

Why Crommelin?

The Arboretum is named after Miss Minard Fannie Crommelin MBE who lived in Pearl Beach for 30 years prior to her death in 1972 at the age of 90.

Minnard Crommelin first came to Pearl Beach with her friend Charles Pryce in a small cedar sailing boat about 1910 and of this visit she wrote:



"The beach is so beautiful – with a great number of Cabbage Tree Palms growing along the little creeks and up the valleys and hillsides. There were many shells, little rock warblers hung their nests from the roof of caves under Mount Ettalong..."

Minard Crommelin developed a lifelong interest in botany and natural history and was an avid conservationist well before this concept was popular. She worked tirelessly for the establishment of Warrah Sanctuary, which later became part of Brisbane Water National Park. As a result Miss Crommelin was largely responsible for the preservation of the bushland that surrounds Pearl Beach.

Her property at Pearl Beach, which is near the Arboretum, was given by deed of gift to the University of Sydney and is now the Crommelin Biological Research Station.

The name Crommelin Native Arboretum was gazetted by the Geographical Names Board on 15 May 1978.

The Aims of the Crommelin Native Arboretum

To maintain and develop this natural bushland area by extending the planting of indigenous species, and by retaining some areas in their natural state as examples of the sandplain vegetation.

To provide for residents and visitors to Pearl Beach an area for quiet enjoyment and education about the natural flora and fauna.

To promote and encourage native plant conservation including planting of threatened species.

To plant koala trees so that koalas may be re-introduced with the guidance of our neighbour Sydney University.

Become a Member.

You can express your interest in this bushland area by becoming a member of the Arboretum. The membership form can be found on the website.

As a member you participate in the election of the Management Committee and can seek a position on it if you wish to be actively involved.

You can also join one of the monthly working bees and help with path maintenance, weed eradication, propagation and other tasks.

Some members offer additional financial support. Others simply have the interest of the Arboretum at heart, enthuse about it to their friends and enjoy it when they can.

It is hoped that all members will contribute in some way to the Arboretum.

There is a small annual membership fee.

Contact Crommelin Native Arboretum
pearlbeacharboretum@gmail.com

Arboretum Coming Events & Working Bees
<http://www.pearlbeachprogress.org.au/arboretum>



Crommelin Native Arboretum

A SPECIAL PLACE IN PEARL BEACH WE ALL ENJOY

The Arboretum is an area of 5.5 hectares, set aside by Gosford City Council in November 1976 at the request of the Pearl Beach Progress Association, for the development of a native botanic garden.

It has been developed and is maintained on a voluntary basis, by the members of the Arboretum, together with the help of many members of the Pearl Beach community and beyond.

Crommelin Native Arboretum Inc is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission ABN 79080936319.



The Beginnings of the Arboretum

By 1976, the Arboretum land had been ravaged for one hundred years by cattle grazing, cultivation, logging, floods and fire. One part, lot 216, had been intensively cleared and the other part, lot 215, while generally in its native state, showed evidence of settlement with a well and the remains of a dwelling built during the ownership of Rosina Gartners, 1933 - 1953. The area was infested with weeds and littered with old car chassis, galvanised iron tanks and other building waste.

In 1976 the Pearl Beach Progress Association proposed to the Gosford Council, which by then held title to the land, that: '...lots 215 and 216 be retained as a bushland setting and gradually transformed to a native botanic garden ... (it) could be cleaned up and some portions overplanted with indigenous species. Small trails could meander through this bushland and botanical species of interest be labelled...'

Gosford City Council agreed to the proposal. The Arboretum Committee was formed as a sub-committee of the Progress Association and this group of about 12 people set about the mammoth task of clearing weeds and rubbish, detailed planning and bridging the creeks and wetlands to form walking trails.

