

Kings Park Volunteer Guides

# Newsletter



April 2026 Djeran

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Marri (*Corymbia Calophylla*) voted the Eucalypt of the Year 2026

## President's Report

Welcome to Djeran, the season of milder temperatures and beautiful red flowers. We were fortunate in Perth to receive lovely rain from Cyclone Narelle, unlike the strong winds or the damage suffered up Exmouth way.

Training continues for our 2026 intake. The trainees are excited to be in Kings Park and tackling their various tasks with great skill and enthusiasm. New in this year's training is that you will see trainees in the VIC accompanied by their mentor who is on duty. Please make the trainees feel welcome and help them learn about the VIC.

April is the Boorloo Heritage Festival, a time to celebrate the buildings, cultural and natural heritage of Boorloo (Perth). Whilst the Guides are not doing any specific festival related walks this year, please remember to include history in your Discover Kings Park walks during April (we should all be doing that anyway) and perhaps mention the Boorloo History Festival. There are lots of interesting events. The festival guide can be accessed [here](#).

Boorloo Heritage Festival | Visit Perth Perth Garden Show takes place from 17 to 19 April at McCallum Park in Victoria Park. BGPA and FoKP will be involved promoting native plants and resilient gardens. We will have some Guides' bookmarks there to give away. Perth Garden Show and Green Living Expo is WA's only premier outdoor living and gardening lifestyle experience.

Monday 23 March was National Eucalypt Day. Guides were lucky to be taken on a walk by **Amanda Shade, Chelsea Payne** and **Jo Blackburn** in (literally in!) the Wanju Marr Eucalypt beds. See article below. It was a wonderful way to celebrate and learn more about our fascinating Eucalypts and we were excited to hear the Marri, *Corymbia calophylla*, had been voted Eucalypt of the Year 2026, the theme this year "Our Eucalypt Home".

You will have received an email detailing the extensive path works occurring in the Botanic Garden during April and May. I am hoping to get some simpler diagrams and also key messages from the Horticulture and Arbor teams regarding the background, planning and information we can relay to the public on these works. We're bound to get questions in the VIC. In addition, we'll need to be a little flexible with our walk routes. It might be a great time to visit some different areas in the gardens to show our visitors.

Happy Guiding!

**Edwina Forster President**

# 2026 Committee

## Executive

Position	Name	Email
President	Edwina Forster	president@kingsparkguides.com.au
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Treasurer	Vaughan Liddelow	treasurer@kingsparkguides.com.au
Secretary	Jacqui Bateman	secretary@kingsparkguides.com.au

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Position	Name
Further Education	Penelope Mogridge
Peer Observation	Helen Clifton
Rosters, Newsletter	Dani Boase-Jelinek
Social Coordinator	Pip Daly Smith
Visitor Information Centre	Rob Keogh
Website Administration	Marilyn Faithfull
Ex Officio Immediate Past President	Imogen Garner
BPGA Representative	Inger Thompson

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## Other Roles

Role	Name
Walks Coordinator	Rhonda Wallman

# A Walk in the Eucalypt Garden

It was particularly pertinent that 15 lucky Guides were able to participate in a walk with some of the horticulture team on 23 March as it was National Eucalypt Day, and even better, WA's marri tree had been voted Australia's Eucalypt of the year.

**Amanda Shade**, Manager of Living Collections and **Chelsea Payne**, Manager of Arboriculture, led the walk through the Eucalypt Collection opposite Wanju Marr, joined by **Jo Blackburn**, the Horticultural Coordinator who manages this particular part of the park.



Guides with Amanda Shade, Chelsea Payne and Jo Blackburn on the walk Photo Vaughan Liddelow

Overall in Australia there are approximately 900 species of Eucalypts, with around 800 species of *Eucalyptus*, about 100 of *Corymbia*, and about 10 *Angophora*. (A note: The WA Herbarium is the reference authority for plant taxonomy for the Kings Park horticulture and collections teams. At present, the Herbarium hasn't adopted the fourth genus of Eucalyptus,

*Blackalla*, in contrast to Eastern States taxonomists.) Determining the taxonomy of plants is a constantly shifting science it seems, as species that were previously determined to be separate are reclassified as being the same, and vice versa. Genetic analysis is playing an increasing role in defining species.

