

Kings Park Volunteer Guides - Training Course 2026

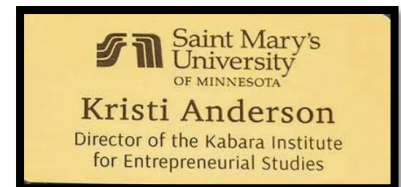
People and Plant Names

1. Why are plant names so important?

Humans like to name things. It helps us understand how things fit together, it ensures we're talking about the same thing, and it allows us to assign meaning and knowledge to things.

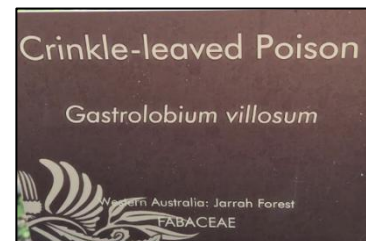
Names and labels provide information. They help us to:

- communicate clearly – they provide a shared language and help to avoid confusion about who we're talking about
- understand relationships – they can help us see how things are related and what features they have in common
- share knowledge across time and place – they allow people to record information and ensure the knowledge can be retrieved later.



Kings Park plant labels provide this information:

- what do you like people to call you? = common name
e.g. crinkle-leaved poison
- what's your formal name? = scientific name (*Genus species*)
e.g. *Gastrolobium villosum*
- who are you related to? = family name
e.g. Fabaceae
- where are you from? = geographic range
e.g. WA: jarrah forest
- how can I distinguish you from other members of your genus → species name
e.g. *villosum*



2. How are plants named?

Plants often have two distinctly different names, a common name and a scientific name.

Common name

- The common name is the informal, everyday name used by local communities, gardeners and the public. Common names make plants easier to talk about for people without botanical training, but they can lead to confusion, as a plant can have many common names and different plants can share the same common name.
- Common names arise organically through language, culture or observation rather than through a formal naming process. Often relates to what the plant or flower looks like, e.g. red-flowering gum, its use e.g. soapbush, its behaviour, e.g. creeping saltbush, or a cultural or historical association, e.g. marri.
- Cultivar names are sometimes used in lieu of a common name, e.g. 'RSL Spirit of Anzacs' grevillea.

Scientific name

- The scientific names function as the precise, universal naming system that anchors all botanical knowledge. Scientific names play several core roles in botany:

- Ensure accuracy – as each species has a single valid scientific name governed by the International Code of Nomenclature (ICN), preventing duplication and confusion
- Show relationships – the two-part name (*Genus + species*) reflects evolutionary relationships. Plants in the same genus share ancestry and often similar traits.
- Provide stability over time – scientific names are anchored to type specimens and published descriptions, so they remain stable even if common names change.
- Support scientific communication and enable precise record keeping - once a plant is named, all research, ecological data, cultural information, and management guidelines can be tied to that name.
- A scientific name can only be assigned when a botanist determines that a plant is new to science. This is a detailed research-based process which prevents accidental renaming of species that already have valid names. A scientific name becomes official when its formal species description is validly published.
- The botanist who first validly publishes the species description has the right to choose the name, but the name must follow ICN rules. Names may honour people, describe features or reference places – but they must be grammatically correct and unique within the genus.
- In WA, a small number of influential botanists have made a disproportionate contribution to assigning scientific names to local species (e.g. Robert Brown and George Bentham in the 19th century and Stephen Hopper, who is still actively naming species).

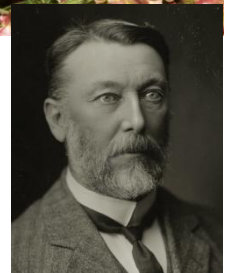
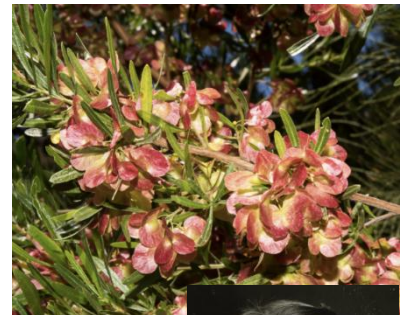
Example:

Common name: Hackett's Hop Bush (descriptive)

- The common name 'hop bush' is used as the fruit resemble the fruit of the hop bush used in brewing beer – the *Dodonaea* is not related to true Hops (*Humulus lupulus*) used in brewing.

Scientific name: *Dodonaea hackettiana*

- *Dodonaea*: Named in 1754 for Rembert Dodoens, a 16th Century Flemish botanist, professor of medicine at the University of Leyden, Netherlands.
- *hackettiana*: Named for Sir J.W. Hackett (1848-1916), the chairman of the Kings Park Board, proprietor and editor of several early newspapers in WA, politician and key figure in the establishment of UWA (pictured).



Naming history: *Dodonaea hackettiana* was first formally described in 1905 by William Vincent Fitzgerald in the Journal of the West Australian Natural History Society from specimens collected in 1904. Fitzgerald's choice of species name reflects a long-standing botanical tradition of commemorating botanical patrons.

The endings of a plant's scientific name can indicate who a plant is named after.

The ending of a plant's scientific name often signals who or what the species commemorates, because the second part of the name (the *specific epithet*) is usually written in the Latin genitive case, meaning "of" or "belonging to." Different endings point to different kinds of honourees.

- Named after a man: epithets usually end in **-ii** (most common) or **-i** (when the name already ends in a vowel). This form usually, but not always, indicates the person commemorated found the plant.

- E.g. *Grevillea wilsonii* – ‘Wilson’s grevillea’, because Wilson first collected a specimen of the plant.
- Named after a woman: epithets usually end in **-iae** or **-ae**.
 - E.g. *Acacia victoriae* – named after Queen Victoria
- Named in honour of someone other than the finder: epithets usually end in **-anus**, **ianus** or **-ana**, meaning ‘pertaining to’ a person.
 - E.g. *lindleyanus* in honour of John Lindley, a distinguished English botanist who described many Swan River plants in the early 19th century.
- Named for its resemblance to another species or genus: epithets usually end in ‘oides’ or a new compound name may be created with ‘idis’ or ‘idi’ being added in a way that references some part of characteristic of the plant
 - E.g. *choretroides* meaning like the genus *Choretrum*, and *picridifolius*, from *Picris -idis* and *folium* leaf, i.e. having leaves like a *Picris*.

3. How can you use plant names in your guided walks?

Plant names, both common and scientific, act as cultural, historical, and ecological records, so they can reveal a surprising amount about the history of a place, the people who lived there, and the forces that shaped its development. Their value goes far beyond identification: they are windows into language, colonisation, Indigenous knowledge, exploration, and environmental change.

By learning the stories behind plant names, you can create coherent narratives for your visitors or construct themed walks through your selection of plants to discuss along your walk path.

Warning: There are often many stories that can be told about the individual behind the plant name. Be considered in how you plan your walk and which stories to share so to not overwhelm your audience with a dry history lecture.

4. A thematic collection

This section presents a curated collation of plants with names that provide links to the history of WA. Almost all the plants included can be found in the Botanic Garden and many are local to Kings Park. Plants have been grouped into themes, but their stories often transcend a single thematic category.

Note: This is just a small foray into the people commemorated by WA plants; the Guides’ library and the publications by Audrey and Harry Pearson, ‘*About People*’ and ‘*About Kings Park*’ are excellent sources for further research.

