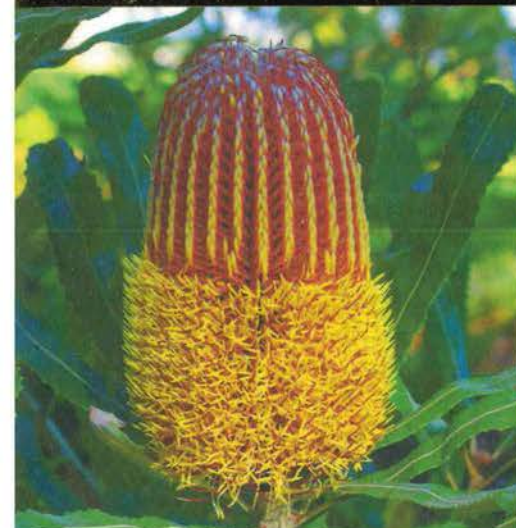
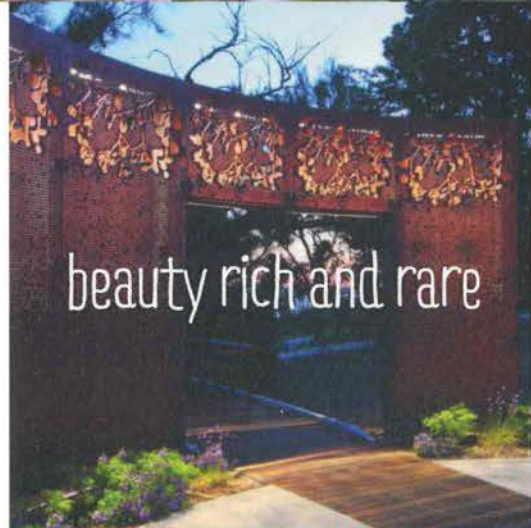
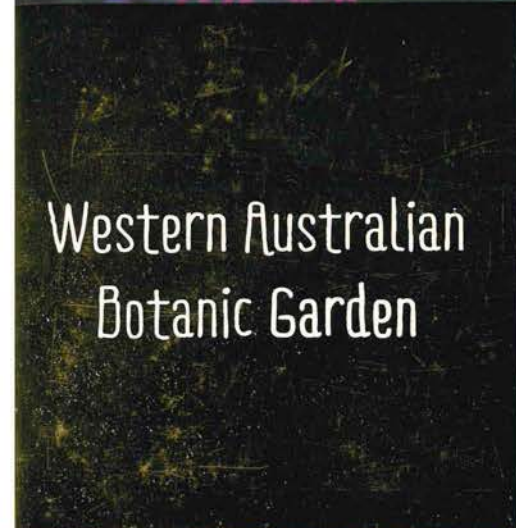
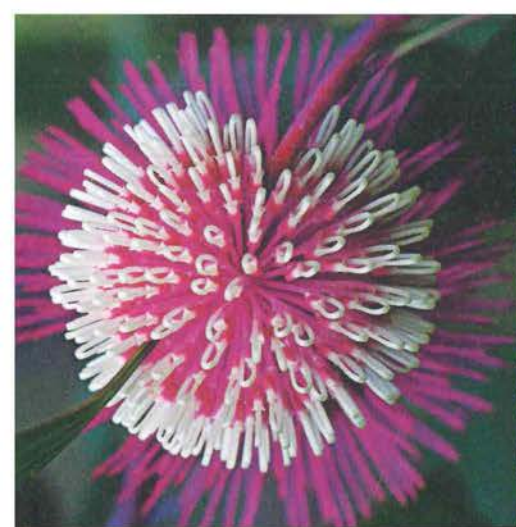


LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Kings Park and Botanic Garden

Welcome to Country: Wanju Wanju

Noonuck Jinnung Wadjuk Boodja
(You are looking at Wadjuk Country)

Welcome to Kaarta Koomba, also known to Aboriginal
Wadjuk people as Kaarta Gar-up and Mooro Kaarta.

For many thousands of years, this has been an
important Dreamtime place for Aboriginal people.

Maaman Jinnung Noonuck.
(May the good spirit watch over you.)

Dr Richard Walley
Nyooongar statesman and artist



Foreword

The Western Australian Botanic Garden is the world's most comprehensive display of our State's abundant, rare and uniquely beautiful plant life.

Its living collection is devoted to our spectacular native flora and tells stories of the fascinating natural and cultural history of Western Australia, from modern science to the traditional understanding of Aboriginal people.

Opened by then Premier Sir David Brand on 4 October 1965, the Botanic Garden has grown to become an iconic cultural and scientific institution, in a spectacular position overlooking the city and home to more than a quarter of all Western Australian plant species.

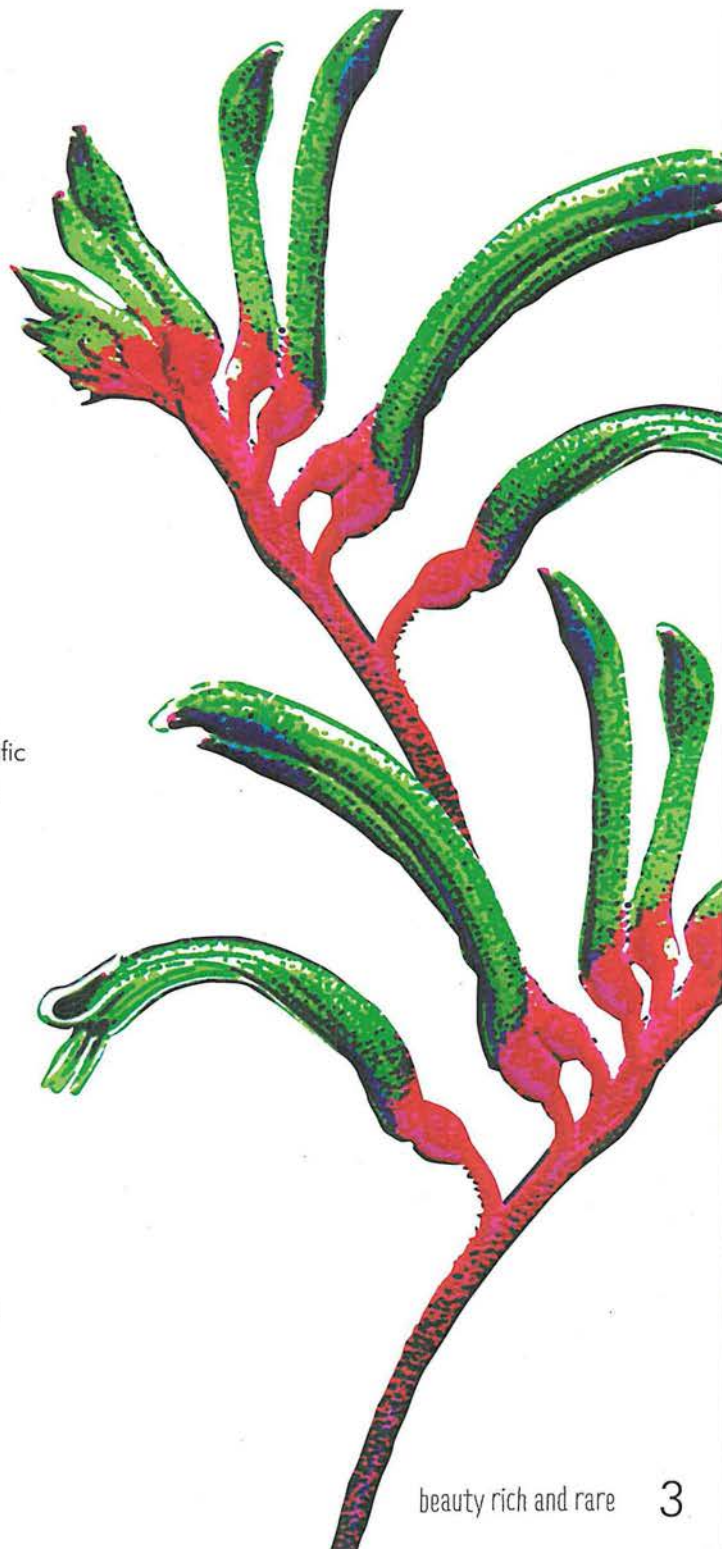
The immaculate and carefully curated Western Australian Botanic Garden is the pride of our much-loved Kings Park and a true testament to the passion and dedication of Park staff, volunteers and supporters.

It is a special place to grow, conserve, study, display and enjoy the plants of our State.

