

All commercial activities within the Gardens require a permit. If you would like to have a function or event in the Australian Garden please contact Sorrento Catering Company for further details on **0400 414 173** or refer to <https://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/functions-venues> for more information.

Commercial Filming and Photography

This pertains to any photographer or filmographer who is charging their client for their services, and may involve television commercials, fashion photo shoots, magazine publications, feature films and the like. To apply for a permit, please contact Sorrento Catering Company on 0400 414 173 or refer to <https://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/functions-venues>

Media permits can be obtained through the RBGV Marketing and Communications Branch. Please contact (03) 9252 2300 for further details, or www.rbg.vic.gov.au/about-us/media-centre.

Further Information

The Regulations apply to both the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens, although some are specific to either Melbourne or Cranbourne. Infringement notices may also be issued to persons who commit offences under the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991*, such as taking, destroying or removing any plants or flowers from the Gardens or taking, destroying or injuring any animals in the Gardens.

For more information please ask at the Visitor Centre or call (03) 5990 2200.

Visitors should note that while Cranbourne Gardens bushland area will be closed on days of Total Fire Ban and, days of extreme fire danger, the Australian Garden will remain open.

This brochure is provided as a general guide only. Further information on the Regulations and the Royal Botanic Gardens Act, including copies, is available from the Royal Botanic Gardens website at <http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/about-us/act-and-regulations> or from the Visitor Centre. The Regulations govern many operational matters including entry to the Gardens, protection of plants and animals, sporting activities, commercial activities, dogs and vehicles in the Gardens and more.

The Regulations, among other things, specify what visitors cannot do in the Gardens including:

NO climbing on plants or trees.

NO dogs or other animals are allowed at Cranbourne Gardens

NO feeding any wildlife (including birds, reptiles and fish).

NO damaging, defacing or removing any sign, structure, facility, equipment or natural feature.

NO camping or erecting any tents and or structures.

NO leaving the lawns, pathways, walking tracks, roads or thoroughfares.

NO climbing over fences or breaking through gates, fences, hedges or barriers.

NO fires or BBQs except in the designated BBQ facilities at Stringybark Picnic Area and Woodland Picnic Area.

NO portable BBQs are allowed on site.

NO commercial activities or commercial functions without a permit. This includes wedding ceremonies and commercial photography or filming.

NO ball games or playing of any other games (except in designated areas) that would cause danger to any person or animal or damage to any plants.

NO playing or operating of sound producing devices (including devices that make, reproduce or amplify sound).

NO soliciting or collecting money, distributing handbills, pamphlets, books or other advertising placards or notices.

NO picking plants or flowers.