WA species linked to expeditions that discovered parts of the WA coast

WA plants are often named after members of expeditions sent to search for a southern continent and chart its coastline. Many of the initial WA coastline sightings were made by the Dutch, seeking wares to trade on route to the Spice Islands, and later by the English, keen on competing for this lucrative trade. Captains of these expeditions charted the coastline and often gathered collections that provided the first European glimpses of the unique WA flora. These collections were sent to European herbaria, where botanists named species after the collectors, captains or patrons involved in the expeditions. A Dutch

expedition in 1627 is remembered through the Australian Christmas tree, *Nuytsia floribunda* and the English expeditions under William Dampier of 1688 and 1699 are commemorated by the genus *Dampiera*.

***Nuytsia floribunda*, Western Australian Christmas tree**

Named for: Pieter Nuyts (1598-1655)

Role: An official in the Dutch East India Company (VOC).

Impact on WA: The Dutch search for a faster route to the Spice Islands shaped some of the earliest European encounters with Western Australia. In the early 1600s, Dutch ships began sailing directly east from the Cape of Good Hope before turning north toward Java, using the prevailing westerlies to shorten the voyage. Because the Australian coastline was largely uncharted, many ships unexpectedly reached the WA coast, leading to new mapping and, in some cases, shipwrecks.

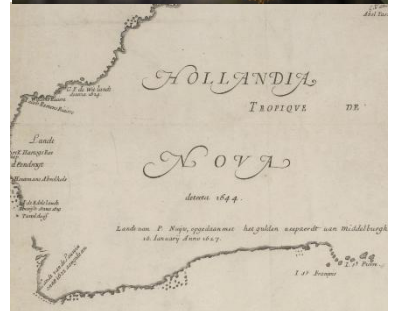
In 1627, Captain Frans Thyssen sailed the *Gulden Zeepaerdt* (Golden Seahorse) past Cape Leeuwin and into the Great Australian Bight, charting roughly 1,600 kilometres of coastline.

He named the region Nuytsland after Pieter Nuyts, the most senior VOC official on board. This was one of the earliest European names applied to any part of Australia's coast (see map).

After the voyage, Nuyts served as the VOC's governor of Formosa (Taiwan) and later as ambassador to Japan. His time in Asia, marked by controversy, accusations of illicit trade, womanising, and arrogance, led to four years of house arrest in Japan. Despite this, he returned to the Dutch Republic and built a successful political career, serving multiple terms as a mayor.

Named by: First named *Loranthus floribundus* by Jacques Labillardière in 1805, it was given a new genus name, *Nuytsia*, by Robert Brown in 1831.

Location: Near the Acacia Steps in the Botanic Garden and throughout the bushland of Kings Park.



***Dampiera linearis*, Wedge-leaved Dampiera**

Named for: William Dampier (1651-1715)

Role: Explorer, privateer, navigator and naturalist.

Impact on WA: The genus commemorates William Dampier, the first Englishman to explore and chart parts of the Australian coastline. He landed on the north-west coast of Western Australia in 1688 and again in 1699, collecting about 25 of the earliest Australian plant specimens to reach European herbaria.

Dampier is described as Australia's first natural historian and one of the most significant British explorers of his era. In 1688, he spent several months near King Sound (near Derby) while the *Cygnets* was repaired, recording local flora and fauna. In 1699, he returned aboard *HMS Roebuck*, sailing past Dirk Hartog Island, naming Shark Bay and proceeding along the north-west coast to the Dampier



Archipelago, charting the coastline and collecting specimens later deposited in the University of Oxford herbaria. His accounts of these travels, published in three volumes, *A Voyage to New Holland, &c. in the Year 1699* (1703), 1705 supplement and 1709 continuation, were very influential.

Dampier's observations shaped later scientific work. Joseph Banks studied Dampier's notes before his own voyage with James Cook, and Dampier's natural history writings influenced thinkers such as Alexander von Humboldt, Alfred Russel Wallace and Charles Darwin. His name endures across Western Australia in places such as the town of Dampier and the Dampier Archipelago.

Today, Dampier is also recognised as a controversial figure, due to his involvement in piracy, the kidnapping and slave trading of Indigenous peoples, and his negative descriptions of Aboriginal Australians.

Named by: The genus *Dampiera* was first formally described in 1810 by Robert Brown in his *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae et Insulae Van Diemen*.

Location: Found throughout the bushland of Kings Park. Several cultivars of this species have been developed and are available from a range of nurseries.

Other connections: *Dampiera* is a genus of about 70 species, many of which are planted in the botanic gardens, and eight are found around the Perth region.

Links to other plants: consider *Banksia menziesii* to discuss Vancouver's expedition of 1791, *Banksia baueri* and *Leucophyta brownii* to discuss the Matthew Flinders expedition of 1801 and *Crotalaria cunninghamii* for King's expedition of 1817. To discuss the Dutch exploration of the WA coastline, look out for *Nutysia floribunda* and *Macrozamia riedlei*.

WA species linked to early explorations of Western Australia

Plant names in Western Australia often honour members of early exploratory voyages, as botanical science in the region was tightly intertwined with exploration, surveying, and colonial expansion. The expansionist colonial powers of the time, the French and the English, conducted exploratory voyages, seeking to 'understand' the southern continent. The English were outwardly looking for new areas to settle but the French maintained that their voyages were focused on scientific discovery.

The species below recognise members of key French and English expeditions visiting Western Australia:

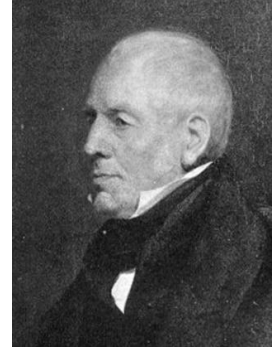
- **1791** English ships *Discovery* and *Chatham* under Captain **George Vancouver**
- **1792** French ships the *Recherche* and *L'Esperance* under Captain **Bruny D'Entrecasteaux**
- **1801** French ships the *Geographe* and *Naturaliste* under Captain **Nicholas Baudin** and **Jacques Hamelin**
- **1801** English ship *Investigator* under Lieutenant-in-Command **Matthew Flinders**
- **1817** French ship the *Uranie* under Captain **Louis de Freycinet**
- **1818** English ship the *Mermaid* under Captain **Phillip Parker King**.

***Banksia menziesii*, Firewood Banksia**

Named for: Archibald Menzies

Role: A Scottish surgeon and botanist, an experienced plant collector.

Impact on WA: As surgeon and botanist on the English expedition in 1791 led by George Vancouver on *HMAS Discovery*, Menzies collected some of the earliest European botanical specimens from the south-west of WA. During the expedition's anchorage at King George Sound (Albany) he gathered a large number of dried and living specimens, especially from the Proteaceae family, of which *Banksia* are members. Seeds he sent to Kew were successfully grown, helping introduce WA flora to European science and horticulture. In the 18th century, the practice of medicine was closely allied with botany as so many remedies were derived from plants. British naval surgeons often took the opportunity to collect plant specimens at their ports of call.



Named by: Botanist Robert Brown later honoured Menzies in the naming of several species.

Location: Found throughout Kings Park and Botanic Gardens.