Congratulations on the success of the 50th anniversary of the Western Australian Botanic Garden in 2015.

The Hon Colin Barnett MLA

Premier of Western Australia; Minister for State Development; Science



Message from the Minister for Environment

The Western Australian Botanic Garden is exceptional with its unique collection of Western Australian flora, its standard of presentation and outstanding contribution to scientific knowledge.

The positive impact of the Botanic Garden extends far beyond the boundaries of Kings Park. Scientific discoveries made here have shaped conservation practices across Western Australia and around the world. Notable examples include the role of smoke in germinating native seeds, major advances in large-scale land restoration, unravelling the complexity of orchid conservation and the discovery of many native plant species.

Together, these achievements set an exciting course for the next 50 years and beyond – for Kings Park and the Botanic Garden and also for the conservation of native flora generally. I warmly congratulate the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority on this milestone and extend my sincere appreciation for the dedication of its Board, staff, volunteers and many community supporters.

The Hon Albert Jacob MLA
Minister for Environment; Heritage



Anniversery Gold Kangaroo Paw

This golden variety of the State's floral emblem was released by Kings Park Plant Development to celebrate our anniversary. Spectacular displays of Anniversery Gold were on view in spring 2015 and released for sale to the commercial market.



A shared purpose

A consistent vision has endured for half a century and is behind the extraordinary success of the Western Australian Botanic Garden.

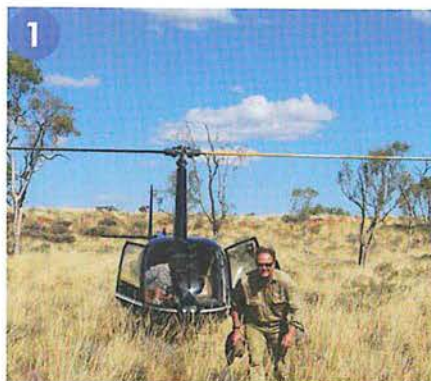
It is built on a culture of integrity and consistency that is shared across specialist staff who develop and cultivate WA flora, in the training of future generations through our traineeship program, through Kings Park Education programs, research priorities, plant development, volunteers and our engagement with the community.

'Our team is united in its understanding that we are all about Western Australian flora. We have a clear, shared purpose that has remained steadfast.'

Grady Brand, Senior Curator
Kings Park and Botanic Garden

The four pillars underlying this singular purpose have remained consistent over the Botanic Garden's history:

- 1 Seed collection
- 2 Botany
- 3 Nursery
- 4 Living collections



Expeditions to far-flung corners of the State collect seed and plant specimens for the working seed bank and nursery in Kings Park.



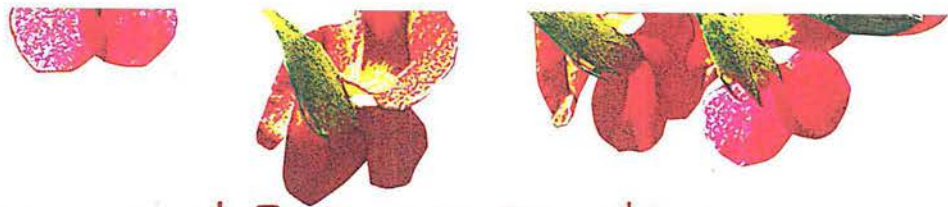
Our staff botanist identifies and verifies the scientific names of all specimens to maintain the integrity of the collections.



The nursery specialises in propagating WA native plants. Over 50 years of horticultural expertise enable the cultivation of a wide range of species.



Art and science collide in the living collections displayed in the botanic garden, with layers of scientific, cultural, educational and historical meaning.



Botanic Terraces and Botanic Pavilion

A lasting legacy of our anniversary celebrations, the Botanic Terraces and Botanic Pavilion, was unveiled on 4 October 2015 by WA Environment Minister Albert Jacob – exactly fifty years since the WA Botanic Garden was first opened in 1965.

Inspired by Western Australian plant life and its impact on people across history, a cascading walkway and striking pavilion were designed to celebrate the endemic flora of WA and the intimate connections between people and plants.

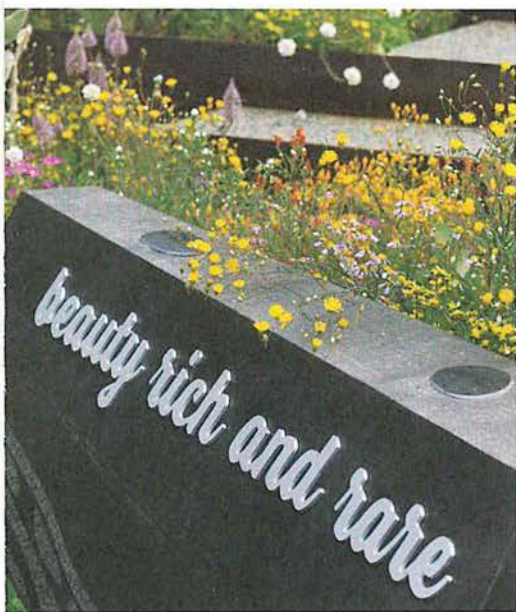
The contributions of people from all walks of life to our understanding of WA flora are celebrated in artworks embedded into the design, using well-known phrases from Australian poetry and prose, natural materials and Nyoongar artwork to create a strong sense of place.

The surrounding garden beds feature the flora of the Mallee, Mulga and Desert.

Two hundred guests attended a garden party to mark the occasion. The project was made possible by the Friends of Kings Park with the support of Lotterywest.



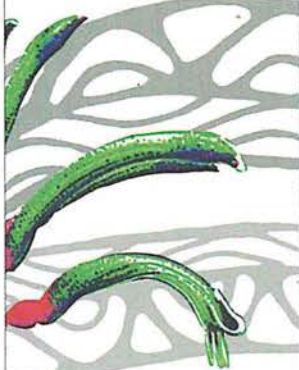
'Floristas' at the launch with (L-R) CEO Mark Webb, Lotterywest board member Andrea Hall, Minister Albert Jacob and Friends of Kings Park president Bob Bunney.



Botanic Terraces and Botanic Pavilion

This project is an initiative of the Friends of Kings Park in partnership with the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, supported by Lotterywest. It marks the 50th anniversary of the Western Australian Botanic Garden.

Landscape Architects: Plan E
Artists: Richard Walley; Anne Neil and Steve Tepper



Exploring WA's Unique Flora

People have been inspired to explore WA flora throughout history. From the day-to-day survival and spiritual lives of Nyoongar people to the exploration of this 'other-worldly' place by early European settlers, this land has always been a source of fascination.

It has intrigued botanists from around the world; challenged horticulturists; inspired artists and writers; and ignited the passions of environmental enthusiasts and scientists.

Rica Erickson Ferdinand Bauer
Mokare Robert Brown
Celia Rosser John Beard Ernest Giles
William Dampier John Forrest
James Drummond
Marian Ellis Rowan Kabinger
Charles Gardner
Georgiana Molloy
Max Koch



Western Australian Flora

Western Australia has almost half of Australia's 25,000 plant species and two thirds of these do not occur naturally anywhere else on Earth. The South West is recognised as Australia's only global biodiversity hotspot.



Snapshots of Western Australia

Western Australia covers 2.5 million square kilometres and is home to half Australia's 25,000 plant species. Three thousand of these are on display in the WA Botanic Garden.

We make sense of the overwhelming ecological diversity and sheer size of our State by grouping plants together in the WA Botanic Garden to represent the varied regions of Western Australia, such as the Wheatbelt, Goldfields, Stirling Ranges, Rottneest and Garden Islands, the Kimberley, Mulga, Southern Coast and Darling Ranges.

Other beds are dedicated to key genera such as *Verticordia*, *Boronia*, *Grevillea* and *Hakea*, Waxes and Kangaroo Paws and *Eucalyptus*.

Thematic planting has been a consistent feature of the WA Botanic Garden since its inception.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BOTANIC GARDEN

Beauty Rich and Rare

South West Region

Diversity at its Greatest

A botanist's delight, the South West of Western Australia is famous for its unique biodiversity.

One of only 35 global biodiversity hotspots on the planet, and the only one in Australia, the South West region is of world conservation concern.

Home to a dazzling floral array, this region has almost a third of Australia's 25,000 plant species, most of which are found nowhere else on Earth.