There are some 80-90 different species of Eucalypts in the garden, with representations of the genera *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia*. There are no *Angophora* in this garden as these do not occur naturally in WA, but some species can be found in the Eastern States collection adjacent to the Place of Reflection. There are trees from all over the state; establishing those that come from very different habitats such as the Kimberley and Goldfields can be a challenge, and the trees may not reach their full size potential.

The Eucalypt Garden has no understorey and its unmanicured appearance is deliberate, giving the impression of a woodland. Here you will find trees that would never be neighbours in nature and this can lead to its own cultivation problems. While hybridisation can occur between closely related Eucalypts, and it is part of their genetic evolution, most natural populations are relatively 'stable' in relation to cross-pollination. This changes when humans start to get involved, and so by displaying a wide range of species within a small area (such as in our Eucalypt Collection) cross-pollination may occur. This means that seed cannot be collected from the trees from this garden for germination in the nursery as the genetic make-up of the seed is uncertain.

The Eucalypts have developed adaptations to help them survive challenges including floods, droughts, heat, fire and attacks from megafauna in the distant past. Lignotubers and epicormic sprouts, thick waxy leaves that can reduce transpiration, spines on flower buds, the ability of some species to drop their leaves and become deciduous when conditions are very dry are all characteristics that help these trees and shrubs survive extreme environmental conditions.

Some trees have juvenile leaves that they retain throughout their lives. Others develop mature leaves, but retain some juvenile leaves, whilst others have only mature leaves. What is the advantage of juvenile leaves? Because juvenile plants often develop in the understorey, where the light is less intense, the juvenile leaves are designed for maximal exposure to the light they can access, by virtue of often large leaves, arranged along the stem so they are in the optimal alignment to the light.

At least one of the trees we looked at had a gall infestation, probably caused by a wasp. Despite having galls for nine years, the tree continues to grow. The Kings Park team take the view that insect diseases are part of biodiversity, and that it is not always necessary to intervene. Gardeners may not be happy

with the aesthetics of a tree with gall or other infection but the message we were given is that most trees will ultimately survive and “grow through” a period of infestation.

This was a walk of discovery, and reminder of the ubiquity and variety of eucalypts in WA, ranging from shrubs to tall trees. Thank you to the BGPA staff who shared their extensive knowledge and passion with the Guides.

**Liz Stirling**

## Social Update

### Invitation to Guides to join a Fremantle Convicts, Culture and Street Art Walk with Two Feet and a Heartbeat – 10 am Monday 4 May.



Two Feet and a Heartbeat have generously invited Kings Park Guides to explore Fremantle with one of their Guides on Monday 4 May. On the "Convicts, Culture and Street Art" walk through Fremantle's streets, we will experience heritage buildings, cafes, street art and amazing stories. Once home to whaling stations during migration of whales, Fremantle is now a charming town celebrated for its music, culture and history.

We'll hear fascinating tales of daring prison escapes, see local street art and learn about the expulsion of Indigenous people to Rottnest Island. We'll find out why almost 10,000 men were transported from Great Britain and Ireland as convicts and how they built their own prison.



The tour takes about two hours with the actual walking time being approximately 60 minutes. There are regular opportunities to rest. Toilet breaks are available at mid tour and the total distance walked is approximately two kilometres.

What a great chance for us as Guides to experience a Two Feet and Heartbeat guided walk so we can better appreciate what they offer visitors to WA.

A big thank you to **Jack Sherrel** of Two Feet and a Heartbeat and to our Kings Park Guide **Robyn**

**Bowler**, who arranged for us to have this great opportunity.

**For all bookings and queries please contact Pip Daly Smith, Ph 0450 193 939**  
[social@kingsparkguides.com.au](mailto:social@kingsparkguides.com.au)

Getting to Fremantle the easy way on Public Transport.

Our Walk starts near where trains and buses arrive in Fremantle.

From North of the River – catching a train is recommended.

From South of the River – the following combination of car and bus travel is recommended.

Drive down Freeway South then turn right into Canning Highway and continue until Petra Street Palmyra. Just before Petra St there are large free car parking areas on both sides of the Highway. Park here and catch the 910 (runs every 10 minutes) at Stop 19272 on the Highway outside Woolworths Palmyra carpark. Get off at Queen Street Fremantle, a short distance from where our walk starts.

