



Introduction to the Festival

- The Everlasting Kings Park Festival runs from 16-30 September
- The Kings Park Festival has run every September since 1964, making it one of the longest running festivals in Australia and the State's largest celebration of Western Australian wildflowers.
- Garden beds right across Kings Park and Botanic Garden will burst into bloom across the month of September, showcasing a carpet of colourful native wildflowers
- As well as thousands of wildflowers to see, the park will host dozens of fabulous events across the month including walks and talks, outdoor wellness sessions, art displays and horticultural workshops
- This year, we present the theme of 'Everlasting' celebrating our stunning wildflowers and Kings Park's 150 year gazettal anniversary

Wild about Wildflowers

- There will be thousands of wildflowers in bloom in September as a result of the hard work of Kings Park's Nursery, Bushland and Horticultural team, with assistance from horticulture trainees and volunteers.
- More than 16,000 plants were installed over the winter planting season, including 7,000 potted annuals
- It's a year-round preparation for the Kings Park Festival. Garden planning, seed germination and growing plants in the nursery happens up to three years in advance of each Festival.
- You have but to look around in spring to appreciate the magnificent emergence of colour and the more than 3,000 WA plant species in both Kings Park and Bold Park.

Contact us to speak to our team about the work of planting and what to see in our gardens

- Some of the stunning flowers to see during September include :

Flowering in the WA Botanic Garden

- Pink Everlastings (*Rhodanthe chlorocephala* subsp. *rosea*)
- Qualup Bells (*Pimelea physodes*)
- Blue leschenaultias (*Lechenaultia biloba*)
- Flame peas (*Chorizema varium*)
- Swan River Daisies (*Brachyscome iberidifolia*)
- Smokebush (*Conospermum wycherleyi*)

Flowering in the Kings Park Bushland

- Common donkey orchids (*Diuris corymbosa*)
- Red and green kangaroo paws (*Anigozanthos manglesii*)
- Pink fairy orchids (*Caladenia latifolia*)



- Swan River myrtle (*Hypocalymma robustum*)
 - Yellow buttercups (*Hibbertia hypericoides*)
 - Parrot bush (*Banksia sessilis*)
- The Festival is made possible by a diverse team which includes Kings Park staff and volunteers from the Friends of Kings Park, Kings Park Volunteer Guides, Kings Park Horticulture and Advice Group and Friends of Bold Park Bushland.

Feature Gardens to see:

Feature garden: Everlastings bed

A favourite Instagrammable spot, the Everlastings bed on Lovekin Drive is a must-see during September. Thousands of seeds were sown by the Horticultural Displays team in May, with favourites including the pink *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* subsp. *rosea*, *Rhodanthe manglesii*, and the yellow *Rhodanthe humboldtiana*. With pathways between each garden area, it is the perfect place to make your Kings Park memories.

Feature garden: Conservation Garden

The meandering pathways of the Conservation Garden lead you past threatened WA flora you are unlikely to ever see in the wild. From the southwest of the state, right to the northern tip of the Kimberley region, these rare species are grouped according to their habitats with additional categories for critically endangered and winter-wet. Some spectacular favourites are represented such as species of *Banksia*, *Darwinia*, *Eremophila*, *Grevillea* and *Verticordia*.

Read stories about these plants' struggle for survival along the way and the contributions of our conservation efforts to bring them back from the brink. Bring your phone for an interactive experience with the augmented reality 'Markr' app virtual signage.

Feature garden: WA Botanic Garden entry

If you only have a short block of time to see as many wildflowers as possible, the garden bed at the entry to the WA Botanic Garden (outside Aspects of Kings Park) is a fantastic place to view wildflowers from right around the State. The entrance beds are a taster of our many beautiful and diverse regions featuring some of their most iconic species, from the habitats of the South West, Kwongan, Mallee, Mulga, Desert and Kimberley.

You'll be treated to a riot of colour and see all the favourites – pink everlastings, Qualup bells, blue lechenaultias and later in September, hot pink *pimelea ferruginea* (pink rice flower).



Feature garden: Sandplain Garden

Beginning at Roe Gardens, take in the Kwongan displays as well as the rugged Wheatbelt region.

Meander through the garden beds, following the sandy pathways to immerse yourself in the sandplain experience and see delicate *Thryptomene*, *Conospermum* (smokebush) and *Verticordia* (Feather flower) species.

Feature Garden: Southern, Central and Northern Wheatbelt Garden

Take a journey along Forrest Drive, deep within the WA Botanic Garden and experience some beauties from the bush. *Pileanthus* species (coppercups), *Conospermum* species (smokebush), *Verticordia* species (featherflowers), *Anigozanthos* species (kangaroo paws) and many stunning eucalypts such as *Eucalyptus caesia* (Silver Princess) are all on display in this part of Kings Park.