Kings, Chionochloa, Muehlenbergia, Dampiera, Cephalanthus, Banksia, Pterocarya, Conostylis, Argemone, Myrica, Hakea, Pisonia, Grevillea, Verticordia, Nardoo, Kunzea

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BOTANIC GARDEN

Sunburnt Country

Mulga Region

Droughts and Flooding Rains

Stretching from the coast to the desert, the arid Mulga region is home to tough woody shrubs like the Mulga Wattle.

After good Winter rains the area comes to life with carpets of wildflowers in late Winter and early Spring.

Sorghum, Spinifex, Mulla, Mulla, Zebra Finch, Mulga Snake, Pink Foxglove, Eremophila, Wattle, Lantana, Western Red Kangaroo, red dot, Golden Oribate

Nature's Gifts

Kimberley and Pilbara Regions

Ancient and Alluring

The vast Pilbara and Kimberley regions offer breathtaking scenery, spectacular sunsets, vivid colours, ancient rock art, red rock gorges, termite mounds, tranquil billabongs and a mix of flora and fauna adapted to these regions' varied habitats.

Boab, Ghost Gum, Filled-neck Lizard, Gouldian Finch, Pindar Wattle, Mitchell Plateau, Barramundi

I Love Her Far Horizons

Desert Region

Nature's Colour Palette

Red sand, big skies, starry nights, ephemeral lakes, awesome landscape, carpets of colour and ancient landforms have inspired explorers, naturalists and artists to capture the beauty of this flora-rich landscape.

A surprising feature of Australia's desert regions is their tremendous capacity to erupt into colour following good rains.

Everlastings, Acacia, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Mulga, Spinifex, Sturt Desert Pear, Budgerigars, Ghost Gum, Grass-tree, Bilby, Thorny Devil

Our Land Abounds

Mallee Region

A Haven for Wildlife

Mallee Eucalypts, Gimlets, Saltbush, reptiles, jewel beetles and parrots live in the vast Mallee region surrounded by the Eucalypt woodland of the Goldfields and the Wheatbelt regions.

Nectar-laden blossom and oil rich Eucalypts perfume the landscape, attracting rich birdlife to this biodiverse haven.

Mallee roots, saltbushes, Salmon Gums, ephemeral lakes, harsh summers, rocky outcrops, sweeping heath, dust storms, summer thunderstorms, low rainfall

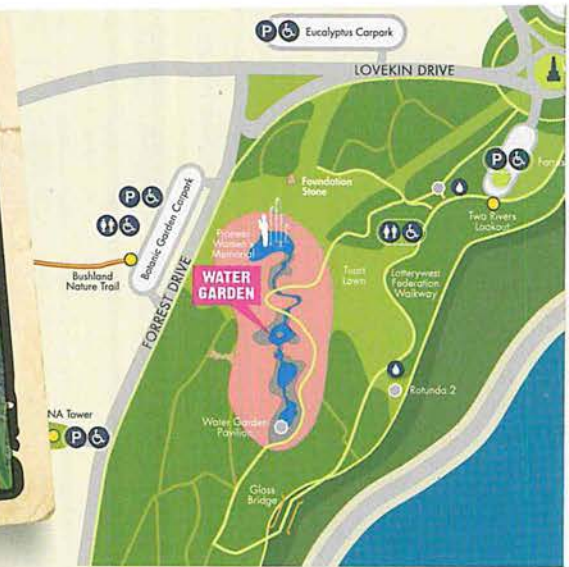


ANNIVERSARY ADVENTURES

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the WA Botanic Garden in 2015, a new 'Anniversary Adventure' was published each month. These self-guided walks encourage visitors to explore different areas of the WA Botanic Garden and discover its best kept secrets.

Each was chosen for its botanical, artistic, historical and aesthetic qualities and timed to be looking its seasonal best. The adventures ranged from brief 15-minute strolls to hour-long expeditions, and allowed visitors to enhance their experience of Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

Here we have featured five Anniversary Adventures as well as a Tour of Trees – to showcase Kings Park's most unusual, beautiful and significant trees.



The beauty of nature: a feminine touch

Journey to the heart of the Western Australian Botanic Garden to explore the cool oasis of the Pioneer Women's Memorial and the Water Garden.

The most striking artwork that greets you as you enter the precinct is the lady in the lake, holding a small child. This sculpture was created by acclaimed local artist Margaret Priest and commemorates the pioneer women of Western Australia. It symbolises their courage, strength and tenderness – mother and child making their way through the wilderness (the fountains) towards their future. You may notice that the woman does not directly face the entrance point of the area – this was to symbolise a mark of modesty.

As you make your way downhill towards the Water Garden, the rolling lawn gives way to a celebration of the contribution of Western Australian women to society.

Art and nature form graceful partners in this green and tranquil spot, which makes an inspiring yet restful part of your botanic garden experience.

Featuring artworks created by Western Australian women, the Water Garden encompasses a granite landscape that portrays a Darling Range waterway.

Artists Coral Lowry and Holly Story provide more beautiful artwork to explore as you follow the quiet paths around the Water Garden. Their works signify life, strength of heart, renewal and leadership.

The artwork also acknowledges the traditional value of this area to Aboriginal women.

The water garden was officially opened in 1968 and refurbished in 1999.

Things to do and find

- Learn about the life cycle of the motorbike frog as you walk through the Water Garden.
- Listen to the rush of water, watch the dragonflies and search for tadpoles or frogs.
- Follow the brass plaques embedded in the paths, which celebrate the many women's organisations that have made significant contributions in Western Australia.
- Take a seat in the Water Garden Pavilion, enjoy the surroundings and take a moment to reflect on the role of women in our community and your own life – past, present and future.



Tall Treasures

Dive into the Western Australian Botanic Garden on an Anniversary Adventure and discover its best kept secrets.

Our journey begins at the WA Botanic Garden entry, framed by a cluster of Silver Princess trees (*Eucalyptus caesia*). Known for their metallic, powdery branches and vibrant pink blooms, the Silver Princess is pollinated by birds and hails from granite outcrops in WA's harsh Wheatbelt. It is uncommon in the wild.

Moving along, you'll be instantly taken with the Giant Boab (*Adansonia gregorii*) near the Forrest Carpark – a bulb-shaped beauty painstakingly transported from the alluvial plains of the East Kimberley in 2008. A generous gift from the area's Gija people, the tree is more than

750 years old and would have been traditionally used as a source of food and medicine. Nearby, you'll spot the Kingsmill's Mallee (*Eucalyptus kingsmillii*) and Large-fruited Mallee (*Eucalyptus youngiana*).

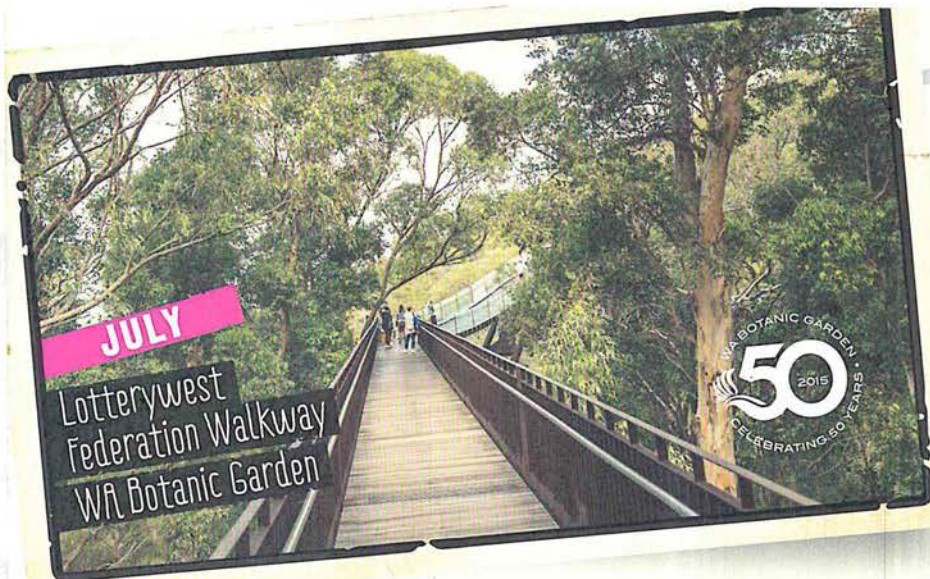
The Tuarts, found at Tuart Lawn, are the tallest trees on the Swan Coastal Plain. Venturing onto the Lotterywest Federation Walkway, spot the majestic Karri trees (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*) – some of the tallest flowering trees on Earth. Native to WA's South West region, Karri trees commonly grow 60 metres tall and can stretch up to 90 metres high.

