

TROPICAL DISPLAY DOME MT COOT-THA BOTANIC GARDENS, BRISBANE

Surrounded by 52 hectares and more than 20,000 plants, the tropical Display Dome is the icon structure of Brisbane's Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens.

Spanning a 28m diameter with a peak of 9m high, the aluminium alloy frame triangulated in a geodesic dome pattern is home for rare and unique tropical plants sourced from collections around the world. Here you can see humid tropical treasures thrive and flower in the cooler subtropics.

The botanic gardens were founded in 1970, however the dome opened in December 1977. It has a reinforced concrete podium and ring-beam surmounted by a promenade deck and the dome.

Gardens are maintained and changed as plants outgrow their allotted space providing a wide range of plants to be displayed from one year to the next. Favourites include

Chocolate Tree (*Theobroma cacao*) and an assortment of ornamental gingers, aroids, palms, epiphytics and foliaged shrubs.

Climate is controlled to maintain a constant humidity (around 65%) and a minimum temperature around 20°C. Ventilation and misting is automatically controlled to achieve ideal growing conditions.

In the centre is a 12m wide, 1.5m deep heated pool for tropical aquatic fish and plant life. Three port holes provide opportunity to see fish swimming underwater. Here waterlilies and the impressive giant waterlily (*Victoria amazonica*) can be seen when in flower.

Location

Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens,
Toowong, Brisbane, Qld.