Feature Garden: Kangaroo Paw and Waxes Garden

Make your way to the unique and extremely special 'wax and paw' garden, home to two of WA's most popular genera: *Chamelaucium* and *Anigozanthos*, better known as waxes and kangaroo paws. These two floral stars are prized by horticulturists all over the world. They're grown around the globe in gardens and for the cut flower trade. Combining these two genera in one of the most high-profile locations within the WA Botanic Garden is a no-brainer – they're beautiful and both endemic to WA.

Feature Garden: Backyard Botanicals Garden

This demonstration garden located around Zamia Cafe at May Drive Parkland is the perfect place to get some native gardening inspiration. With dozens of native plant species on display, this garden is water-wise, bird attracting and will motivate you to create your own native garden oasis at home. For more advice, book into a Dig it with Coffee session. Here, you'll meet a Kings Park horticulturist and Friends of Kings Park Horticultural Advice and Support volunteers who can answer all your tricky native gardening questions over a cup of coffee.

Feature Garden: Marri Woodlands

Located between Roe Gardens and the Water Garden, the Marri Woodlands feature a dense tree canopy and soft-fall pathways. A feeling of calm and serenity will descend upon you as you stroll through this area of the WA Botanic Garden. Located close by is the Acacia Garden with dozens of varieties of vivid yellow wattle in bloom.



Events

- There are dozens of events brought to you by Kings Park, volunteers and commercial partners that can be booked on the Kings Park website.

Kings Park Events

- The Kings Park team of arborists, horticulturists, turf technicians and bushland professionals are ready to get the public started with gardening advice for the home, as well as an insight into behind-the-scenes at Kings Park.
 - A few highlights include:
 - The grass is always greener: Turf Talk
 - From the ground up: Soil Workshop
 - Native gardening for beginners
 - Northern species for South West gardens
 - Pruning class
 - Trees for home gardens
 - Planting for habitats
 - More information and events can be found at [Everlasting Kings Park Festival Workshops | Eventbrite](#)

Interested in their expertise? Our experts are available to be interviewed. [Contact our Media Team.](#)

- There are loads of guided walks from Kings Park Volunteer Guides, focusing on different aspects of the park, including art, the Swan River, history and a number of specific plant species.
 - A few highlights include:
 - **Wonderful Wattle Walk:** On this walk visitors will discover a variety of remarkable acacias, their perfumes, colours and special features; and may find one suitable for the home garden too.
 - **Bushland Floral Gems:** Visitors will experience what Kings Park's Banksia Woodland has to offer. The wildflowers are scattered in many locations in the Park and vary in their density from year to year.
 - **Finding Fabulous Feathered Friends:** The morning in Kings Park is the best time to discover our enchanting and entertaining feathered friends. Visitors will take a walk on the bushland tracks and in the WA Botanic Gardens to see and hear the calls of many of the species of birds in the park.
 - **Banksias: Bold Brash and Brilliant:** These members of the Proteaceae family range from ground covers to small shrubs to trees up to 25m tall, with flowers in a stunning range of colours, shapes and sizes. They are diverse, conspicuous, resilient and ingenious. Discover their significance to Aboriginal people, to horticulture and conservation.



- **Nature in Art Walk:** Nature has inspired many Australian artists to create wild and unique art forms that live amongst the wildflowers in the WA Botanic Garden in Kings Park. From Banksia Seats to Acacia Steps; Symbiotica to a Pioneer Woman; Women's Suffrage to an Aboriginal Mia Mia – it's all here waiting to be discovered – stories of heritage, history, artists and their relationship to gardens and our unique flora.
- **Bushland and Wildflowers:** Visitors will discover spring wildflowers in the bush. This walk along the Nature Trail into the Kings Park bushland includes 'milkmaids and postmen, pixies and fairies, donkeys and spiders'.
- More can be discovered here: [Kings Park Volunteer Guides Events | Eventbrite](#)
- The Friends of Bold Park will be providing guided walks on a variety of topics to showcase the beauty of the 'sanctuary by the sea'.
- For the art lovers, meet Perth artists at Aspects of Kings Park Gallery shop and take part in wildflower watercolour workshops.