Other connections: Many species are named after Menzies, including the bladderworts, redcoats, *Utricularia menziesii* and the Douglas fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*.

***Billardiera hetrophylla*, Australian Bluebell/Bluebell creeper**

Named for: Jacques Julien Houton de Labillardiere (1755–1834)

Role: A French botanist, famous for his herbaria collections and maritime explorations and friend of Sir Joseph Banks.

Impact on WA: In 1791, Labillardière was appointed as a naturalist to Bruni d'Entrecasteaux's expedition to Oceania, in search of the lost ships of La Pérouse. This expedition explored the southwest coast, making harbour at Recherche Bay, Esperance, where Labillardiere collected about 5000 specimens, consisting of about 100 species in 30 genera. During the expedition the French Revolution broke out, so when the ships reached Java, Labillardière's collection was seized by the British as spoils of war. With support from Joseph Banks, Labillardière returned to France with his collection in 1796. He published the first general description of the flora of Australia *Novae Hollandiae Plantarum Specimen* (1804–07).



Named by: The genus *Billardiera* was first formally described in 1793 by James Edward Smith in his book *A Specimen of the Botany of New Holland*, referencing *Billardiera scandens*. This species was previously known as *Sollya heterophylla* but was reassigned to the genus in 2004.

Location: Scattered in the bushland of Kings Park and the Botanic Gardens.

Other connections: *Billardiera fraseri* (Hook) is also occasionally found in the bushland of Kings Park, while *Billardiera bicolour* has been recorded in Kings Park but is not considered naturalised.

Links to other plants: consider *Guichenotia macrantha*, *Macrozamia riedlei* and *Lechenaultia biloba* to discuss the Baudin expedition of 1801 and to contrast the French and English approaches to naming plants.

Guichenotia macrantha, no common name

Named for: Antoine Guichenot (1783-1867)

Role: 'gardener's boy' and plant collector

Impact on WA: Guichenot was a 'gardener's boy' on the 1801-1804 French scientific expedition to Australia under Nicholas Baudin (on the *Geographe* - pictured). Surviving plant specimens suggest he was poorly educated but extremely hard working, tasked with collecting and annotating plant specimens under botanist Jean Baptiste Leschenault de la Tour. He collected at Cape Naturalist, the Swan River and Shark Bay. Guichenot also collected on the 1817 voyage under Louis de Freycinet (on the *Uranie*).

Named by: The genus was first formally described in 1821 by Jaques Étienne Gay in *Mémoires du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle*. The first species Gay described was *Guichenotia ledifolia*.

Location: Found throughout the Botanic Gardens, particularly in the marri/jarrah woodland areas.

Other connections: *Guichenotia* is a genus of about 6 species all occurring in the south and south-east of Western Australia. They are closely related to *Thomasia*, *Lysiosepalum* and *Lasiopetaum*. *G. macrantha* is the best known and most widely cultivated member of the genus.



Lechenaultia biloba, Blue Leschenaultia

Named for: Frenchman Jean Baptiste Leschenault de la Tour (1773-1826)

Role: Botanist, traveller and ornithologist.

Impact on WA: Leschenault was chief botanist on Nicolas Baudin's voyage of exploration to Australia (1800-4), collecting at Cape Naturaliste, Swan River and Shark Bay.

Named by: Robert Brown named the genus after the two botanists met at Encounter Bay in South Australia while Brown was the naturalist with Matthew Flinders' circumnavigation of Australia. Brown assumed the French spelling for the name, omitting the 's', which resulted in the current inconsistency between the genus name and Leschenault's spelling of his own name. *Lechenaultia biloba* was first formally described in 1839 by John Lindley in *A Sketch of the Vegetation of the Swan River Colony*.

Location: Regularly planted on the mound and around the Botanic Garden entrance during spring.

Other connections: *Lechenaultia floribunda* (free-flowering leschenaultia) is occasionally found in the bushland of Kings Park, and *Lechenaultia linarioides* (yellow leschenaultia) is common in the bushland of Bold Park. Kings Park is leading plant breeding investigations into



leschenaultias, creating hybrids from several species including *L. formosa*, *L. macrantha*, and *L. biloba* – producing a range of robust long-flowering colour variants.

***Macrozamia riedlei*, Zamia**

Named for: German Anselme Riedlé (1765–1801)

Role: Gardener-botanist, explorer.

Impact on WA: Riedle, a gardener from Jardin des Plantes de Paris, the main botanical garden in France, was invited to join Nicholas Baudin’s scientific expedition to Australia (1800-4) to lead a team of five gardeners working under the direction of the botanist Leschenault. The team collected at Cape Naturaliste, Swan River and Shark Bay. Gardener-botanists on such voyages assisted with the collection, transport, cultivation, and distribution of useful plants. They worked closely with the expedition’s naturalists, gathering live plants, seed, and herbarium specimens, and often kept journals recording their observations of the vegetation encountered. The Baudin expedition proved extremely demanding. Of the 22 scientists on board—including the gardener-botanists—ten left the voyage at Île de France (Mauritius), and only three completed the journey. Riedlé was among those who did not survive to return home.

Named by: The first species description was published as *Cycas riedlei* by Friedrich Ernst Ludwig von Fischer, based on a specimen collected at King George Sound and held at the Paris museum. Charles Gardner revised the name in 1930, assigning it to the genus *Macrozamia*.

Location: This is a common jarrah forest species but most zamia in Kings Park are the related *Macrozamia fraseri*, which was previously confused with *riedlei* – which differs in having flat rather than keeled leaves and smaller cones.

Other connections: Zamia nuts are extremely toxic, reportedly causing sickness when ingested by men on many early explorations including those of Vlaming (1697), La Perouse (1788), Flinders (1801) and Grey (1839).



***Banksia baueri*, woolly banksia**

Named for: Austrian brothers Franz and Ferdinand Bauer (1760-1826)

Role: Botanical artist.

Impact on WA: Ferdinand Bauer was selected by Joseph Banks to join Matthew Flinders’ 1801–1805 circumnavigation of Australia on the *HMAS Investigator*, serving as botanical draughtsman under the direction of Robert Brown. His meticulous technique and disciplined work ethic quickly earned the admiration of both Brown and Flinders. Writing from Port Jackson on 20 May 1802, Flinders remarked to Banks that “*it was fortunate for science that two such men as Mr Brown and Mr Bauer have been selected; their application is beyond what I have been accustomed to see.*”



During the voyage, Bauer perfected an innovative method sketching specimens in the field and marking each with a detailed colour code, allowing him to complete the final paintings later with remarkable accuracy. This “painting by numbers” approach enabled him to capture the subtleties of Australian flora under challenging expedition conditions.

Named by: Robert Brown described *Banksia baueri* in 1830, after it had been collected by William Baxter at King Georges Sound in 1829.

Location: Found in the Banksia Garden of the Botanic Gardens

Leucophyta brownii, Cushion Bush

Named for: Robert Brown

Role: Botanist, ‘founding father of Australian botany’.

Impact on WA: Robert Brown joined Matthew Flinders’ expedition on HMAS *Investigator* (1801–1805) to survey the Australian coastline, following a recommendation from Joseph Banks. Brown was appointed as the expedition’s naturalist and instructed to collect scientific specimens of all kinds, with priority given to plants, insects, and birds.