Turn left to Roe Gardens, where you'll find Rose Mallee (*Eucalyptus rhodantha*), Pear-fruited Mallee (*Eucalyptus pyriformis*) and the striking Mottlecak (*Eucalyptus macrocarpa*). Boasting the biggest blooms of any eucalypt, the Mottlecak is native to the State's sandplains and is loved for its large waxy leaves and silvery fruits.

Make your way back toward the WA Botanic Garden entry, through the shady Marri grove and admire these majestic gums with their large fruits known as honkey nuts. Marri trees (*Corymbia calophylla*) are traditionally known as medicine trees for the healing and antiseptic qualities of their gum and leaves.

The Acacia Steps is your next stop, where nearby you will see an unusual semi-parasitic tree. The WA Christmas Tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*), so named because it flowers in early summer and has clusters of vibrant orange blooms, gets some of its nourishment from the roots of other plants.

Descend the Acacia Steps to reach the Water Garden where you will find a grove of Dwellingup Mallee (*Eucalyptus drummondii* x *rudis* – formerly *Eucalyptus graniticola*).



Lotterywest Federation Walkway

Quite often the beauty and significance of an area is understood once you can see things from a distance. This Anniversary Adventure takes you on a journey through the treetops and along the Lotterywest Federation Walkway.

Starting south of the Forrest Roundabout, spend a moment appreciating the marble mosaic in the path. This is your starting point and features two young Tuart leaves (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*). As you take the journey, you may notice the cast iron inlays in the footpath, signifying the converging of two cultures, the Indigenous and the European.

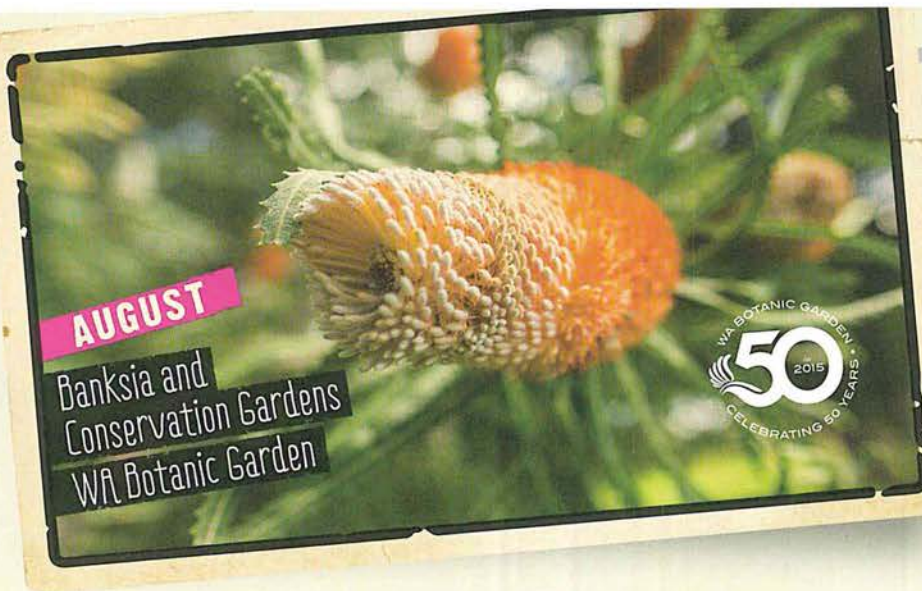
Follow the pathway towards the mighty Boob Tree (*Gija Jumulu*), taking a moment to enjoy the emerging wildflowers from the Mulga, Desert and Kimberley regions on display. Once you have been amazed by the Boob and the stunning views from the Two Rivers Lookout, follow the path past the Conservation, Boronia and Verticordia Gardens. You will soon become immersed in the serenity of the Western Australian Botanic Garden.

Follow the path and you will arrive at the Mount Eliza lookout, which offers stunning views of the Swan River and Perth city.

Moving along, you will reach the entry to the elevated section of the Walkway, where the steel mesh surface allows you to see the world beneath your feet as you progress towards the peak.

The crest of the bridge is an ideal viewing point and photo opportunity. This is a great time to pause for a few moments to listen for birds and try to spot them in the treetops.

Once you have taken the time to soak in all that the Walkway has to offer, make the descent and follow the pathway towards Beedawong, a Nyoongar meeting place. Your journey has now come to an end and you are in the heart of the Western Australian Botanic Garden.



Banksia and Conservation Gardens

On this Anniversary Adventure you will wander through two star attractions of the Western Australian Botanic Garden: the Conservation Garden, harbouring Western Australia's most endangered flora, and the blooming beautiful Banksia Garden.

Conservation conversation

Start at the entrance to the Conservation Garden near the Forrest Roundabout and follow the pathway that leads toward the Wildflower Pavilion. The meandering pathways will lead you past threatened flora from WA's South West right to the northern tip of the Kimberley region, grouped according to habitat type. Read stories about these plants' struggle for survival along the way.

As you walk through this rare collection, you will arrive at the Wildflower Pavilion. In a former life, the Wildflower Pavilion was home to the original Botanic Garden office which was built in a quintessentially 1960s design. To preserve its architectural legacy, it was transformed into an open pavilion and lifted into its current position in 2002. It was recently restored following major storm damage in 2014.

Continue though the pavilion to reach a display of flora which are all critically endangered. Some are close to extinction. Conserving them here will assist their survival.

On leaving the Conservation Garden, you will find yourself at the Banksia Garden.

Beautiful banksias

There are an astonishing 94 taxa of Banksia on display here, varying from ground covers through to small trees. You may be interested to know the Banksia Garden bed requires the least amount of water of any bed in the Western Australian Botanic Garden.

Within the Banksia Garden you will also come across the Scar Tree. This ancient Tuart has been registered with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, as it was traditionally 'scarred' by Nyoongar people in pre-colonial times to either mark significant places or obtain bark for shelter, tools and food. Take a moment to rest on the seats in the Banksia Garden and appreciate the view. These seats are made from milled Banksia from a tree that fell across a firebreak in Kings Park bushland. The Banksia Garden mosaics and seat were designed by local Artist Philippa O'Brien.



Western Australian Botanic Garden entry

Your journey begins outside Aspects of Kings Park at the mosaic artwork of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority logo, which includes local native plants. Created by Rudolf Verschoor and Jacqueline Pinnock, the artwork is one of a series designed by the pair at various locations including the Botanic Garden entry, the Nature Trail and at Synergy Parkland.

Moving along, stop by the show-stopping garden bed leading to the Floral Clock. Dubbed the 'floral mound', it is home to many of the State's floral jewels, showcasing decorative ornamental species from around Western Australia.

Next, you will arrive at the Floral Clock, a larger-than-life timepiece featuring native plants. Loved by generations of Western Australians, this is the third home of the Floral Clock and demonstrates the use of Australian plants in a cottage-style garden.

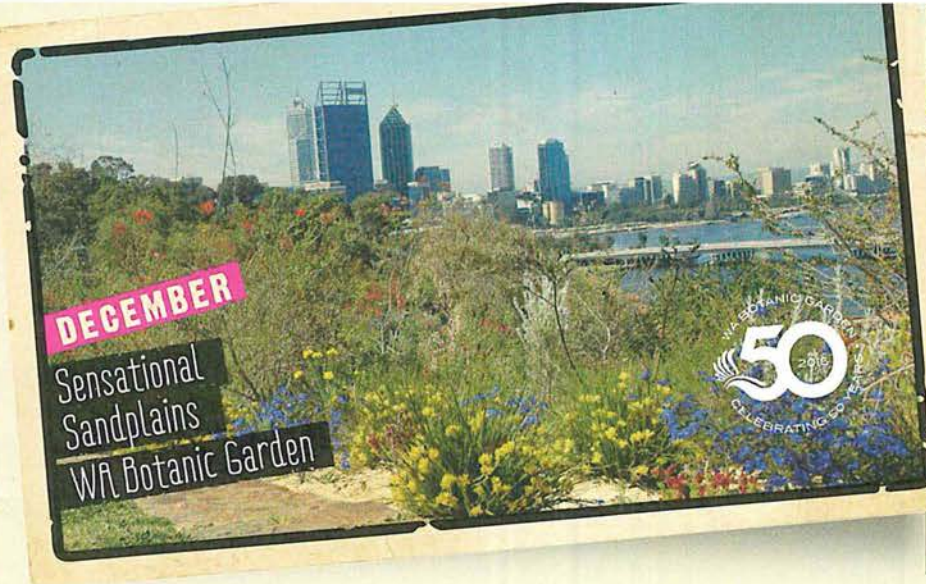
First unveiled in 1962, the Floral Clock was created with a bequest from Mr F. Wittenoom, a local pastoralist. Over the years it has evolved in style – from exotic plantings surrounding a replica Swiss chalet to its current design. It was moved to its final location in 2013.