Thank you to **Jennie Hunt** for this very helpful information.

# International Women's Day Public Walk

Although the first week of March gave worrying high temperatures in Perth, the morning of Sunday 8 March was cool for the Kings Park Guides' public walk *Women Who Chose to Challenge* along Fraser Avenue in Karta Koomba.

Starting with an acknowledgement to country and including the added appreciation of the contributions of Aboriginal women, the walk covered many aspects for Western Australia. These included early women of activism, telegraphy and reform law, leading to the five women on the plaques who had great advocacy for equality in welfare, education, annual pay and social justice.

Commencing from 1895 at the Karrakatta Club into the early and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century were **Mrs Edith Cowan OBE**, **Mrs M Niblock**, **Mrs Ethel Joyner**, **Miss May Holman**, **Miss Phoebe Holmes**, and not forgetting the Women's Land Army and **Florence Hummerston**, authors, medical practitioners, artists and nurses. A short rest and listen in the shade (as pictured) led along the lower path of the Rifle Range to finish at the Queens Tree. A handout was given with all names to an appreciative audience.



**Robyn Forshaw, Theresa Putland, Helen Mills, Judy Kay and Cathy McRae**

## Invitation to 'Walking in the Footsteps of Women' coming soon

Our 'Walking in the Footsteps of Women' themed walks on both 8 and 9 March were sold out this year and we had very appreciative audiences. The walk takes place around the Pioneer Women's Memorial, water garden and Karri Pavilion. It celebrates Aboriginal women and their use of plants, pioneer women, women's organisations and more modern women pioneers who have all contributed to the development of the state.

On the 9 March walk we had a large group of participants who were employees at The Kids Research Institute.

This walk will be offered to Guides in late April and you will all be notified by email.



Conclusion of the walk at the Banksia Seat

# From the Park

## Big News! National Volunteer Week/Botanic Gardens Week Morning Tea

BGPA and our volunteer partners (Kings Park Guides, Friends of Kings Park, Friends of Bold Park and Honour Avenues Group) will be celebrating National Volunteer Week with morning tea on **Friday 22 May starting at 10 am**.

This year, National Volunteer Week coincides with Botanic Gardens Week. BGPA is celebrating these two important weeks together with morning tea for volunteers and staff.

Invitations for morning tea have been emailed to volunteers. Please RSVP as per the invitation so we can ensure we have enough catering.

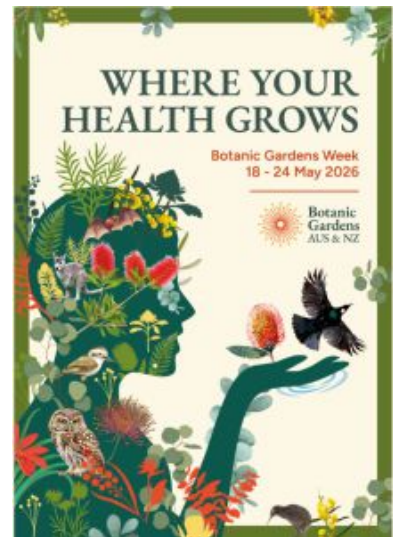
Thanks to Lotterywest and Volunteering WA for some funding for the event through the National Volunteer Week Grant program.

## National Volunteer Week and Botanic Gardens Week Poetry Competition – make sure you enter

The Botanic Garden Week theme is "Where Your Health Grows" to highlight the mental, physical, and social wellbeing benefits of nature. We see this as a fabulous tie in with National Volunteer Week, which this year celebrates the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development.

Enter the poetry competition and celebrate the health-giving benefits of volunteering and working in our parks through poetry! There are great botanic themed prizes for both volunteers and staff. Poems should be short, less than two minutes, but can be any genre. Enter as a solo poet or pull together a team effort.

Please submit your poems to [inger.thompson@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:inger.thompson@dbca.wa.gov.au) by 1 May. Winners will be notified by 15 May. Winning poems will be performed and prizes awarded at the morning tea on Friday 22 May.



