

Secret Garden aids research

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When Perth's secret garden was opened to the Scott Kirkbride Medical Research Centre (SKMRC) for a very special fundraising event, guests discovered surprises around every fragrant corner.

The stunning garden, which is actually a series of artfully designed landscapes, is the pride and joy of former Miss Universe Tania Young. It's also a closely guarded secret, with no video, cameras or mobile phones allowed.

The tranquil green spaces, which deceive the eye while stretching over several Dalkeith blocks, have been a labour of love since 1969 and include statues and water features collected by Tania during overseas expeditions.

The gardens range from companion planted vegetable beds to sculpted English courtyards defined by hedges. In pretty nooks and crannies the scent of climbing roses and jasmine fills the air. On one side of the Youngs' home is a tropical paradise where bell shaped flowers dangle from the trees and dolls in Thai spirit houses gaze serenely out at the greenery.

The garden party raised much needed funds for melanoma research and was organised by Vonnie Kirkbride, whose son Scott died from melanoma cancer at 27 years of age.

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