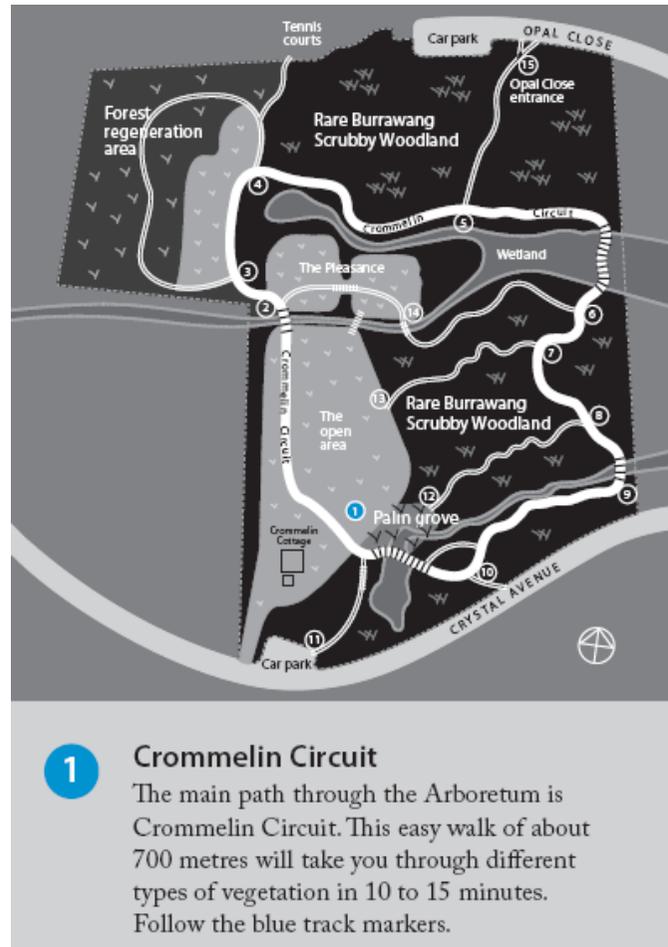
In addition to its work in developing the Arboretum, the Committee raised funds to meet the cost of equipment and plants.

The Arboretum was the beneficiary of bequests by Mary Hartvel and Carl Hartvel in 1988 and 1989. Income from these bequests has been used to install direction signs, construct the shelter, equipment storage sheds and shade house as well as replace the bridge and walkway installations destroyed by the devastating bushfire in December 1990.

The Committee was incorporated as a separate entity under the Associations Incorporation Act in 1988. Crommelin Native Arboretum Incorporated is an association with its own members who elect annually a management committee to control and manage the affairs of the Arboretum. This Committee has authority under a licence agreement with Gosford City Council to manage the Council - owned land.

One hectare of land, part of lot 217 was added to the Arboretum in 2003. This previously cleared and farmed land has been regenerated by the Committee and members of the Arboretum.

Walking Paths



Weddings



<http://www.pearlbeachprogress.org.au/weddings>

Vegetation and Natural Systems

The Arboretum is mainly open forest. Three tree types are dominant and form an association of Sydney Red Gum (*Angophora costata*), Red Bloodwood (*Corymbia gummifera*) and Sydney Peppermint (*Eucalyptus piperita*). Along the wet gullies Black Ironbark (*Eucalyptus paniculata*) and Rough - Barked Apple (*Angophora floribunda*) also occur.

The second canopy layer normally comprises Forest Oak (*Allocasuarina torulosa*), Banksia (*Banksia serrata*) and Woody Pear (*Xylomelum pyriforme*) while the understorey layer consists of shrubs that evolved for dry conditions.

The open forest includes a significant stand of the rare and endangered Burrawang Scrubby Woodland ecological community. The Burrawang (*Macrozamia communis*) is common and two major stands of the Grass Tree (*Xanthorrhoea arborea*) occur. The open forest is similar to the Red Gum forest in Wyrabalong National Park. The Red Gums have an association with the Burrawangs in which the latter fix gaseous nitrogen in the soil so the former can grow in soils which have very low nutrients.

Two creeks dissect the Arboretum. The northern one contains an extensive area of wetland scrubland with some excellent examples of Cabbage Tree Palm (*Livistona australis*) and Tea Tree (*Leptospermum polygalifolium*). Cabbage Tree Palms and some wet edge rainforest species such as Scentless Rosewood (*Synoum glandulosum*), Blueberry Ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*) and Cheese Tree (*Glochidion ferdinandi*) surround the southern creek.

Soils

The soil is a deep grey sandy alluvium, through which the water drains very quickly and is typically found over the Pearl Beach valley floor. The soils are very low in nutrients and minerals.