

1. Visitor Information Centre

The Visitor Information Centre (the 'VIC') was completed in August 2006, replacing earlier structures of 1987 and 1994. Managed by the Kings Park Volunteer Guides (KPVG), it is open from 9.30 am to 4 pm daily (except Christmas Day) and provides visitor services including maps, brochures, free wheelchair hire (conditions apply) and information on the park for both self-guided walks and KPVG guided walks.

2. Queen's Tree

The river red gum, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* var. *camaldulensis*, an Eastern States variety, was planted by Queen Elizabeth II on 27 March 1954 during an official visit, less than a year after her coronation. It was planted near the newly constructed Court of Contemplation and associated gardens established for the royal visit. The Queen's Tree was ring-barked in 1980 by vandals but has survived with the help of a bridge graft performed by Kings Park staff.

3. Duke's Tree

The Duke of Edinburgh also planted a river red gum on 27 March 1954. However, it was lost in a storm, and a replacement was planted by the Duke in November 1962. When that tree also failed, a further replacement was planted in 2011, grown from seed harvested from the Queen's Tree. Unfortunately, the 2011 tree also died and was replaced in 2016 with a new tree from the same seed lot.

4. Jewish War Memorial

The Jewish War Memorial was dedicated on 13 June 1920 to honour soldiers of the Jewish faith who died in WWI. It was reputedly the only Jewish memorial in a public place in Australia at that time. It consists of an Ionic column of Donnybrook stone rising from a granite base and crowned by a globe of copper which features a Star of David. The head of a Lion of Judah is on each corner of the base. The foundation stone was laid by Lieutenant-General Sir John Monash. A plaque was added in 1953 to commemorate those who died in WWII. The monument was designed by sculptor Pietro Porcelli.

5. Court of Contemplation

The Court of Contemplation – opened in November 1955 – is linked to the Cenotaph by the Concourse. It forms part of the State's tribute to those who died during both World Wars and other conflicts. In 2000 the courtyard was refurbished with the addition of the Flame of Remembrance within the Pool of Reflection. Inscribed on one side of the circular granite wall of the Pool is an invitation to visitors: *Let Silent Contemplation Be Your Offering*, and on the opposite side is the promise that: *We Will Remember Them*.

6. Australia Remembers 1945 - 1995

Within the Court of Contemplation is a semi-circle of individual bronze plaques with the names of 16 Victoria Cross and two George Cross recipients, all from Western Australia. The Victoria Cross is Britain's (and, since 1991, Australia's) highest award to service personnel for bravery under fire. The George Cross is the highest award for bravery not under fire, awarded to civilians as well as to service personnel. The memorials were installed in 1995 as part of the 'Australia Remembers 1945-1995' program, marking the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII.

7. Rifle Range and Butts

A rifle range, including butts (a mound of sand 12 metres by 6 metres and high enough to catch any stray bullets), was built by convicts in 1862, for the use of the Enrolled Pensioner Guards, the Perth Volunteer Rifles and the Fremantle Volunteer Rifles. The rifle range was closed just before 9 August 1895 when John Forrest planted the first exotic tree in the park, a Norfolk Island pine. In 1932 the butts were removed to make way for the Concourse. Historically, the rifle range extended along the area that is now lawn, from the Bali Memorial up to the Court of Contemplation.

8. Concourse

In 1932 a concourse was made on the western approach to the Cenotaph to cater for large crowds attending War Memorial services. This involved re-routing the main road, the northern section of which was renamed Fraser Avenue.

9. RSL – Women’s Memorial Tree

A red flowering gum, *Corymbia ficifolia* (formerly *Eucalyptus ficifolia*), was planted by the Returned Ex-Servicewomen’s Sub-Branch RSL on 27 July 1982 to honour all women who served in the Australian armed forces during wartime.

10. Sir John Forrest Tree

The original Norfolk Island pine, *Araucaria heterophylla*, was planted by Sir John Forrest on 9 August 1895 and was the first exotic tree planted in the park. That tree died in 1946 and was replaced by the present tree, planted by John Forrest's great nephew, James Hill Forrest, on 22 August 1947, the centenary of Forrest's birth.