He worked alongside two key assistants: the botanical illustrator Ferdinand Bauer and the gardener Peter Good, who was responsible for gathering live plants and viable seed for Kew Gardens. Their combined efforts mean that Brown’s collections include material gathered by all three men.

The *Investigator* reached King George Sound in December 1801. Over the next three and a half years, Brown undertook intensive botanical research across Australia, ultimately collecting around 3,400 species, including approximately 2,000 species previously unknown to science.



Brown remained in Australia until May 1805 before returning to Britain, where he spent the next five years analysing and describing the specimens he had collected. His contribution to Western Australian botany is substantial: he formally authored nearly 1,200 species from the region.

As a taxonomist Brown had his greatest influence on WA botany, naming hundreds of plants including *Banksia attenuata* (Candlestick Banksia), *Hakea prostrata* (Harsh Hakea), found in Kings Park bushland, and *Banksia coccinia* (Scarlet Banksia), found in the Banksia Garden.

Named by: The genus was first formally described by botanist Robert Brown in 1818. *Leucophyta* – derived from the Greek terms *leuco* (meaning grey, white), and *phyto* (meaning plant).

Location: Commonly found in cultivation and occasionally used in plantings in The Mound and the Botanic Garden entrance. Also found on the coastal foredunes of Bold Park.

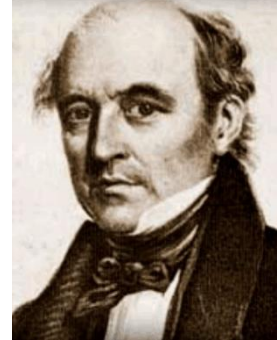
Other connections: Also named for Robert Brown is the genus *Brunonia*, including *Brunonia australis*, commonly known as the blue pincushion or native cornflower.

***Crotalaria cunninghamii*, Green Bird Flower**

Named for: Alan Cunningham (1791-1839)

Role: 19th century botanist and explorer of Australia.

Impact on WA: Cunningham collected extensively across northern and eastern Australia. He was appointed as the botanist aboard *HMS Mermaid* for Phillip King's 1817 expedition to complete Matthew Flinders' work surveying the Australian Coast. During this seven-month trip to the north-west of WA, Cunningham collected more than 300 species, including *Crotalaria cunninghamii*. Cunningham was a most prolific plant collector, acting as the King's Collector for the Royal Garden at Kew, for whom he made over more than 20,000 herbarium sheets. He contributed foundational knowledge of the continent's flora.



Named by: The species was described and named by Robert Brown in 1849, who published it in the Botanical Appendix to Charles Stuart's '*Narrative of an Expedition into Central Australia*'. Brown's choice of species name reflects a long-standing botanical tradition of commemorating influential collectors and scientists. Note: The genus *Crotalaria* refers to the (Greek) *krotalon* a rattle, castanet + *aria* indicating connection (the seeds rattle in the pod when shaken).

Location: Found in several locations in the Botanic Garden, notably the Kimberley beds and the mallee garden.

Other connections: Many Australian plants are named after Cunningham who also collected extensively across eastern Australia. Many botanists acknowledged their plant descriptions were based on material from his collections by including 'A. Cunn' in their descriptions.

WA Species linked to early years of the Swan River Colony

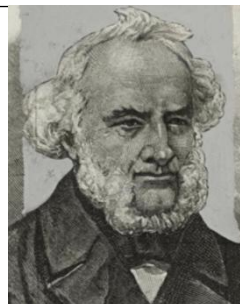
Western Australian plant names also preserve the history of the Swan River Colony by honouring the people who shaped its exploration, administration, scientific foundations and early horticulture. These commemorations follow a clear pattern: botanists named species after individuals whose actions directly influenced the colony's establishment or whose work enabled the first scientific understanding of its flora.

***Stirlingia latifolia*, blueboy**

Named for: James Stirling (1791–1865)

Role: Captain Stirling promoted the establishment of the Swan River Colony and was its first Governor.

Impact on WA: Stirling was instrumental in persuading the British Government to establish a settlement on the west coast. His advocacy led directly to the creation of the Swan River Colony in 1829, the first free-settler colony in Australia. As Governor from 1829-1839, Stirling guided the colony through its formative decade.



Stirling managed the colony during a period of limited resources and slow economic growth, laying the groundwork for later development. He implemented policies to encourage migration and agricultural expansion.

Stirling's administration also intersected with frontier conflict, including the Pinjarra massacre, which remains a significant and contested part of his legacy.

Named by: An error in Robert Browns' original publication on the genus as *Simsia* (this name had already been used for another genus) provided an opportunity for Stephan Endlicher to publish a new name for the genus in 1838. He chose the name *Stirlingia*, in honour of James Stirling.

Location: Found throughout the bushland of Kings Park, including along the Nature Trail.

Other connections: Seven species of *Stirlingia* are currently recognised, all endemic to the south-west of WA.

Links to other plants: consider *Allocasuarina fraseriana* and *Macrozamia fraseri* to discuss decisions to establish the Swan River Colony, *Callitris roei* to discuss how land was distributed in the early settlement, *Banksia drummondii* to link to early plant collectors in the colony and *Anigozanthos manglesii* to explore the role of the plant trade in the early colony and the family of Stirling's wife Ellen.

Allocasuarina fraseriana, Fraser's sheoak

Named for: Charles Fraser (1788-1831)

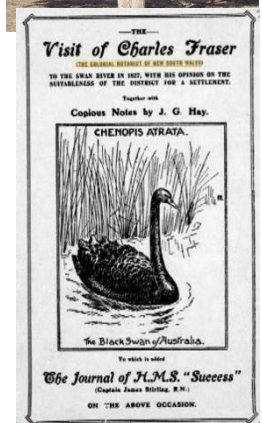
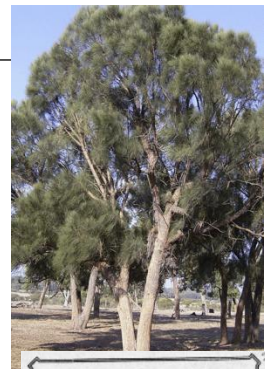
Role: Colonial Botanist of New South Wales from 1821 to 1831.

Impact on WA: Fraser collected and catalogued many Australian plant species and took part in several exploratory expeditions. In 1827 he accompanied Captain James Stirling on the Swan River expedition, which aimed to assess the west coast as a potential site for a new British settlement. At the end of the journey Fraser issued an enthusiastic report on the area's soils, writing: "*I hesitate not in pronouncing it superior to any I ever saw in New South Wales east of the Blue Mountains.*" His assessment strongly influenced the decision to establish the Swan River Colony. In reality, the region's soils are generally poor, and Fraser was later criticised for the inaccuracy of his report.

Named by: The sheoak was first formally described in 1848 by Friedrich Anton Wilhelm Miquel as *Casuarina fraseriana*. Lawrie Johnson reclassified it as *Allocasuarina fraseriana* in 1982.

Location: Found throughout the bushland of Kings Park, including along the Nature Trail.

Other connections: More than 30 other species have been named after Fraser.



Anigozanthos manglesii, Mangles kangaroo paw, red and green kangaroo paw

Named for: Robert Mangles, cousin of Ellen Stirling (the wife of James Stirling, the first Governor of the Swan River Colony) and brother of James Mangles (1786-1867).

