

Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers September 2005

In spite of the drought conditions and severe water restrictions, Toowoomba gardens still managed to put on a bright and colourful show for our Trust group's visit in September.

With warm, sunny weather promised, we set off from Roma Street with expectations of a very pleasant day.... And we were not disappointed. Our morning tea stop at a pretty park in Gatton was welcome and refueled us for the climb up the range to Toowoomba.

Once there, our first stop was at Queen's Park and we marvelled at the dedication of all involved in planning and tending such a wonderful display of pansies, tulips, iris, petunias, snapdragons, stocks and many other varieties of annuals. After a stroll through the gardens we headed for Picnic Point for lunch, passing some beautiful private gardens on the way. After our usual, very tasty, picnic lunch, our driver took us on a tour of some of the prize-winning gardens – at one of which the owners had a variety of potted plants for sale.

The last – and best – garden we visited was truly magnificent. Covering several acres and set on the edge of the range, with views of the farmlands below, it was not only a flower garden but included many fruit trees and a vegetable patch. Because the ground sloped, terraces, walls and paths had been incorporated in the design, together with mosaics, some striking statuary and two very elegant water features. The owners had also found room for a pool. Altogether, it was a delight to the eye and the senses and sent many of us home with resolutions to smarten up our own little patch of suburbia.

Thanks again to Valerie May for organising another such enjoyable day. I, for one, am looking forward to our last trip for the year – to Coochin Coochin, on Friday, 11th November. See you then.....

June James