11. 26th Australian Infantry Battalion

The 26th Battalion was raised in Queensland in April 1915 and served at Gallipoli, operating in a defensive role. It also served in Egypt and France during WWI. The 2/26th Battalion was an infantry battalion of the Australian Army, raised in late 1940 for service during WWII. The battalion undertook garrison duties in Malaya and Singapore prior to the start of the Pacific War. In 1941–42, following the Japanese invasion of Malaya, the battalion fought during the Malayan campaign. It also served in Dutch New Guinea (now known as West Papua), Torres Strait, Bougainville and Rabaul, PNG.

The memorial plaque is set beneath three marri trees, *Corymbia calophylla*.

12. Red Cross Tree

The lacebark tree, *Brachychiton discolor*, was planted in 1959 by Henry Greig, Chairman, WA Division of the Australian Red Cross, to commemorate the centenary of the international Red Cross movement.

13. HMAS Perth and USS Houston Memorial

There are two plaques in remembrance of these warships, sunk by the Japanese in the Sunda Straits on 1 March 1942. The plaques were originally placed at the base of a weeping fig, *Ficus macrocarpa* var. *hillii*, that was irretrievably damaged by severe weather in June 2007. The HMAS Perth plaque was unveiled on 23 March 1966, by Mrs Nancy Waller, wife of the ship's captain. The USS Houston plaque was unveiled by survivors on 27 February 1992 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the battle. The original stone and plaques were relocated to the current site and rededicated on 29 February 2008.

14. Jarrah Pavilion

Completed in 1899, this was the first shelter built in Kings Park. Constructed of jarrah timber with a tile roof, it was originally a kiosk and popular summer house, known then as Rotunda I.

15. 11th and 2/11th Battalion Memorial Sundial

Unveiled on 14 August 1966, this memorial sundial, near the Jarrah Pavilion, gives the correction factors necessary for Perth. It commemorates the members of the 11th and 2/11th Battalions who died or were killed in WWI and WWII.

16. State War Memorial

- **World War I (1914 - 1918)**

The State War Memorial originally honoured those who were killed or who died of war-related wounds or illness in WW I. Their names are listed on the Roll of Honour marble tablets on the internal walls of the undercroft, known as the Crypt.

- **World War II (1939 - 1945)**

Roll of Honour bronze plaques on the outside walls of the undercroft honour those who were killed or died from war-related wounds or illness in WW II.

- **Later Conflicts**

On marble tablets in the undercroft are the names of the Western Australian fallen from later conflicts, including Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam and Afghanistan.

17. ANZAC Bluff Commemorative Plaque

On 21 April 1974, a commemorative plaque was unveiled, in the shape of the rising sun, the emblem of the AIF, which fought at Gallipoli. This marked the naming of ANZAC Bluff, the escarpment below the State War Memorial, said to resemble Ari Burnu, the site of the Gallipoli landing. (AIF = Australian Imperial Force; ANZAC = Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.)

18. Kokoda Track Memorial Plaque

The plaque shows a bas-relief map of the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea, where Allied forces valiantly fought in 1942 to stop the Japanese advance towards Port Moresby during WWII. The memorial was unveiled on 29 November 2000. Colour patches of the 2/16th Battalion, set into the path, mark the way to the Kokoda Memorial Track leading down the Kings Park escarpment to Kennedy Fountain. The Kokoda Memorial Track was opened on 22 April 2001.

19. 2/16th Battalion Memorial

Unveiled on 29 March 1981, the memorial was moved to this site in 2000 as part of the upgrading of the approach to the State War Memorial area. The battalion served in Borneo, Syria and New Guinea.

20. 16th Battalion Memorial Plaques

These plaques were unveiled on 14 September 2003, in memory of troops who served in the Western Australian battalions bearing the numeral '16', including the 16th Battalion 1st AIF during WWI.

21. Leake Memorial Fountain

George Leake was Premier of Western Australia from 27 May to 21 November 1901 and again from 23 December 1901 until his death on 24 June 1902. The memorial fountain was funded

through a bequest by his widow, Mrs Louisa Leake, who specifically requested a marble drinking fountain for the park. It was designed in a Byzantine style by Technical School art master, J W R Linton. It faced the original main road before the road realignment in 1932. It was opened by Admiral Sir Frederick Bedford, Governor of the State, on 27 July 1904 and dedicated to the use of the people of Western Australia.