Role: Patron of botany, distributor of exotic seeds.

Impact on WA: Robert Mangles was a prominent figure in 19th-century English horticulture, known for his wealth, influence, and the celebrated gardens he developed at Whitmore Lodge in Berkshire. He cultivated new and exotic species sourced



from around the world, and his horticultural achievements were frequently profiled in gardening journals.

Together with his brother, Captain James Mangles, Robert helped introduce Western Australian plants to British horticulture, successfully exhibiting many of them in competitive horticultural shows, popular in London at the time. James had spent three months in the Swan River Colony in 1831, visiting his cousin Ellen Stirling, wife of then Lieutenant-Governor James Stirling. Stirling supplied Robert with seeds of the kangaroo paw, from which Mackay successfully grew the type specimen in 1832. The brothers soon built a thriving trade in WA seeds, with James sourcing material first from James Drummond and later—after concerns about the quality of Drummond’s specimens—from Georgiana Molloy. Their efforts played a major role in popularising WA flora in Britain. Robert and James were connected to the shipping company F & C F Mangles, which inaugurated a regular service to the colony from 1835.

Named by: The species was first described by a Scottish botanist David Don, librarian to the Linnean Society in 1834 from the type specimen. Don wrote: “*This singularly beautiful species of Anigozanthos was raised in the garden at Whitmore Lodge, Berks., the seat of Robert Mangles, Esq. from seeds brought from Swan River by Sir James Stirling, the enterprising governor of that colony, by whom they had been presented to Mr. Mangles.*”

Location: Found throughout the botanic garden and Kings Park bushland.

Other connections: Several other WA species are named for members of the Mangles family, including *Melaleuca manglesii*, *Grevillea manglesii*, *Rhodanthe manglesii* and *Ptilotus manglesii* (pom poms). In November 1960, *Anigozanthos manglesii* was adopted as the floral emblem of Western Australia in a proclamation made by the premier of Western Australia David Brand.

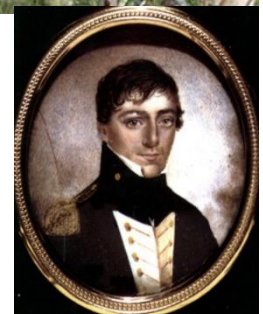
***Callitris roei*, Roe’s cyprus pine**

Named for: John Septimus Roe (1797-1878)

Role: Surveyor-General of WA, who explored widely in the south-west of the colony and collected botanical specimens.

Impact on WA: Roe first visited WA in 1817 aboard the *Mermaid* led by Lieutenant King, surveying the north coast of Australia. In December 1828, Roe was appointed as Surveyor General of the Swan River Colony. Acting in this role from 1829 to 1870, Roe was responsible for laying out the townsites, roads and land allotments that structured the colony. He oversaw Fremantle’s and Perth’s early plans, determined the alignment of major roads, and managed land grants—decisions that shaped the colony’s physical and economic development.

Roe led or supported 16 exploration surveys in the SW of WA between 1829-1849, charting the Avon Valley, south coast, Wheatbelt, Goldfields and interior. His maps were the first reliable geographic records of these regions and guided where settlers farmed, travelled and built infrastructure. Roe’s journals included detailed notes on landscapes, soils, vegetation and water sources. These surveys also opened routes later used by botanists, pastoralists and government officials. These records were invaluable to early settlers and later scientists, forming part of the colony’s earliest environmental knowledge base.



Arguably the most significant legacy left by Roe was the setting aside of Kings Park. As early as December 1830, Roe responded to a request to cut timber below Mount Eliza with: "*Mr. Mews to be informed that the neighbourhood of Mt. Eliza is reserved for public purposes*". Although it is widely accepted that Roe's successors Malcolm Fraser and John Forrest were most instrumental in the establishment of Kings Park, Roe was clearly responsible for the initial setting aside of the park.

Serving for 43 years, Roe provided rare continuity in a young colony that often struggled with resources, labour and political uncertainty. His long tenure helped stabilise land administration and supported the colony's gradual expansion.

Named by: *Callitris roei* (Endlicher) F J Mueller 1882.

Location: Found in the bushland of Kings Park.

Other connections: Many species have been named for Roe, including *Didymanthus roei*, *Glischrocaryon roei*, *Leptospermum roei*, *Ptilotis roei* and *Verticordia roei* (Roe's featherflower). He is honoured in Kings Park by the Roe Gardens and Memorial.

***Acacia drummondii*, Drummond's Wattle**

Named for: James Drummond (1786 -1863).

Role: The inaugural Swan River colonial botanist and plant collector.

Impact on WA: In 1829, he accompanied Captain James Stirling to Western Australia in the *Parmelia*, with his wife and 6 children. He was the most successful botanical collector of his time and went on numerous expeditions across Western Australia, where he collected thousands of seeds and plants which were sent to England. Drummond maintained extensive correspondence with major botanists such as William Hooker, George Bentham, and Ferdinand von Mueller.

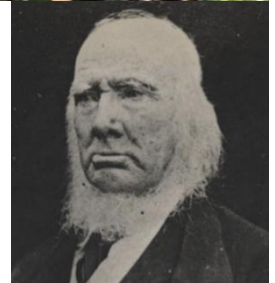
His collections became the backbone of Bentham's *Flora Australiensis* and were used to describe hundreds of new species.

When the early settlers lost numerous sheep between Albany, York, and the Avon valley, Drummond suggested that a poisonous plant was the cause. This idea was refuted initially but eventually, in 1841, a committee of the Agricultural Society trialled the suspected plant by feeding it to a few healthy sheep and goats – all of whom died within 3 hours. The plant was *Gastrolobium calycinum* now known as York Road Poison, from which the bait 1080, used to control feral foxes and cats, is derived.

Named by: First formally described in 1839 by the botanist John Lindley in his book, *A Sketch of the Vegetation of the Swan River Colony*. The specific epithet (*drummondii*) honours James Drummond, the Government Naturalist of the Swan River Colony.

Location: Marri and jarrah forest understory in the Botanic Garden.

Other connections: 119 WA plants have been named after Drummond such as *Eucalyptus drummondii*, Drummond's Gum. The following species named for Drummond can be found in the bushland of Kings Park: *Ptilotus drummondii* (narrowleaf mulla mulla), *Poa drummondiana* (knotted poa) and *Diplolaena drummondii*.



WA Species linked to Kings Park scientists and leaders

Western Australian botanists have often honoured Kings Park and Botanic Garden staff by naming newly described species after them. These names recognise major contributions to horticulture, conservation, taxonomy and the public understanding of WA flora. The plants themselves are typically rare, range-restricted species from biodiversity hotspots, making the commemorations both scientific and symbolic.

There are, of course, still new plants being discovered in WA which need to be named. Discussing some of these plants with visitors provides an opportunity to highlight the important scientific role that Kings Park plays in conservation and botanical research.

***Eucalyptus brandiana*, Square fruited mallet**

Named for: Grady Brand

Role: Senior Curator at Kings Park and Botanic Gardens

Impact on WA: Grady Brand was a long-serving Senior Curator at Kings Park, known for his leadership in horticulture, landscape design and conservation display gardens. Brand started as a trainee in Kings Park in 1978 and spend 20 years as Senior Curator – retiring in 2020 after 43 years at Kings Park. As curator, it was Grady’s job to develop a thematic planting plan for the botanic garden. He has been central to showcasing WA flora to millions of visitors and promoting sustainable gardening. Its naming recognises Brand’s influence on WA horticulture and his role in elevating Kings Park as a global leader in native plant display and conservation.