Friends of Kings Park Plant Sale

- The 2022 Festival Plant Sale is on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September, from 9am to 12:30pm (or earlier if the plants are sold out).
- These popular sales provide plenty of opportunities for buyers to build stunning gardens with plants not always available from commercial nurseries.
- The sale will be located at Poolgarla Parkland
- The plant sale list is available 2 weeks before the sale – check the FOKP website.
- Proceeds from the Friends Native Plant Sales support research and projects in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

Commercial Partners

BGPA has teamed up with local tour operators who can offer unique experiences for a fee, such as;

- Wellness classes - Tai Chi, Meditation and Yoga - Tai Chi is free, but the meditation and yoga classes are subsidised at \$5 and include a coffee at Zamia Cafe.
- GoGo Active Tours – are bringing back their special wildflower cycling tour and a brand new 'Boab, Bikes and Bees' experience capturing all of the compelling, informative and fun elements of the highly successful previous years whilst taking you on a new route and direction through the wildflower hot spots of Kings Park.
- Hike Collective – a guided hike through the gardens of Kings Park which finishes with a special high tea.



- Mindful in Nature will be running special Forest Therapy walk combining mindfulness techniques and the therapeutic powers of being in the natural environment.

Why do we have a festival?

- The Everlasting Kings Park Festival celebrates the amazing plant life of Western Australia, promoting its beauty and the pressing need for its conservation.
- Most events and activities take place in the Western Australian Botanic Garden, one of the most visited and well-regarded botanic gardens in the world. The WA Botanic Garden is devoted to native flora in recognition of Western Australia's diverse, fragile and uniquely beautiful plant life. The South West region of WA (including Perth) is one of Australia's two globally recognised biodiversity hotspots.
- The gardens in the WA Botanic Garden provide a taster of the flora found in the many unique regions of WA. Seeing the wildflowers out in the wild is a spectacular experience and something that needs to be preserved for future generations. The botanic garden features beds representing the South West, North West, Coral Coast and beyond, with some of the flora from these locations found in an incredibly restricted range. Through the Festival we aim to showcase the magnificent species found in these regions and provide a guide to some of Western Australia's most magnificent parks, such as Fitzgerald National Park, Karijini National Park and Coalseam Conservation Park. [Contact us](#) to speak to one of our experts about wildflowers in the regions.
- Through guided walks, talks and workshops, BGPA aims to educate the community about the importance of conservation, and provide expert support for home gardening. We can all take part in 'conservation by cultivation'.
- Why do we have a botanic garden? It is not just for picnics. Through educational events and public engagement, the Festival showcases the Western Australian Botanic Garden as a leader in environmental conservation, horticulture, community education and scientific research, which has made its plant collection one of the best in the world. Its displays are 'living galleries' of painstakingly curated collections of plants.
- The WA Botanic Garden also encompasses much of the State's cultural heritage – from ancient Noongar history to modern day – through public art, memorials, trails and garden displays.



What our team has to say

Alison Smith, horticulturist responsible for the Aspects Mound Garden Bed at the WA Botanic Garden entry

"I love that the Mound is an opening statement, often the first garden bed people may come to as they arrive in Kings Park. Throughout the year it gives a snapshot of the wonderful flora from all over Western Australia, before people take their journey on into the Western Australian Botanic Garden. Often this means when working in this location we, as horticulturalists, can enjoy meeting members of the public, answering questions and sharing information, as well as witnessing the pleasure the floral display gives to visitors, which is very much an enjoyable part of the work we do."

"I have enjoyed being a part of the evolution of the Mound over the last 12 years, as the selection of species and high level of display has increased. I feel we have an understanding of a core set of plant species that create a consistently, attractive, informative display, yet we have the exciting opportunity to experiment with new perennial and annual species too. This enables us to continue to develop the display and the range of Western Australian flora we can showcase in this frequently visited location."

Neil Pearse, horticulturist responsible for the Roe Gardens

"I find Roe Gardens interesting because there is always something in flower. Both winter and spring are colourful times of year. One of my favourite flowering plants is Thryptomene with about 5 species at Roe Gardens, all various shades of pink and purple, and both upright and prostrate forms. Roe Gardens also features plants from the Northern Sand Plains area which is one of the most plant diverse places in Western Australia."

"One of the best views over Perth City is from Roe Gardens, and many photographers take advantage of this as well as the beauty of the flowers. I enjoy the gardens with its overlooking lawn. It is not as busy as some parts of the park, but not too isolated or lonely. I enjoy interacting with visitors, some of whom are regulars."

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Manager Communications and Marketing

Phone: (+61 8) 9480 3684

Email: scott.heffernan@dbca.wa.gov.au

Communications and Marketing Coordinator

Phone: (+61 8) 9480 3688

Email: emily.denham@dbca.wa.gov.au