Turn down the path to reach the official entry to the Western Australian Botanic Garden, draped in the weeping branches of a grove of Silver Princess (*Eucalyptus caesia*). This elegant eucalypt is rare in the wild – found only

on granite outcrops in WA's rugged Wheatbelt. Look for the Red and Green Kangaroo Paw mosaic at this location.

From here you can take a tour through the WA Botanic Garden. Short on time? Choose the 30-minute highlights walk which includes flora from the State's South West right up to the Kimberley region. It also includes the giant Boab tree (Gija Jumulu) and the rare and endangered plants of the Conservation Garden.

For an in-depth look, set off and explore 17 hectares of garden beds displaying WA plants in themed gardens such as the Banksia Garden and the flora from the Stirling Ranges. Along the way, you will see inspiring artwork, walk amongst the treetops and discover more about Aboriginal culture.



Sensational Sandplains

Our final Anniversary Adventure takes us through the WA Botanic Garden's beautiful sandplains displays. Beginning at Roe Gardens, your journey includes the Kwongan displays as well as the rugged Wheatbelt region. Along the way, look out for Kangaroo Paws in bloom and the largest flowering Eucalypt – the Mottlecah.

When the weather heats up, it's a common misconception that gardens become hot, dry and unwelcoming, destined to resemble a desert until the cooling rains of autumn. Not true. December is the perfect time to enjoy the Western Australian Botanic Garden's sensational sandplains!

Starting at Roe Gardens, next to the Place of Reflection, you will come across garden beds which display one of the most diverse ranges of Western Australian flora, showcasing the beauty from locations such as Mount Lesueur, recognised for its extensive biodiversity. You will notice the vegetation in the area comprises low, heath-like shrubs and herbaceous plants with few trees. This is representative of the typical Kwongan vegetation of Western Australia.

You may wish to meander through the garden beds, following the sandy pathways to immerse yourself in the sandplain experience. *Pileanthus* (Coppercups), *Conospermum* (Smokebush), *Verticordia* (Featherflowers), *Anigozanthos* (Kangaroo Paws), and the largest

flowering Eucalypt, *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* (Mottlecahs) are all on display in this part of the Western Australian Botanic Garden, even when the sun starts to beat down in the hottest part of the day.

Now follow the beds north along Forrest Drive and discover other sandplain flora that grows within the wider Wheatbelt region. As you come closer to the DNA Tower and the end of the Wheatbelt gardens, you can loop back around to experience the journey on the far side of the beds away from the roadside. Alternatively, from here you can visit the DNA tower, take time to view the Firefighters' Memorial, or stay in the Botanic Garden and cool down near the Pioneer Women's Memorial fountain.

In Review

An external review was commissioned in the lead up to the anniversary to examine whether the WA Botanic Garden had met its original guiding vision set in 1962. Most major objectives of the vision and first master plan were found to have been successfully achieved.

'The panel considers that the Western Australian Botanic Garden plays a vital role in Kings Park's standing as the most heavily visited single-point location in Western Australia, with visitation rising from 2 million to 6 million over the past two decades. The living collections are highly valued for visitor experiences, horticulture, education, science and conservation with the continued development of

the horticultural themes and current good maintenance of the collections ensuring ongoing appreciation. Both the formal education and informal learning provided are at international levels of quality and outcomes. Curriculum-based primary school environmental learning has grown strongly from 5,000 students per annum a decade ago to 20,000 now. The Science Directorate has an international

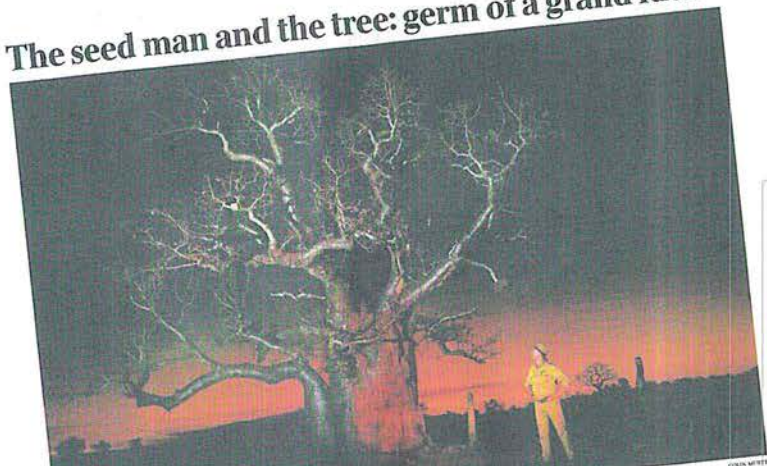
reputation as one of the leading botanic garden research groups, applying the integrated conservation framework to their research strategy, aiming to inform and help achieve biodiversity (mainly plant and fungal) conservation and restoration.'

Prof S Hopper AS FLS FTSE, Dr P Moors AO, and Mr Mark Richardson, Review of the WA Botanic Garden February 2013

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN, JUNE 20-21, 2015
theaustralian.com.au

THE NATION 7

The seed man and the tree: germ of a grand idea



Lake Sweredman, curator of the Seed Technology Centre at Perth's Kings Park, with a boab, measuring 12m in circumference, off the Gibb River Road in WA Kimberley region. JOHN MURPHY

EXCLUSIVE
VICTORIA LARSEN

A long journey has brought together the seed man and the tree, one that spans thousands of years of evolution, centuries of conservation, and a vision of a botanical garden, and 25 years in overseas service.

Lake Sweredman, one of Australia's foremost collectors of native seeds, is travelling through Western Australia and across the Kimberley, searching for seed material to bring to the world's greatest botanical seed bank. His 50th expedition celebrates the 50th anniversary of Kings Park and Botanic Gardens Perth, which opened in 1965 as the first of its kind in Australia.

Sweredman cuts an expert eye over the old boab's iconic shape and search for seeds. Curious of the park's Seed Technology Centre and a horticulturalist by trade, he is an expert in seed collection, and will spend years to more than a thousand

years, but he holds that they are worth the effort. The boab tree is one of the most ancient in the world, with a trunk that is 12m in circumference. It is a living relic of a time when the world was a different place.

Sweredman's journey of about 1000km required a converted truck with racks for flower presses and a drop-down deck for bagging specimens while parked along the roadside. He hopes to make his 100,000th collection before returning.

'People find something exciting about the boab tree, and it's a great sign when all our boys are busy foraging. Despite everything that's happened around them, they have kept standing.'

THEWEEKENDAUSTRALIAN

For the latest news

ROYAL VISIT NEWS 19



Royal stroll: Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, in Kings Park yesterday, where they stopped at the Flame of Boreenance with Premier Colin Barnett.



Interest: Charles with Mark Webb at the seed bank.

Charles and Camilla turn on the charm

By Makrissa Quirk and Natalie Richards

With a mixture of warmth and humour, Prince Charles and Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, dined old time and homely food for a meal during their three days in WA.

The royal couple were charmed by enthusiastic crowds and stopped often to chat and shake hands as they squared nine engagements here they were.

Well-known came out early yesterday to see the royal couple for a short visit to George's Cathedral.

On their way to the Botanic Garden, the couple had a good look at the old building.

The couple were escorted along a route with and stopped to meet Orlan Hall, who played the dulciana, and sang them the

Taking in North Cottesloe's views.

Get it right: The royal couple try boomerangs in Kings Park.

At the State Buildings.

A six week expedition to collect seed, including Boob, from the Kimberley was funded by the Friends of Kings Park in July 2015.

Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, visited Kings Park on 15 November 2015. The Prince of Wales, who is known for his interest in plant conservation, took a private tour of the Kings Park Science laboratories and nursery.



The 26th edition of 'Nuytsia: the WA Journal of Systematic Botany' was specially commissioned for the anniversary and launched on 19 November 2015, with seven collaborative papers naming fifty new WA plant species—many after contributors to the WA Botanic Garden over its history. Forty one of the species are conservation-listed.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4

Kings Park art tells our stories

CLAIRE BICKERS

A NEW Kings Park attraction will open today to mark the 50th anniversary of the West Australian Botanic Garden.