Named by: First formally described by Stephen Hopper and former Kings Park bushland manager, Nathan K McQuoid, in 2009, when the description was published in *Australian Systematic Botany* from a specimen at the Fitzgerald River Inlet. The specific epithet (*brandiana*) honours Grady Brand.

Location: Located on the upper level by the Botanic Terraces in the Botanic Garden and in the beds along Forrest Drive.

Other connections: Named by Professor Stephen Hopper – a biologist who was director of Kings Park for seven years and CEO of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority for five years. He was Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew from 2006 to 2012. He is currently Foundation Professor of Plant Conservation Biology at The University of Western Australia. As well as writing eight books and having 200 publications, Professor Hopper has described 300 new plant taxa (eucalypts, orchids, and the kangaroo paw family *Haemodoraceae*). They include around 100 eucalyptus species in the south-west of WA.



***Eucalyptus sweedmaniana*, Sweedman’s sprawling mallee**

Named for: Luke Sweedman (1958-)

Role: Botanist and seed specialist, former curator of the Western Australian Seed Technology Centre, KPBG.

Impact on WA: Luke Sweedman was a seed collector and horticulturist with Kings Park’s seed science and conservation programs. He is an expert in the storage of species for both local and international threatened flora programs and when working for KPBH he provided material for displays.



He has spent decades collecting, banking and studying WA seeds, especially from threatened species, and co-authored *Australian Seeds: A Guide to Their Collection, Identification and Biology*. This is the first complete guide to the collection, processing and storage of wild seed. Sweedman led Kings Park's contribution to the Millennium Seedbank project.



Named by: Sweedman collected the type specimen. First formally described in 2009 by Stephen Hopper and Nathan K. McQuoid and published in *Australian Systematic Botany* from a specimen in the Cape Arid National Park in 2006. The specific epithet (*sweedmaniana*) honours Luke Sweedman.

Location: Located on the upper level by the Botanic Terraces in the Botanic Garden, in the beds along Forrest Drive and in the Conservation Garden. (*Eucalyptus sweedmaniana* is classified as conservation "Priority Two" meaning that it is poorly known and from only one or a few locations).



Links to other plants: to discuss the development and work of KPBG also explore: *Eucalyptus brandiana*, *Eucalyptus beardiana* and *Conospermum wycherleyi*.

***Eucalyptus beardiana*, Beard's mallee**

Named for: John Stanley Beard (1916-2011)

Role: Botanical collector, inaugural Director of KPBG.

Impact on WA: Dr John Beard arrived in Western Australia in 1961, to take up the post of Foundation Director of the new Western Australian Botanic Garden in Kings Park (image from the opening of the WA Botanic Garden in 1965). His leadership shaped the garden's scientific purpose and public role. He oversaw its establishment, guided its early plant collections, and ensured it focused on Western Australian native flora, a defining feature that continues today.



His vision positioned Kings Park not just as a display garden but as a centre for botanical research, conservation, and education. Beard's most influential legacy is the *Vegetation Survey of Western Australia*, a project he initiated and led while at Kings Park. It aimed to map the plant cover of the entire State—an enormous task given WA's size and the lack of reliable maps at the time. His WA surveys became the standard reference for understanding the State's floristic regions and biogeography and continue to underpin modern conservation planning, ecological research and land-management decisions across WA. This work provided the first coherent framework for understanding how WA's unique plant communities are distributed and how they relate to climate, geology, and landforms. During Beard's directorship of KPBG, many of WA's unique native plants were brought into cultivation for the first time. Beard went on to be the director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens and was awarded an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia) in 2023. He died in 2011 at the age of 95.



Named by: First formally described in 1978 by Ian Brooker and Donald Blaxell in the journal *Nuytsia* from a specimen collected near Shark Bay. The specific epithet (*beardiana*) honours John Stanley Beard. The authors considered it appropriate that "*his long association with the botany of Western Australia should be perpetuated by a species endemic to the state*".

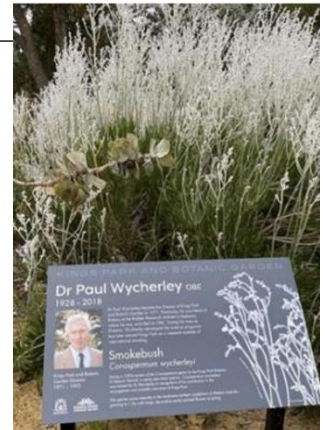
Location: Found in the beds between the long and short vistas of the Botanic Garden.

Conospermum wycherleyi, smokebush

Named for: Dr Paul Wycherley

Role: Director of Kings Park and Botanic Garden, 1971-1992.

Impact on WA: Paul Wycherley, second Director of Kings Park, was a respected horticulturist and curator at Kings Park, known for his work in developing the Western Australian Botanic Garden and advancing the cultivation of difficult native species. Wycherley continued the Park's work program on plant propagation and research and established a scientifically based program of seed propagation, tissue culture and plant analysis with the aim of developing a research institute of international standing. He opened glasshouses featuring plants that were difficult to grow outdoors and established a rare and endangered species garden. He is remembered for his interest in the park's history, his development of a scientific program in the park and for introducing the training program for Kings Park Guides in 1984.



Named by: First formally described in 1995 by Eleanor Marion Bennett in the *Flora of Australia* from specimens collected by Charles Gardner near Eneabba Creek in 1948. The specific epithet (*wycherleyi*) honours Paul Wycherley, the director of Kings Park and Botanical Garden from 1971 to 1992.

Location: Roe Gardens; there was an information plaque in the Roe Gardens for a time but this is not currently present. Planted in The Mound and Eucalyptus Garden at times.

WA species linked to inspiring women

It is unusual for WA plants to be named after women, reflecting the patriarchal norms of the 19-20st centuries. In rare cases, botanists have honoured women through plant names when they:

- made significant contributions to specimen collections, descriptions or fieldwork, such as Georgiana Molloy, Rica Erickson and Celia Rosser
- were family members or close collaborators of botanists, such as Countess von Hardenberg
- held cultural or historical significance in the colony, such as Queen Victoria.

Hakea victoria, Royal hakea, Noongar name = tallyongut

Named for: Queen Victoria (1819-1901)

Role: Monarch from 1837 to 1901.

Impact on WA: Queen Victoria shaped the political and cultural environment in which the Swan River Colony stabilised and later matured into a member of the Commonwealth. Although the colony was founded in 1829—before her accession—its formative decades unfolded under her reign. During this period Western Australia shifted from a privately funded settlement to a Crown colony (1832), bringing it under direct British authority. Governors appointed in Victoria's name oversaw land policy, infrastructure and legal institutions, embedding British administrative norms



During this period Western Australia shifted from a privately funded settlement to a Crown colony (1832), bringing it under direct British authority. Governors appointed in Victoria's name oversaw land policy, infrastructure and legal institutions, embedding British administrative norms.