## Park Notes

Please be aware of the following closures during the coming weeks

- Tuart Path: Giga Jumulu to LotteryWest Walkway - closed from 7 April
- Kimberley Beds: There will be periodic disruptions to access in the area
- Rifle Range path: Closed from 13 April, Kaarta Gar-Up remains open
- Footpath replacement and stone works 30 March – 12 May

# Anzac Day Activities in Kings Park

## Anzac Day All-Abilities Sunset Service – Friday 24 April

RSL WA is holding an inclusive Sunset Service at the Flame of Remembrance from **5.00 - 5:30 pm** in commemoration of all servicemen and women who have served and died in military operations.

The ceremony is wheelchair accessible and includes an audio description option (for people who are blind or vision impaired), Assistive Listening (for people using Bluetooth hearing aids), wheelchair access, Auslan sign language, a quiet zone and plenty of ACROD parking. More information



## Anzac Day: Dawn Service – 5:45 am - 7:00 am, Saturday 25 April, State War Memorial

The Anzac Day service is open to all who wish to commemorate and recognise service. Public transport is strongly advised, as there is no public parking at Kings Park. Large LED screens and speakers will broadcast the service. Road blocks will be in place. More information

# Noongar Season of Djeran

Djeran brings the cooler weather, with colder nights and a dewy presence in the early mornings. The winds become less intense, with light breezes generally swinging from southerly directions.

Djeran is a time of red flowers, including the red flowering gum (*Corymbia ficifolia*) and *Beaufortia aestiva* (shown right). Banksias are displaying their flowers, ensuring that there are nectar food sources for the many small mammals and birds that rely upon them. Foods at this time of year included the zamia seeds that had been collected and stored for treatment during the previous season. The root bulbs of the *yanget* (bullrushes), freshwater fish, frogs and turtles were also common foods.



As the season progresses, the nights become cooler and damp. *Mia mias* (houses or shelters) were repaired and updated to ensure they were waterproofed and facing in the right direction in readiness for the deep wintery months to come.

# Reports

## Further Education

The following events are planned for coming months:

### May

- Guest speaker: **Chris Back** - General Sir John Monash (shown right).
- TMT: **Dani Boase Jelinek** – Ant Pollination.



### June

- Guest speaker: **Malcolm French** - Eucalypts.
- TMT: **Georgie Wilson** – Birds of Kings Park.

TMTs are now fully subscribed for 2026, however you can nominate for 2027 if you have a topic you are keen to share.

**Penelope Mogridge**

## Peer Observation

- Have you thought about your WAG obligations in 2026?
- Please organise to WAG another Guide's walk.
- Please organise another Guide to WAG your walk.
- Remember the chat afterwards is a very important part of this learning process.
- Enjoy sharing your walk with other Guides and enjoy sharing other Guides walk.
- Let's fill in the empty spaces on the WAG Spreadsheet before we need to bring out the red pen!!

**Helen Clifton**

## Walks

### What's in a Name?

A number of Guides who attended the Guides' Conference in Adelaide last year are collecting information relating to plants in the Botanic Garden, with the long-term aim of developing one or more themed walks for 2027 and beyond.

There is a file in the VIC on the shelf above the two-way radios labelled 'What's in a Name'. It contains ideas and suggestions as to what these walks might include. All Guides are welcome to read the information in the files, and to add any suggestions.

**Please do not remove any of the material in the file.**

If any Guides would like copies of the information in the file, it can be provided electronically or as a hard copy. Please contact **Rhonda Wallman** (rondiw@hotmail.com) to arrange this.

## Themed Walks

A new themed walk – **Treading Softly: Mindfully Meeting Nature in Kings Park** - was offered at the end of March and owing to the popularity of this walk, it will be offered each month between now and June.

Several themed walks are being offered in May, as part of Botanic Garden Week, which this year is also the same week which will celebrate Volunteering in Kings Park.

**Rhonda Wallman**



## Changes to Rostering Arrangements in June

The Rosters Team is advising all Guides that we will need to adjust the June Roster in order to accommodate the new Guides who are currently doing the Training Course.

The Trainees are already spending time in the VIC with their mentors to learn what is required when dealing with visitors to Kings Park, and this process will continue until the end of the Training Course, which finishes with Graduation Day on Wednesday 3 June. After Graduation Day, the new Guides are *on probation* for three months and they will be paired with an experienced Guide when rostered on to do a walk, as well as doing duties in the VIC.