A terrace and two new pavilions, featuring artwork from WA artists, and a cascading walkway will open in the botanic gardens, already a key drawcard for the six million people who visit Kings Park each year.

Sculptures of windswept trees, an iconic WA coastal sight, will be among the featured artworks that tell the story of West Australians' connection with the land from the traditional Nyoongar owners to European settlers.



Botanic boost: Plan E's David Smith sits on the cascading steps.

"This pavilion and the terraces enhance what is already

one of the most exceptional botanic gardens in the world—in standards of presentation, number of visitors and contribution to scientific know-

ledge," Environment Minister Albert Jacob said.

Local artists Richard Waller, Anne Neil and Steve Tepper were invited to work with landscape architects Plan E on the project. Plan E director David Smith said timber, rusted steel, sandstone and other materials that represented the WA landscape were used.

The \$1.8 million project, headed by the Friends of Kings Park and supported by Lotterywest, enhances the botanic gardens, which house a quarter of all WA plant species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world.



INSIDE P91
WA author Tim Winton on the Swan River, light and our nation's culture

AGENDA

It's a long way from Vietnam but a refugee revels in making our garden great



Brothers in plants: Kings Park and Botanic Garden horticultural displays curator Peter Nguyen and senior curator Grady Brand take a break. Picture: Michael Wilson



Katherine Fleming

There is something about spring in Kings Park that speaks to Peter Nguyen: the universal flush of new growth, in this place that gave him a life he once only imagined.

About 30 years ago Peter, the gently spoken, quick-to-smile curator of the WA Botanic Garden, was far from this sunny place, standing on a dark shore in Vietnam, about to launch the boat he had built to carry his family to a better life.

As his beloved garden marks its 50th anniversary tomorrow, Peter has reflected on his incredible story of survival and his role in cultivating one of Perth's most treasured attractions.

After the Vietnam War, Peter, then a father of three, knew he had to get his family out if they were ever going to have freedom. Fleeing place to place, he went into the forest near his village, outside Saigon, to hide from the war.

With only the clothes on their backs, strangers in an unfamiliar place, but Peter was hopeful. They were safe here. Then, they could start again.

"I still had my two hands and I could make something of it," he said.

On a family visit to Kings Park, Peter was captivated by all the plants he had never seen

before, completely unlike the tropical flora of his homeland. When he saw an opportunity to sign up to a Federal scheme building pathways in the park, he jumped at it.

In his work group were others trying to make a new start—a Khat, two Thais, other Vietnamese and a Poles—but Peter stood out.

The supervisor noticed his work ethic and attitude for a challenge and offered him a job in the botanic garden.

"That was a big opportunity for me—it fit my life, my dream, like I was a million dollars," he said.

"It is my passion and I have been there for me here, so I went to night school to study horticulture. My circumstances changed—we had another child—so I kept up my studies through correspondence courses."

That was 30 years ago. Peter worked his way through the ranks, just by always being the



The 1990s: A proud Peter with his first everlings crop and family.

right man for the job, according to senior curator Grady Brand. Grady and Peter have worked together for more than 30 years, taking the Botanic Garden from "poorly visited to possibly the most visited botanic garden in the world".

Grady, who has worked at Kings Park for 27 years, said the pair shared a passion for the project and a "can-do" attitude.

But improving the garden meant changing the way things were done, which is never easy. As well as physical changes—irrigation, public art, signage, new gardens and the elevated walkway—the duo made a concerted effort to improve morale and enthusiasm among their horticultural workers.

Grady credits Peter's "consistency as a person when managing staff" as crucial to their success with the team.

"He is steady as a rock in the staff, as much as caring for the plants," he said. The WA Botanic Garden is

universal because it is devoted to native flora, rather than displaying plants from around the world.

That native focus has been the focus of the 50th garden, inside the 60th park, since it was opened by Premier David Brand on October 4, 1965.

Since then, it has become a tourist and local favourite, more widely used by the community than most botanic gardens. Free to visit and always open, Kings Park gets about six million visitors a year.

Sitting in a new verandah pavilion, which will open tomorrow for the anniversary celebrations, Grady said "the plants and the people are inseparable".

The duo have watched their own children and grandchildren celebrate birthdays on the rolling lawns overlooking the city and seen strangers enjoying the flower displays almost every day.

"It has been a big part of both our lives, so it sort of feels like a big birthday, more important than my own birthday," Grady said. "It's always been special but it has risen in the community's view exponentially in the last 50 years."

For Peter, making the garden world class for visitors to Kings Park was a way of repaying a kindness that would be able to do something to put back into the Australian community, particularly to Western Australia," he said.

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Curator Peter Nguyen and Senior Curator Grady Brand have been a formidable force in the WA Botanic Garden for more than thirty years.

The Botanic Terraces and Botanic Pavilion were designed by Plan E Landscape Architects and opened on 4 October 2015.

beauty rich and rare 19

50 Year Journey Western Australian Botanic Garden:

Before 1965

1959 Kings Park is chosen as the future home of the State Botanic Garden from 17 possible locations in Perth.

1962 The new Director Dr John Beard searches worldwide to recruit a seed collector, nursery chief, botanist and other founding staff.



1962 "We visualise this area as a major tourist attraction" WA Premier Sir David Brand announces £166,000 to establish the Botanic Garden.

1963 Wild seed collecting begins around WA. The Kings Park Nursery turns its attention to learning to cultivate native species.

1963 The design of the Botanic Garden is laid out.

*"If I was to have the opportunity of creating a new botanical garden, I would go to Timbuktu for that."
Dr John Beard on his appointment as Director of Kings Park in 1961.*

The idea for a botanic garden in Perth gathered momentum in the 1950s.



Wild seed collecting around the State has been a constant part of the Botanic Garden's history. Pictured: Dr John Beard and botanist Paul Wilson. Photo: H Dermatz



Botanist John Beard takes stock of the day's collection of plant specimens. Beard becomes Director of Kings Park and Botanic Garden in 1961. Photo: F Lullifitz



The Water Garden takes shape. Now home to the Pioneer Women's Memorial.

1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015

1965-1970

1968 Kings Park starts its horticultural trainee program. A teenager named Grady Brand enrolls in 1978, and 37 years later is the Senior Curator of Kings Park.



Grady Brand in Kings Park bushland in 1964, and in the Nursery during the 1980s, and today.



Willing Team

[illegible]

Director John Beard (left) with his wife and Premier David Brand



'Woman and child' sculptor Margaret Priest with project architect Geoffrey Summerhayes at the opening of the Pioneer Women's Memorial in 1968. Photo courtesy Helen Priest.

Left: Flowers from the Kimberley are grown and proudly displayed for the first time at the 'Kings Park Wildflower Show' in 1967.

Design becomes reality. The challenges of cultivating native flora begin to be mastered.

1960 **1965-1970** 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015



50 Year Journey Western Australian Botanic Garden



1970-1975

- 1970s** Classic 1970s architecture appears in the form of new visitor amenities and gardeners' facilities.
- 1970** The Kings Park Nursery continues to make significant advances in cultivating native flora for horticulture.
- 1971** Botanist Dr Paul Wycherley appointed as the second Director of Kings Park, one of only four heads of the Botanic Garden in its 50 year history. Dr Wycherley was succeeded by Dr Stephen Hopper in 1992 and Mr Mark Webb in 2004.
- 1971** Kings Park scientific research program established. Around 60 Kings Park scientists work in biodiversity conservation today.



Current CEO Mark Webb with former CEOs Dr Stephen Hopper, Dr Paul Wycherley and Dr John Beard in 2006.



One of the 1970s buildings, now called Yorkas Nyinning.

The Botanic Garden expands from 25 to 33 acres (13 hectares) and is almost entirely devoted to WA's unique flora.

The early 1970s are a period of science, design and growth.



Keen nurseryman Ernst Wittwer at an early wildflower display in Kings Park.

Discoveries alert us to value of WA flora

A breakthrough in plant propagation techniques brings new hope for WA's threatened species, and the secrets they hold.

Ill news that 12 WA native plants were found to be dormant in the soil was a revelation to many WA horticulturists as the first time they had seen a dormant plant.

In scientific terms, which is a botanical term, dormant means a plant is in a state of suspended animation.

As few 200 of them are in the state of dormancy and could be given a chance to grow again, they are now being given a chance to grow again.

Some plants are given a chance to grow again by being given a chance to grow again.

They are given a chance to grow again by being given a chance to grow again.

They are given a chance to grow again by being given a chance to grow again.



