

A new section of the Singapore Botanic Gardens opened yesterday after 2½ years of work costing \$30 million. **ADELINE TAN** toured the 10ha area that features more than 700 species of plants, trees and flowers and over 200 species of fauna such as birds, amphibians and insects.



Buluh Betung

3 BAMBUSETUM

This site houses 30 species of bamboo found all over Asia. Some, like the Buluh Betung, can grow up to 10-storeys high.

Another feature is the Timor black bamboo, which has dark green stems that age to purplish-black.



1 SPH WALK OF GIANTS

Co-funded by the Singapore Press Holdings to the tune of \$1.2 million, it is an elevated boardwalk 8m high that showcases a collection of trees, most of which can grow up to at least 60m.

Visitors can lie down on a canopy web, a net built around two tembusu trees, and enjoy the experience of being up in a tree. The area is open from 7am to 7pm.



Penarahan Gajah Tree

4 WILD FRUIT TREES ARBORETUM

It houses over 50 species of wild fruit trees, including the close cousins of some common fruits we consume, such as the rambutan.



2 KEPPEL DISCOVERY WETLANDS

Key features are the Orchid Islands, the Botanists' Boardwalk and the Pulai Marsh.

The Orchid Islands is the first opportunity to showcase native swamp forests in their natural habitat. The area includes species of orchids such as the tiger orchid and the critically endangered nun's orchid.

Along the Botanists' Boardwalk is a plant named after Mr Nathaniel Cantley, who championed the creation of forest reserves in Singapore. The critically endangered Cantley's Memecylon, a tree species that produces blue and white flowers, was named after him.

The Pulai Marsh is a freshwater swamp habitat that houses the critically endangered pulai basong tree. The area is open from 7am to 7pm.