Victorian values of industry, progress, science and empire strongly influenced civic culture. This was reflected in place names and institutions honouring the monarch, public ceremonies reinforcing loyalty to the Crown, and scientific and exploratory work—including botanical naming—conducted within an imperial framework. This cultural alignment helped settlers imagine themselves as part of a wider British world and shaped later debates about joining the Commonwealth. Victoria's long reign provided the continuity that allowed Western Australia to grow from a fragile settlement into a colony ready for nationhood.

Named by: The type specimen of *Hakea victoria* was collected near West Mount Barren by botanist James Drummond and first described by him in *The Inquirer* in 1847. He wrote "I have found the most extraordinary plant, a species of hakea growing 12 or 14 feet high...to this most splendid vegetable production which I have ever seen, in a wild or cultivated state, I have given the name of our gracious Queen, *Hakea victoria*." The specific epithet honours Queen Victoria and was assigned by the naturalist John Gilbert.

Location: On the western side of the Education building Green Room, near the water reservoir. Not found in the Kings Park bushland.

Other connections: *Banksia victoriae* also named for Queen Victoria.

Links to other Plants: to discuss other inspiring women consider *Boronia molloyae*, *Banksia rosserae*, *Hardenbergia comptoniana*, *Eriksonella saccharata*, *Eucalyptus x bennettiae*.

Hardenbergia comptoniana, native wisteria

Named for: Two women! Franziska, Countess von Hardenberg (1796-1853) and Mary, Marchioness of Northampton (Compton) (1800s).

Role: Both women were active patrons of botany with keen interests in WA plants. Mary Northampton was a patron of botany and had an established garden at her English estate. Franziska von Hardenberg was an active patron of botany.



Impact on WA: Franziska, Countess von Hardenberg, was familiar with WA natives due to her brother's travels, later publications and gardens – famous for their New Holland exotics. Her brother, Baron Carl von Hugel, spent time in WA in 1833, visiting Fremantle and Albany. It is said that the green 'eyes' of the flower reminded him of her. Some accounts suggest George Bentham admired the countess and honoured her by naming the genus *Hardenbergia*.



Lady Northampton (Margaret Douglas-Maclean-Clephane) was a poet who grew WA natives in her English garden. She may have introduced the plant to cultivation in Britain in about 1810, or it may have been her garden in which it first flowered in Britain.

Named by: Henry Cranke Andrews first described the species as *Glycine comptoniana*, commemorating Lady Northampton. Bentham later gave it its current name in 1837.

Location: Found throughout the bushland of Kings Park and Bold Park; an excellent specimen flowers annually on the western bushland corner by the Forrest Memorial.

Boronia molloyae, Tall boronia

Named for: Georgiana Molloy (1805-1843)

Role: An early settler in Western Australia, and one of the first botanical collectors in the colony

Impact on WA: Georgiana Molloy was one of Western Australia's earliest and most significant botanical collectors, working from Busselton and Augusta. Her specimens were highly valued by James Mangles and other British botanists. In December 1836 she received a letter from Captain Mangles requesting botanical specimens, a commission that ignited her lifelong passion for plant collecting.

With the help of her husband John and local Indigenous women, Molloy spent much of her time gathering, preparing, and documenting the flora of the southwest. Her collections were noted for their precision and care.

Mangles distributed Molloy's seeds widely among English horticulturists, leading to the successful cultivation of many WA species and the description of numerous new plants. John Lindley, for example, described *Corymbia calophylla* (marri) from her material.

On hearing of her death, George Wailes, a horticulturist who had been most successful in growing from Molloy's seeds, wrote to Mangles, "*Not one in ten thousand who go out into distant lands has done what she did for the Gardens of her Native Country, and we have indeed as regards her specially to lament, that "From Life's rosy Chaplet, the Gems drop away."*

Named by: In 1843, James Drummond published a description of a plant he called *Boronia molloyi* in the London Journal of Botany. He named it "*after the lady of Capt. Molloy*", botanical collector Georgiana Molloy. The species was named *Boronia elatior* in 1844 by Friedrich Bartling and *B. semifertilis* by Ferdinand von Mueller in 1861. In 1998 Paul Wilson used the name *B. molloyae*.

Location: Not found in the Kings Park bushland. May be found in the Boronia Gardens.



Other connections: Also named for Georgiana: *Lasiopetalum molloyi* and *Melaleuca molloyi*.

Rhodanthe margarethae

Named for: Margaret Elvire Forrest, Lady Forrest

Role: Botanical artist, patron of women and the arts.

Impact on WA: Born Margaret Elvire Hammersley of well-to-do settlers who arrived at the Swan River Colony in 1837, Margaret Forrest was born in France but educated at home in WA by governesses. In 1876 she married John Forrest who became the first premier of Western Australia, was elected to Federal Parliament in 1901 and was briefly acting Prime Minister in 1907. Margaret's interest in native plants, plus her position in society, brought her into contact with many of the leading botanists and botanical artists who visited Australia. She was a founding member of the West Australian Society of Arts in 1896 and of the earlier Wilgie Club, which was possibly the first artists' society in the State. Forrest was also a founding member of the Karrakatta Club, the first women's club in Australia.

Margaret participated in many expeditions to paint and collect wildflowers and collected MEL specimens (taxonomic type kept in the herbarium) (including fungi) near Perth, 1878-1879; Darling Range, 1880; Gascoyne River, 1882 (with husband); Gingin, 1883; Swan River, c.1883; Champion Bay, 1889; near Dongarra, 1889; near Gascoigne River, 1892; and about 80 miles eastward of the Irwin River, 1893.

Forrest was very well connected in the botanical art world and supported many renowned botanists and botanical artists during their visits to WA. For example, in 1880 Margaret provided the specimens for Marianne North, the English botanical artist and in 1889 she went on a painting and collecting trip to Geraldton with botanical artist Marian Ellis Rowan. The Marion North Gallery of Botanical Art in Kew Gardens houses images North painted of plants provided by Margaret Forrest and Queen Victoria accepted three of Rowan's paintings.

Named by: This species has three homotypic synonyms (this means different names based on the same type specimen). Paul Wilson updated its name in 1992 to place it with other paper daisies in the *Rhodanthe* genus, publishing it as *Rhodanthe margarethae* (F.Muell.) Paul G.Wilson), in the journal *Nuytsia* (8: 415). It was previously known as *Argyrocome margarethae* (F.Muell.) published by Kuntze in *Revis. Gen. Pl.* 1: 309 (1891) and *Helipterum margarethae* F.Muell. in *Fragm.* 11: 48 (1878).

Ferdinand Mueller, British government botanist, was a friend of the Forrests, having stayed with them in 1877. He named the species after Margaret – the reference to F.Muell in each of the synonyms maintains the connection to the original specific epithet given by Mueller. The specimen tag from the Australian National Botanic Garden herbarium specimen (see

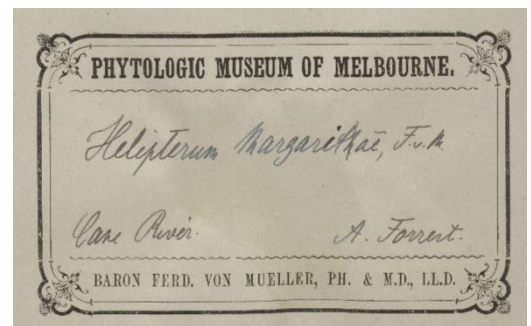


image) suggests that Margaret's brother-in-law, Alexander Forrest, collected the type (MEL) specimen of this species.

