

# MCCNSW Carpaccino's: Nurragingy Reserve, Doonside

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025

This mid week drive was to Nurragingy Reserve, within Blacktown's Municipal Council. It's a 63 hectare bushland park located in Doonside. In the grounds there are great facilities including the Chang Lai Yuan Chinese Gardens, the Aboriginal Heritage Garden and the Miniature Railway.

The day was over-cast but not raining which was a relief after the recent weather event in south east Qld and northern NSW. About 20 MCC members met at Colebee's Café, a cute caravan on the reserve that supplied coffee, juices, burgers, wraps, ice-creams and snacks. We sat under a large gazebo on tables which allowed members to easily move around and catch up with people.

A number of the attendees also took time out to walk around the Chinese gardens. These gardens had a very impressive Chinese pavilion, gazebo and water fall within it. It was designed and built cooperatively by the Blacktown City Council and Liaocheng Municipal Government in China, as a symbolic gesture of friendship between the two sister cities.

An interesting fact: the garden was named the Chang Lai Yuan, which was derived by adopting one character from each of the names Dongchang, which is the former name of the City of Liaocheng and Blacktown when translated from Chinese (Bu Lai Ke Cheng). Yuan is the Chinese translation for 'garden'. The architectural style of the structures within the garden is based on the Ming Dynasty and Qing Dynasty in China and features a Gateway, Seven Arch Stone Bridge, Light Mountain Pavillion and a Waterfall Gazebo.

The event finished just after lunch after which people left to go home. A great venue to catch up with people many hadn't been to before.

