Sydney Ashram Gardens

There has been great seva (selfless service) done in the Sydney Siddha Yoga Ashram Gardens. The ashram is blessed with having such a spacious and delightful garden surrounding the ashram in a city as large as Sydney. It is the heart and lungs of the community. A small, yet dedicated, garden team has spent much time nurturing and feeding the garden, pruning, and planting. They have renovated and beautified the fountain and planted a circle of shrubs to make it the focal point of the front garden. It is a haven for those living in the Ashram; for those taking retreats and intensives to sit in during breaks; and for Swamis to practice their flutes and do their yoga. And for the lorikeets, magpies, currawongs and wattle birds to enjoy and who use the fountain on hot days to bathe in and fly through the spray. One wattle bird always sits in the trees above where the garden team works overseeing what they are doing. The vision for the garden is to create it not only for those presently at the Ashram, but for future generations - to create a green and sacred compound for all who enter the grounds.

The garden consists of original trees and shrubs, many decades old, as well as recent plantings. We have Australian natives, which the birds love, as well as plants from many countries of the world. India features in our perfumed white ginger (*Hedychium coronarium*), *Azalea indica* and the *Murraya exotica*. We have botanical specimens from Brazil (*Jacandra*); China (*Buddleia, Camellia, Gardenia, Gordonia, Hydrangea, Jasminum* [sacred jasmine], *Lagerstroemia* [pride of India], *Michelia* [port wine magnolia], *Trachelospermum jasminoides* [Chinese star jasmine], *Wisteria*); Guatemala (*Rondeletia amoena*); Japan (*Acer* [maple], *Buxus* [box hedges], *Magnolia stellata* [star magnolia]; Mexico (*Brugmansia, Salvia leucantha* [Mexican sage]; South Africa (*Agapanthus, Plumbago*); South America (*Hymeocallis littoralis* [spider lily], *Lassiandra*); and the United States of America (*Magnolia grandiflora* [bull bay magnolia]).