Dr Kingsley from the nursery in the 1970s with the wildflowers.

It is a breakthrough in plant propagation techniques that has brought new hope for WA's threatened species, and the secrets they hold.

The Kings Park nursery has been a success story for many years, and the secrets they hold are now being revealed.

Following up the work of a young man, Kingsley's research has shown that dormant plants can be given a chance to grow again.

That is, dormant plants can be given a chance to grow again.

They are given a chance to grow again by being given a chance to grow again.

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They are given a chance to grow again by being given a chance to grow again.

A successful program of scientific research underpins the WA Botanic Garden. Article courtesy The West Australian, March 1994.

1960 1965 **1970-1975** 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015

50 Year Journey Western Australian Botanic Garden

1975-1980

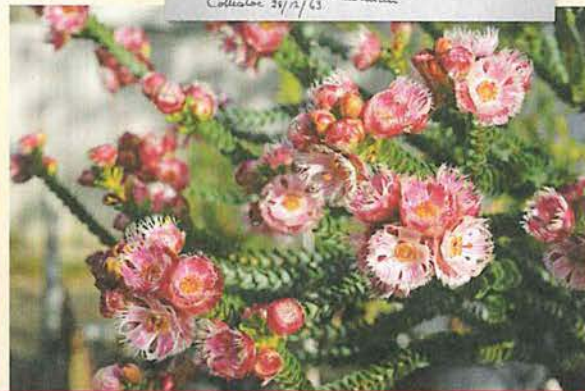
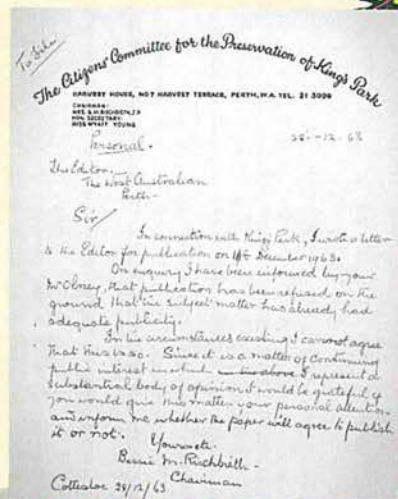
1975 Park staff build a granite seat to honour Bessie Rischbieth, the chairperson of 'The Citizens' Committee for the Safeguarding of Kings Park' during the 1960s.

1977 The Kings Park Nursery receives a new glasshouse and other improvements which enhance the Park's ability to grow its own flora.

1978 Cyclone Alby causes havoc in the South West of WA, uprooting trees and causing major damage in the Botanic Garden.

Bessie Rischbieth is honoured for her past role as an outspoken advocate for Kings Park, ensuring it is "preserved for the people."

Below: *Verticordia ovalifolia* is a beautiful example of a WA plant that has been gathered from the wild and then developed for horticulture in the Nursery.



1960 1965 1970 **1975-1980** 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015



50 Year Journey Western Australian Botanic Garden



1980-1985

- 1981** A remarkable 23,801 native plant specimens are recorded in the Kings Park Herbarium.
- 1982** Four new glasshouses are built to house the State's rarest flora, along with plants from the northern and arid regions of Western Australia. These are open to the public.
- 1984** 55 volunteers complete their training to become the first Kings Park Volunteer Guides. The Guides still provide daily guided walks and respond to thousands of enquiries in the Kings Park Visitor Information Centre each year.



Left: The Kings Park Volunteer Guides provide a friendly face for visitors. Prior to their establishment, guided walks were led by staff.

* Below: Park Superintendent John Watson leads a walk for visitors in the early 1960s.



Community education about WA flora is imperative to the Botanic Garden.

1960 1965 1970 1975 **1980-1985** 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015

50 Year Journey Western Australian Botanic Garden

1985-1990

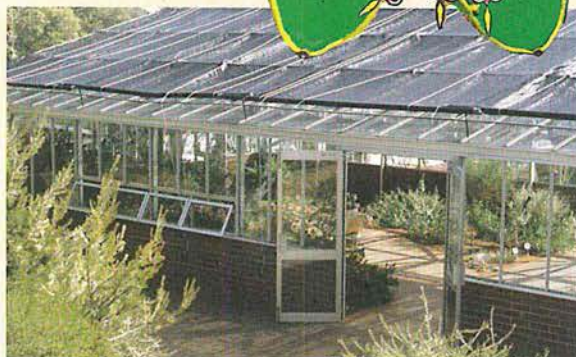
1980s A Rare and Endangered Garden is established to raise awareness of WA's most threatened flora and in 2008 is moved to current Conservation Garden.

1985 Amid lean economic times, a government employment scheme is used to build new paths in the Park. A young immigrant employed by the scheme, Peter Nguyen, catches the eye of Kings Park staff and is employed as a gardener. 30 years later, Peter is the Curator of Horticultural Displays in Kings Park.

1989 One sixth of the known plant taxa in Western Australia can be found growing in the Botanic Garden by 1989.

Today, 3000 Western Australian plant taxa can be found growing in the Botanic Garden. WA is the only place in the world where most of these plants grow in the wild.

Cultivating rare and endangered flora is a critical part of the WA Botanic Garden's conservation strategy.



Top: Rare and endangered flora was originally displayed to the public in a glasshouse.

Left: A young Peter Nguyen shows his first ever crop of pink everlastings in Kings Park to his family in the mid 1980s.

Above: Peter Nguyen has been part of the accomplishments of the Botanic Garden for 30 years.

1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 **1985-1990** 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015

1990-1995

1992 The appointment of Botanist Dr Stephen Hopper as Director brings about renewed energy and vision.

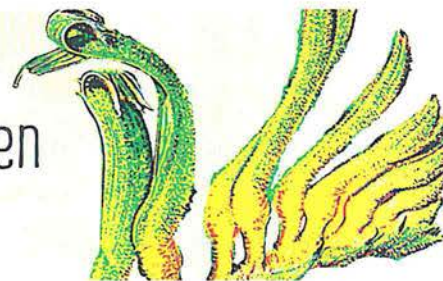
Right: Current Curator of the WA Seed Technology Centre Luke Sweedman is one of the world's most prolific seed collectors.

Below: Dr Stephen Hopper (right) with Aboriginal artist Rod Garlett (left) and Seed Collector Luke Sweedman on expedition at Mount Luke.
Photo: Rhian Smith

1993 The Friends of Kings Park community group is established. The Friends now have well over 1000 members, 300 active volunteers and have since provided \$10 million to Kings Park, with significant contributions from Lotterywest and the Friends' popular native plant sales.



"Community involvement is essential in my view" Director Stephen Hopper on the challenges of resourcing the WA Botanic Garden and the urgency of wild plant life conservation throughout the State.



THE NATION

The seed man and the tree: germ of a grand idea



LAND Involvement, center of the land in the city of Pacific City, with a look, however, to the communities, of the Urban River in 1911. Involvement is



Keen gardeners queue for the rare and robust array of plants at the Friends of Kings Park native plant sales.

1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 **1990-1995** 2000 2005 2010 2015

50 Year Journey Western Australian Botanic Garden

1995-2000



Top: New seating and mosaic artworks by local artist Philippa O'Brien are added to the Banksia Garden.

Above: Redevelopment of Roe Gardens in 1997 breathes new life into one of the Park's best views.

1995 Garden beds are redeveloped. More Western Australian plant species are introduced.

1996 The first major outdoor concert is held in the WA Botanic Garden, creating a buzz about this new outdoor concert venue for Perth.

1997 Kings Park wins a gold medal at the Chelsea Flower Show, London, for a second time for its display of WA flora.

1997 The Kings Park Volunteer Master Gardeners is established to provide an advisory service to the public.

1999 A pavilion, sculptures and a commemorative pathway add tranquil beauty during a major upgrade to the Water Garden.

1999 David Smith, now of Plan E Landscape Architects, begins a long association with Kings Park during a major project to upgrade the water garden.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II views the winning Kings Park display at Chelsea with Kings Park's Stephen Hopper.



Right: Design complements nature in a major project to upgrade the Water Garden in 1999.
Below: Concerts bring new audiences to the WA Botanic Garden each summer.



An ambitious new masterplan elevates the Botanic Garden to the world stage and sets new standards for planning, design and management.

