

Garden Charter

Purpose

The purpose of the Garden Charter is to:

- Document the *LVA*'s vision for the *Gardens*,
- Guide the ongoing maintenance, creation and preservation of a unique public garden environment in the Leura town centre in particular, and the Upper Blue Blue Mountains generally,
- Protect the integrity of the *Gardens* in the Leura village centre by clearly defining the objectives for them,
- Record the heritage of the *Gardens* as part of the broader heritage of the village,
- Assist the promotion of the *Gardens* as a tourist destination by providing detailed information on its heritage and horticultural values,
- Provide a canvas for events such as the Fair, Harvest Fest, Scarecrow competition and Christmas celebrations,
- Support the businesses that operate within the village by attracting visitors,
- Recognise the important role the *LVA* has played over many decades, and continues to play.

Preamble

The *Gardens* were, and are created and maintained under the direction of the *LVA* to support and enhance the Blue Mountains 'Garden Village' as a place of horticultural excellence, beauty and inspiration. It is intended that the commercial precinct of the Mall be a destination in its own right for visitors, and a place of pride and joy for residents.

It is also a site of heritage interest, and of importance to First Nation peoples, both of which are to be reflected in how the *Gardens* are maintained and presented.

Horticultural Objectives

The guiding principles of the streetscaping and its maintenance include:

- Creating four seasons of colour, texture, abundance and beauty,
- Planting diverse combinations of material that showcase popular cool climate trees and plants of historic Leura gardens as well as new cultivars from top breeders,
- Incorporating native flora and cultivars, encompassing those that are local to the area,

Garden Charter

- Educating by plantings that are appropriate to the conditions of light, temperature, water, soil and wind in their specific location,
- Removing noxious or invasive weed species,
- Implementing best practice regular maintenance including seasonal timeliness in pruning, feeding and weeding to ensure the health and high performance of plants.
- Integrating the maintenance and design to support the various festivals and other activities promoted by the *LVA* in the village precinct.
- Maintaining the integrity of the space to optimise the horticultural experience,
- Creating an ambience that encourages residents and visitors to use the Mall as a place of relaxation and enjoyment, and be reflective of Leura village life.

Implementation

This will be achieved by:

- Integrating the maintenance and design to support the various festivals and other activities promoted by the *LVA* in the village precinct.
- Contracting the services of the *LVA Gardener*,
- Facilitating *Volunteer* gardeners,
- Working in partnership with the *BMCC* under the *BMCC/LVA Cooperation Agreement*.
- Recording the history of the *Gardens* to ensure that its heritage and past is not lost.