We will endeavour to make this process as smooth a possible, and we ask everyone to make the new Guides feel welcome whenever they come across them.

**Rosters Team**

## Updates to GRH

Each month in the newsletter we will list current and new information which is available on the GRH. If you have any suggestions of what could also be included please contact GRHadmin@kingsparkguides.com.au

**Guides Contact Lists – April 2026** – Both lists have recently been updated and can be found under Administration/Guides Contacts **Note:** If your information differs from that shown, please advise the Secretary, secretary@kingsparkguides.com.au

**Plant of the Month** – An up-to-date list and guidelines is available under Resources/Botanical

**101 Plus Questions 2026 and Index**– These have been updated and can be found under Visitor Information Centre

## Planning a KPVG Technology Pathway

The technology used by Guides to manage our affairs has evolved organically over the past few years resulting in a potentially confusing array of services including:

- public website and associated public and private facebook pages to attract people to our walks
- private website (Guides' Hub) providing internal resources and information
- Moodle quizzes as part of ongoing education
- rostering system to allocate Guides according to preferences and availabilities (with associated reminder system)

The February 2026 committee meeting resolved to set up a working group to plan out a pathway to make it simpler for Guides to integrate and navigate these various systems.

In my role as leader of this working group, I invite interested Guides to send me any comments and suggestions they have to improve the ease and convenience of using these various systems as far as possible. Please send comments and suggestions to Dani.

## Honour Boards in Wanju Marr

Guides interested to know the names of all of the past Presidents of the Kings Park Volunteer Guides, and also the names of Life Members of the Kings Park Volunteer Guides are reminded that the Honour Boards are mounted on the wall at Wanju Marr.



## Resignation

**Ron (Reinhold) Mannhardt** has resigned from Kings Park Guides. Ron, who graduated in 2018, plans to continue volunteering with a number of organisations in which he is currently involved. We wish him well.



# 2026 Serventy Memorial Lecture

The Western Australian Naturalists' Club invites Kings Park Guides to attend and support our **2026 Serventy Memorial Lecture** at The University of Western Australia.

We are hosting **Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO**, former Governor of Western Australia, Chair of the WA Parks Foundation, and Co-Patron of the WA Naturalists' Club, who will be delivering an inspiring talk about the beautiful but threatened environment of Western Australia. Specifically Kerry will be discussing the important role organisations have in encouraging the understanding of, and love for, our natural environment, and how WA Parks Foundation aims to achieve this in collaboration with other organisations.



## Event Details:

- Wednesday 22 April, 7:30 pm
- Social Sciences Lecture Theatre, UWA, Saw Promenade, Crawley, WA 6009

## Tickets:

- Student Admission - \$15
- General Admission - \$25



## For Your Diary

**Wednesday 1 April to -Thursday 30 April** – Boorloo Heritage Festival, various locations. More information.

**Wednesday 22 April, 7.30 pm** – Seventy Memorial Lecture, Social Sciences Lecture Theatre, UWA Crawley.

**Friday 24 April, 8 am** – Bird Walk with Geoff Chidlow, leaving from Wanju Marr.

**Friday 24 April, 5 pm - 5.30 pm** – All Abilities Sunset Service, Flame of Remembrance.

**Saturday 25 April, 5.45 am - 7 am** – Anzac Day Service, Kings Park War Memorial.

**Monday 4 May, 10 am** – Fremantle Walk – Two Feet and a Heartbeat. Bookings are open.

**Tuesday 5 May, 7 pm** – May General Meeting, Green Room, Education.

**Thursday 14 May, 11 am** – Catalpa: Flight to Freedom. Theatre 180. Fully Booked.

**Friday 22 May, 10 am-11.30 am** – Volunteer Appreciation Event at the Short Vista.

**Lightscape Dates:** The event will commence with a preview night on Thursday 4 June, followed by the first official night on Friday 5 June. Lightscape will run every Wednesday to Sunday, (including Tuesdays during the school holidays – 7 and 14 July), until Sunday 26 July.

The deadline for items for the May newsletter is **5 pm Friday 8 May**.



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