

Alexandra Gardens Lake Walk













First established in 1863, the Alexandra Gardens is an oasis in the heart of the city of Ararat. With an ornamental lake, expansive lawns and large shade trees, it is the perfect place to enjoy a picnic, take a stroll or just relax. For those looking for something more active, the walking path encircling the lake is ideal. Other features to explore include the fernery, the glasshouse, the Asian Island and the herb garden.



Track features

Distance 800 metres
Time taken to complete walk around Alexandra Lake 15 minutes
Accessibility easy

Map legend

-  Picnic table
-  Toilets
-  Drinking fountain
-  Park bench
-  Tree
-  Shelter
-  Water body
-  Garden bed
-  Major pathway
-  Minor pathway

'What I like about the walking track is its central location — the heart of Ararat, and quite a historical heart, being there for many years.'

'When I was a young fella this is the place where we all swam and played up with mates and the girls. The old change rooms were there by the lake, where we could change and then enjoy a swim in the summer. It was a great day out.'

'We walk for the exercise, but we also meet for the company. The lake is our meeting spot.'

'The seating is much appreciated. If I complete one lap, I can have a sit, recover, then I can tackle a second lap and maybe a third.'

'There is always something different to see, always people at the Gardens. The trees, the flowers, the seasons change, the colours change and there is always something new and different, something of interest to discuss.'

A joint partnership between



Ararat Rural City



East Grampians
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About Alexandra Gardens

- Land allocated for a botanical gardens in 1860.
- Early planning and plants supplied by Baron Ferdinand Von Mueller of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens.
- Early work done by prisoners of the Ararat Gaol under the supervision of the Governor of the Gaol.
- The bulk of the development work began in 1901 with Hugh Linaker as the curator.
- The Alexandra Gardens consist of a large ornamental lake surrounded with expansive lawns, large shade trees, with features including the fernery, children's playground, display glasshouse, picnic / barbecue facilities, Asian island, Australian Native garden, herb garden, and many more.

Fernery

- Was the largest in the state at the time of development in 1912.
- All rocks and soil brought in by bullock wagons.

Playground

- New playground equipment installed in 2003.
- Includes some access to all equipment.

Glasshouse

- Donated by Rotary in 1980 to commemorate '50 years of Rotary in Ararat'.
- Cymbidium orchid display July to November.

Barbecues

- Two free electric barbecues.
- Another barbecue proposed to be installed near the rotunda in the west end.

Asian island

- Developed with oriental plants to emphasise our 'sister city' relationship with Taishan, China.

Australian native garden

- Developed by Council in conjunction with the Grampians Group of the Australian Plant Society.

Herb garden

- Developed on the site of the old glasshouse.
- Planted up by the Victorian Herb Society.

Photo captions

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| 1 | Newly completed fernery and rose arbour over path. | 4 | Early photo of Alexandra Gardens. |
| 2 | Entrance to Alexandra Gardens. | 5 | Construction of fernery circa 1910. |
| 3 | View across gardens to Vincent Street. | 6 | Bullock wagons bringing rocks and soil for fernery circa 1910. |



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