



KINGS PARK
& Botanic Garden

Kings Park Bushland

A Pocket Guide to the Bushland Nature Trail



FAUNA

Quenda *Isodon fusciventer*

The quenda is a nocturnal marsupial which occasionally emerges during the day. Look for evidence of its foraging in the form of distinctive cone-shaped diggings as it hunts for insects and plant tubers.



Western Bearded Dragon *Pogona minor*

The largest of the local dragons these semi-arboreal lizards love to sun bathe. They are very well camouflaged and will sit motionless until disturbed.



Bobtail *Tiliqua rugosa rugosa*

The bobtail will often be found basking in sunny patches of bushland. A monogamous species, bobtails breed in spring with the female giving birth to live young in late summer.



Dragonfly *Aeshna brevistyla*

Dragonflies can be seen throughout the bushland taking advantage of open areas to hunt flying insects. Dragonflies are most noticeable following spring rains when insect eggs are stimulated to hatch creating an airborne buffet.



Blue-banded Bee *Amegilla cingulata* (Native Bees)

With its distinctive bands of metallic blue fur, the native blue-banded bee can often be spotted hovering around flowers during spring. After landing on a flower the bee will buzz to release the pollen.



Cicada *Cicadidae* Family

Heard before they are seen, the distinctive chorus produced by males using an organ called a tymbal can almost be deafening. Cicada nymphs begin life below the ground feeding on plant roots, sometimes for many years, before metamorphosing into flying adults.



Photo: F Hort

Turtle Frog *Myobatrachus gouldii*

The rarely seen turtle frog spends most of its life underground, however, summer rain draws them from their burrows to search for a mate. At this time the short singular croaks of males can be heard calling for a female. The turtle frog does not produce free-swimming tadpoles. Instead tiny, fully-formed frogs hatch from large eggs with the first winter rains.



FUNGI

Ghost fungus *Omphalotus nidiformis*

This fungus is unusual among the others in Kings Park as it glows in the dark. This unassuming fungus slowly decomposes materials at the base of living trees. Come nightfall an eerie green glow can be seen coming from their fan shaped fruiting bodies.



Woody Layered Bracket Fungus *Formitiporia robusta*

Found growing on trees, this pathogenic fungus can grow up to 120 mm wide. The uppermost layer forms a blackened and fissured texture which looks like wood giving it its name.



Yellow Brain Fungus *Tremella mesenterica*

Found on rotting wood, usually where old bark separates from the trunk, this fungus is bright orange and appears similar in shape to a brain. Interestingly this fungus is parasitic on other fungi that occupy rotting wood.

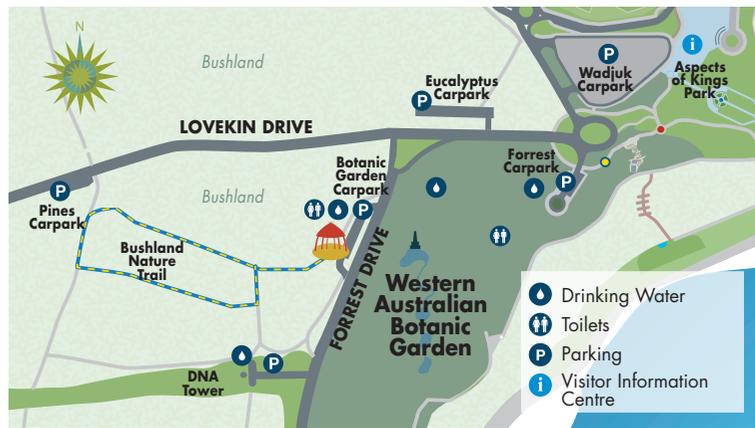


Scarlet Bracket Fungus *Pycnoporus coccineus*

These bright orange brackets, distinctively colourful amongst the other colours in the bushland, are decomposers of dead wood. Brackets can persist over time and as they age their colour fades.



Recommended reading: *Perth Plants* by Russell Barrett and Eng Pin Tay, available at Aspects of Kings Park Gallery Shop.



KINGS PARK AND BOTANIC GARDEN

Administration, 1 Kattidj Close
Kings Park, Western Australia 6005
† (+618) 9480 3600 e enquiries@bgpa.wa.gov.au
www.bgpa.wa.gov.au

THE BANKSIA WOODLAND

As you wander and explore the Bushland Nature Trail, you will see unique Western Australian trees including tuart, jarrah and marri scattered throughout the bushland. Banksias, sheoaks and other small trees and tall shrubs make up a middle storey with a diversity of low, beautifully flowering plants forming the understorey. There are plants in flower all year round, the peak being between July and October.