Location: *Rhodanthe margarethae* is endemic to Western Australia and is distributed across the Pilbara, the northern Little Sandy Desert and the northern Gascoyne. It usually occurs in gorges, on rocky ridges and outcrops, cliff lines, rocky creeks and drainage lines, and near pools. I have not found it in the botanic garden to date.

Other connections: This daisy was the florabase plant of the month feature in Oct 2025. The fungus *Agaricus forrestiae* Kalch. (1883) was also named for Margaret Forrest.

Banksia rosserae

Named for: Celia Rosser

Role: Illustrator, botanical artist.

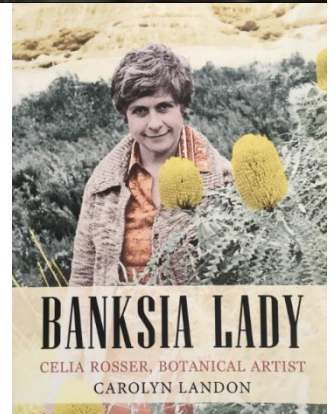
Impact on WA: Celia Rosser's three-volume *The Banksias* is widely regarded as one of 20th century's great works of botanical illustration. The series presents her watercolour paintings of every known banksia species, a project that took more than 25 years. With the publication of the final volume in 2000, it became the first time such a large genus has been entirely painted.

Named by: This is one of the latest banksias to be described. The species was formally named by Peter Olde and Neil Marriott in 2002. This banksia was discovered in 2000, growing south of Mt Magnet, 200km from any other known banksia. Only 27 old plants have been found in a 20km radius.

Location: Found in the conservation garden of the Botanic Gardens, where it flowers in late summer.

Other connections: Also named for Celia Rosser is a cultivar of *Banksia canei*, registered as *Banksia 'Celia Rosser'*. *Banksia Lady*, by Carolyn Landon, is an excellent novel describing the story of Celia Rosser.

Other themes: Plants named for botanical artists.



***Ericksonella saccharata*, Sugar orchid**

Named for: Rica Erickson (1908-2009)

Role: naturalist, botanical artist, author

Impact on WA: Rica Erickson was a self-taught Australian naturalist, botanical artist, historian, author and teacher whose work greatly shaped public understanding of Western Australia's flora. Despite having no formal scientific training, she published widely on plants, birds, genealogy and local history, authoring or editing over 20 books and contributing to numerous others. She co-authored *Flowers and Plants of Western Australia* (1973). This book on Western Australian wildflowers was designed for popular use and contained over 500 colour photographs.

Rica was named in 2006 as one of the 100 Most Influential People ever in Western Australia's history by an eminent panel sponsored by *The West Australian* and in 2007 was awarded the Heritage Council of WA Individual Award. In



1974



1996 the first Western Australian nature reserve named for a living person was named in her honour, the Rica Erickson Nature Reserve in Calingiri, Shire of Victoria Plains.

Named by: In 2004, Stephen Hopper and Andrew Brown described the genus *Ericksonella* and included this species in the new genus.

Location: Not found in the KPBG, endemic to the south-west of WA.

***Eucalyptus bennettiae*, Bennett's Mallee**

Named for: Eleanor Marion Bennett (born 1942)

Role: Australian botanist, collector and author

Impact on WA: An Australian botanist who was employed by the Western Australian Herbarium from 1965 to 1970. She collected eucalyptus species in the south-west of Western Australia and published a revision of the genus *Hybanthus* in 1972. She is the author (or joint author) of several books on Western Australian botany: *Bushland Plants of Kings Park, Western Australia*; *Common and Aboriginal names of Western Australian plant species*; and *Flora of the Perth region*.

Her working years included lecturing to horticulture students, assisting with the writing of the *Flora of the Perth Region*, research, plant identification, display botanist at Kings Park and Botanic Garden, plant surveys including general botanical surveys, specific searches for threatened flora and weed surveys.

Eleanor has named many unique WA species, the standard author abbreviation **E M Benn.** is used to indicate she is the author when citing a botanical name. For example: *Hybanthus volubilis* E M Benn.

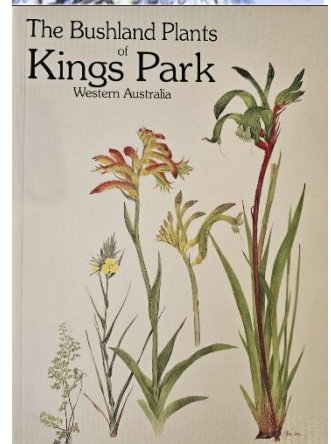
Named by: Bennett's mallee was first described by Carr and Carr in a 1980 article in the Australian Journal of Botany titled '*The Lehmannianae; a natural group of Western Australia Eucalypts*'.

Bennett's Mallee is endemic to Western Australia and is known from a small area on the south coast between Albany and Esperance.

Eucalyptus bennettiae was conventionally accepted to be a species until 2003. In 2003, a genetic analysis confirmed that *Eucalyptus bennettiae* is a hybrid between *Eucalyptus lehmannii* and *Eucalyptus sporadica* and does not have any unique genetic identification to differentiate it as a separate species (Walker 2002, confirmed by Walker et al 2009). As a hybrid, it does not meet the definition of a species under section 528 of the EPBC Act, and thus the taxon is not eligible for listing under the EPBC Act – this decision resulted in the species being removed from the EPBC endangered category list. You may see it referred to as *Eucalyptus x bennettiae* reflecting its hybrid classification.

Location: Found in Kings Park, along the path past the tennis courts at the back of Naturescape and in the Eucalyptus Garden.

Other connections: Eleanor Bennett's publications can be found in the Guides' library and the State Library of WA.



5. Tips and Tricks when exploring the people behind plant names

Things to remember:

- History is nuanced: Your personal context and bias will influence which stories you tell and how you tell them. Be mindful others may have different perspectives – be generous and respectful in your approach.
- Cultural perspectives and social norms change over time: Some ‘heroes’ of the past are ‘villains’ in the modern era, e.g.:
 - George Hibbert (*Hibbertia*'s) – patron of botany 😊, slave trader 😞
 - James Stirling (*stirlingia*) – promoted and oversaw the early years of the Swan River colony 😊, involved in massacres of Aboriginal people. 😞
- Your personal passion may not be every visitor's passion.

Ensure you address more than one ‘theme’ on your walk unless it is advertised as a thematic walk. e.g. war histories, influential women, botanical art.

History is nuanced

Your personal context and bias will influence how you tell these stories – be mindful others will have different perspectives – be generous and respectful.

TIPS:

- Be selective in your stories – avoid information overload.
- Return to your themes as you visit different plants along your walk – this helps visitors follow and will assist you to weave the theme throughout the entire walk.
- Start by learning the stories of plants you will visit regularly on your walks – i.e. plants close to the VIC.
- Focus on stories and characters that interest you – you are more likely to remember them and your interest will shine through for the visitors.
- If you can't remember the details on a walk – leave the story out – don't make up details.

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Handout from 2024 Guides training course ‘People and Plant Names’

Many of the photos are taken from the Kings Park Guides website: [Our Gallery - Kings Park Volunteer Guides - Flora & Fauna At Kings Park](#)

Images and additional references:

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