1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 **1995-2000** 2005 2010 2015

50 Year Journey Western Australian Botanic Garden

2000-2005

- 2000** The WA Botanic Garden display at the Japan Flora 2000 exhibition wins 33 medals, 4 trophies and Best International Garden. It is viewed by a staggering 11 million people.
- 2000** An ancient Tuart in the Banksia Garden known as the 'Scar Tree' becomes a Registered Aboriginal Heritage Site.
- 2000** Kings Park begins a partnership with the UK Millenium Seed Bank, contributing 1,600 Western Australian seed collections to 2015.
- 2002** The Wildflower Pavilion – a popular wedding venue – is created by transforming a 1970s gardeners' building with a distinctive curved timber roof.
- 2003** The Lotterywest Federation Walkway sends visitors skywards with its stunning walk through the tree canopy.



Left: The gold medal display in Japan.

Below left: A recreation of the Japan Flora 2000 display at the 2000 Kings Park Wildflower Exhibition.

Below right: The Lotterywest Federation Walkway designed by Donaldson + Worn architects features Aboriginal design and knowledge from local artist Richard Walley.



Kings Park joins an impressive international conservation project – the UK Millenium Seed Bank. The seed saved in the MSB insures against the risk of plant extinction in native habitats.

1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 **2000-2005** 2010 2015

50 Year Journey Western Australian Botanic Garden

2005-2010

2007 The Kings Park Festival transforms into a month-long event. It is now free to enter and displays wildflowers in permanent beds that are more sustainable than potted displays of the past.

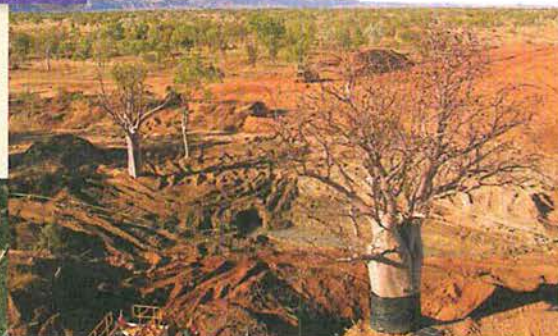


2007 Kings Park Festival event program. A record 500,000 people attend the 2007 Kings Park Festival.

2008 The Conservation Garden opens, providing a safe haven for some of the State's most rare and endangered flora and an opportunity for community education.

Right: Gija Jumulu captures the hearts of Western Australians.

Below: An aerial view of the burnt area adjacent to the Botanic Garden in 2009.



2008 A 750 year old Boab tree, the Gija Jumulu, is rescued from roadworks in the East Kimberley and travels 3,200 km by truck from the Warmun Community to a new home in the Botanic Garden.



2009 A large fire in Kings Park burns 40 hectares and threatens the Botanic Garden. Despite extreme conditions, the fire is controlled and the bushland recovers well.



The Conservation Garden displays a collection of threatened and critically endangered flora.

A new millennium brings the most significant period of development in the history of the Botanic Garden.

1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 **2005-2010** 2015



50 Year Journey Western Australian Botanic Garden 2010-2015



2011 The Place of Reflection opens as a sanctuary for tranquil contemplation for the whole community, especially those who have suffered trauma or grief.

2011 The cost and effort of removing tonnes of green waste becomes a thing of the past with the introduction of an award-winning 100% green waste recycling program in Kings Park.

2011 Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park connects children with nature and gives a new lease of life to the Botanic Garden's arboretum. An 'arboretum' is a living collection of trees.

2012 Kings Park Education opens its new home. Now 23,000 school students visit for curriculum based education programs each year.

2013 The Kings Park Festival celebrates 50 years of flower power.

2013 The popular floral clock moves to its third home.

2015 The Botanic Terraces and Botanic Pavilion open on 4 October to mark the 50th anniversary of the Western Australian Botanic Garden.

A multitude of beautiful and visitor-friendly new projects has lifted the profile of Kings Park to new heights.



Top: (left) Place of Reflection and (right) launch of Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park.

Middle: Environmental science and Nyoongar cultural programs are the most popular for school excursions.

Bottom: The floral clock was first established in 1962. Its current location at the entry to the Botanic Garden is its third home.



Close to six million visitors are now welcomed in Kings Park each year - an average of two visits each per year for every Western Australian.

1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 **2010-2015**

50 Year Journey Western Australian Botanic Garden

Thank you

The Western Australian Botanic Garden is a precious sanctuary for people and plants in the heart of Perth. It has grown more beautiful and popular with each passing year, thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers and many supporters in the community who love Western Australian flora and cherish Kings Park and Botanic Garden as much as we do.

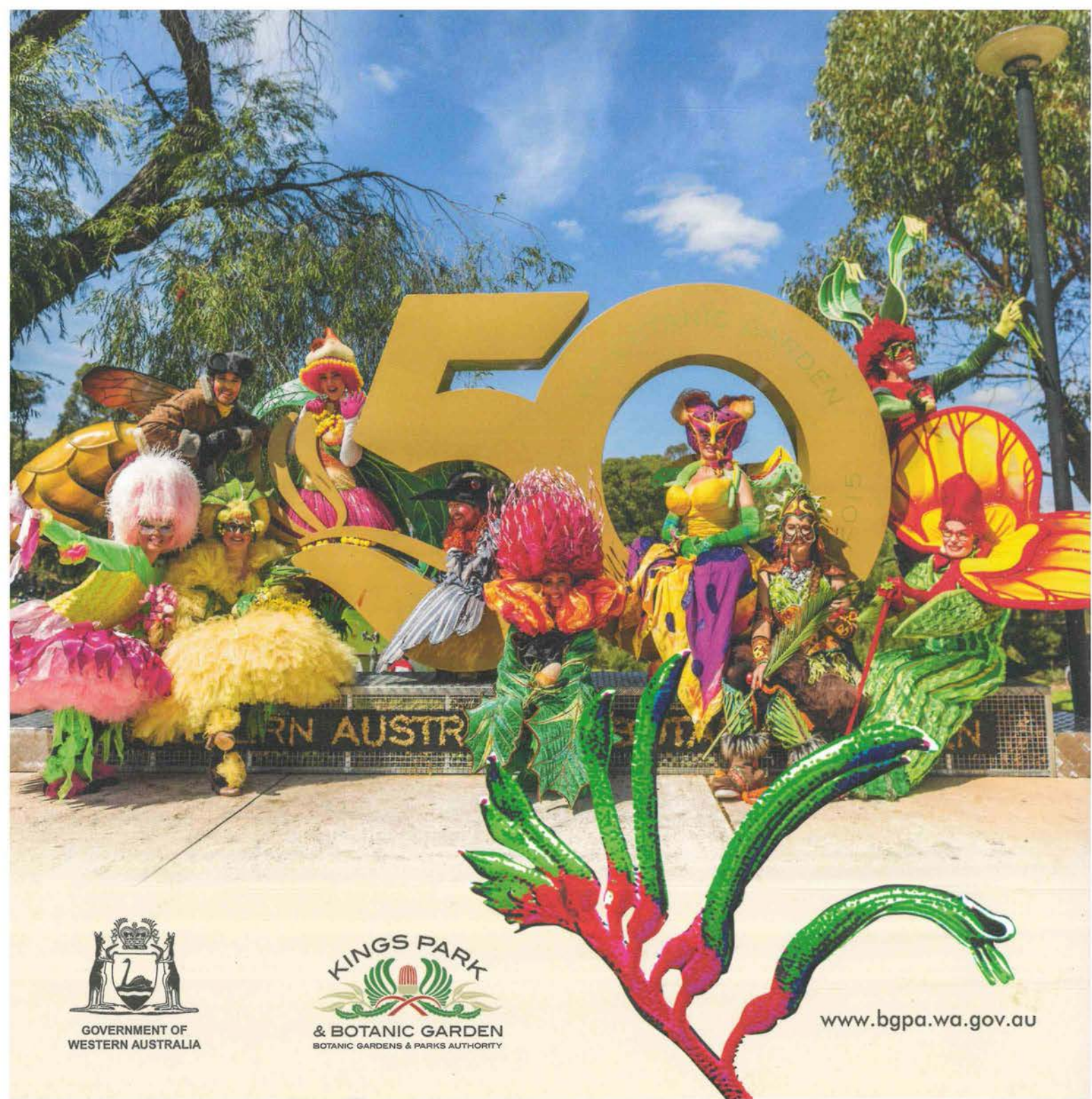


Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority staff, August 2015.

*"Wattle birds and parrots raze the air,
crack open the hearts of flowers,
the river below so huge and still
you can feel the clouds inside it."*

*From 'Evening, Kings Park'
by poet Nandi Chinna, 2015*

We appreciate your continued support.



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