TREES

Marri *Corymbia calophylla*

The nectar-rich blossom occurs from summer to autumn, and is a haven for bird and insect life. The bark is fibrous and 'tessellated'. The large gumnuts (honkey nuts) are often scarred by the beaks of parrots.



Jarrah *Eucalyptus marginata*

This tree provides Western Australia's most famous structural and cabinet hardwood. The reddish brown bark is in long stringy sections. Flowering in summer attracts many different species of insects including native wasps and bees.



Tuart *Eucalyptus gomphocephala*

This tall tree has distinctive buds and fruit. The bark is grey in small rough sections. Tuarts provide shelter and homes for many birds and insects and are sometimes impacted by wood rotting fungi and insects.



Sheoak *Allocasuarina fraseriana*

Flowers are produced on separate male and female trees. The male trees' rust-coloured flowers are evident in winter and spring. The cones can be seen on the female trees all year round. The fine branches look like pine needles but are segmented branchlets with tiny leaf scales.



Banksia *Banksia menziesii*

This tree has silky red two-toned flower heads and coarsely toothed leaves. The flower and fruit of this banksia are featured on the entry mosaic of the Nature Trail. Four other banksias can be found along the trail: *B. grandis*, *B. attenuata*, *B. sessilis* and *B. prionotes*.



SHRUBS

Waldjumi *Jacksonia sericea*

Jacksonia sericea is a silky grey leafless plant that grows as a tangle of prostrate branches with yellow pea flowers.



Parrot Bush *Banksia sessilis*

This tall shrub has prickly grey-green leaves. The attractive creamy-yellow blossoms are a favourite with bees and honeyeaters.



Pixie Mops *Petrophile linearis*

This low shrub with grey-green foliage has mop-like pale pink, hairy flowers. Stems arise from a woody rootstock or lignotuber; the taproots sink deep into the soil.



Native Buttercup *Hibbertia hypericoides*

A common low shrub with bright yellow flowers. A woody underground stem enables this species to resprout quickly after fire.



Prickly Moses *Acacia pulchella*

A small, prickly wattle with many yellow flowers in spherical heads. It grows from seed after bushfires, forming dense thickets which provide cover for small nesting birds.



Swan River Myrtle *Hypocalymma robustum*

This low shrub bears many lightly scented pink flowers along its branches in spring. Each flower has five petals and more than 60 stamens.



Three Flowered Pea *Daviesia triflora*

A many-stemmed shrub bearing orange, yellow and reddish brown pea flowers in groups of three along the leafless stems. The bushland has three other daviesias, each with similar coloured flowers.



Pearl Flower *Conostephium pendulum*

A low plant with long white and reddish-purple scented flowers. These buzz pollinated flowers hang down on long, curved stalks.



Wild Violet *Hybanthus calycinus*

The charming blue-violet flowers are easily recognised by one broadly prominent petal. It is a member of the violet family.



HERBS

Milkmaids *Burchardia congesta*

Attractive white flowers clustered on tall slender stems are scattered throughout the bushland. During summer, the plant dies back to an underground tuber.



Purple Tassels *Sowerbaea laxiflora*

The pendulous purple flowers retain their colour for long periods. Its habit is very similar to that of Milkmaids, dying back during the hot dry summer months.



Mangles Kangaroo Paw *Anigozanthos manglesii*

The State Floral Emblem is one of the most spectacular plants with vivid red and green coloured flowers. Honeyeaters are often seen collecting nectar and, in the process, pollinating the flowers.



Yellow Autumn Lily *Tricoryne elatior*

A small perennial herb common in the bushland. The vibrant yellow flowers can be spotted throughout the year.



ORCHIDS

Donkey Orchids *Duris* spp.

A widespread and common plant with yellow and brown 'donkey-faced' flowers, the two lateral petals are like ears. Donkey orchids often grow in large clumps.



Banded Greenhood *Pterostylis vittata*

This is one of the earliest orchids to flower. The striped green hood comprises two petals and the back sepal. The bloated seed capsules appear in late winter or early spring.



Spider Orchid *Caladenia arenicola*

This orchid has red-green spider-like flowers on a 25-40 cm stalk arising from a single hairy leaf. Several species occur in Kings Park, some are sweetly scented.



CYCADS

Sandplain Zamia *Macrozamia fraseri*

This palm-like plant belongs to an ancient group called cycads. The male and female plants are separate, each producing distinctive cones. They are pollinated by weevils.