22. Rotary Wishing Well and the 'Buy Back'

The Rotary Wishing Well was opened in October 1949. Monies collected from the well go to charity. This is a significant site because by 1895 the land from Bellevue Terrace up to the wishing well had already been sold into private ownership. The passing of the *Parks and Reserves Act* in October 1895 and the gazetting of the Perth Park Board in January 1896 enabled the Government led by John Forrest to buy back 1.47 hectares to add to the park in 1896. This resumption cost £15,206 or 0.83% of the State's budget at the time.

23. United States Navy Plaques

On 6 September 1982, Rear Admiral Arthur S Moreau, who was Commander of the United States Navy's Cruiser Destroyer Group Three, unveiled two bronze plaques in Kings Park to commemorate the gratitude of visiting United States servicemen to the people of Western Australia for their hospitality.

24. Kaarta Gar-up Lookout

The Main Roads Observation Platform, as it was known, opened on 29 December 1967. It was built as a viewing area for the construction of the Narrows interchange and housed a model of the project in a room built under the platform. That room later housed an Aboriginal Art Gallery which, after 23 years of operation, closed in 2019. (The original Narrows Bridge opened on 13 November 1959.) The lookout is now called Kaarta Gar-up and features a botanical mural created in 2024 by local Aboriginal artist Kambarni (Kamsani Bin Salleh).

25. Bali Memorial

The dedication ceremony on 12 October 2003 marked the one-year anniversary of the Bali bombings that claimed the lives of 88 Australians, 16 of them from WA. The memorial was originally designed so that at sunrise on 12 October each year, a ray of light would shine onto a plaque with the names of those Western Australians who lost their lives. (Unfortunately, this original design feature was lost when the high-rise buildings at Elizabeth Quay were built, resulting in the sun's first rays being blocked from shining on the memorial.)

26. Fraser Avenue Centennial Plaques

Fraser Avenue was originally lined with red flowering gums, *Corymbia ficifolia*, planted in 1898. In 1929, to mark the centenary of the State, more red flowering gums were added, and others replaced those that had died from canker disease. Plaques titled 'Centenary of Western Australia', each with the name of a centenary committee member or dignitary, were placed by the trees. By 1936-37, most of these trees had succumbed to canker disease and, when they were replaced with lemon scented gums, *Corymbia* (formerly *Eucalyptus*) *citriodora*, the plaques were moved to the replacement trees.

27. Jacob's Ladder

Jacob's Ladder is just outside Kings Park, south-east of the Edith Cowan Memorial Clocktower. It's located at the end of Cliff St and travels down (or up) the Mt Eliza scarp. For those walking from the VIC, there is a pathway in Kings Park past the Bali Memorial and adjacent to the private apartment buildings on the border of the park. At the end of this pathway, a right turn into Cliff St leads to the top of Jacob's Ladder. It has just under 300 steps, with a 43-metre descent from

Cliff St to Mounts Bay Road. It's a high-end cardio-vascular workout for the very fit, healthy and active, or a slow walk for everyone else.

28. South African War Memorial

Following the official opening of Australia's Federal Parliament in Melbourne on 9 May 1901, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, later King George V and Queen Mary, visited Western Australia in late July 1901. During their visit, the Duke laid the foundation stone for the Fallen Soldiers' Memorial, as it was then called, to commemorate Western Australians who had lost their lives during the war in South Africa (1899–1902), known as the Boer War. This was the first memorial in the park and the most significant memorial in Western Australia until the State War Memorial was built in 1929. The memorial, honouring 41 (official numbers vary) Western Australians, was unveiled in September 1902 by the Administrator, Sir Edward Stone. Among the honoured dead was Lieutenant A A Forrest, son of Alexander Forrest and nephew of John Forrest. During this war, Lieutenant Frederick William Bell became the first Western Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross. His citation reads: 'At Brakpan on the 16 May 1901, when retiring through a heavy fire after holding the right flank, Lieutenant Bell noticed a man dismounted and returned and took him up behind him. The horse not being equal to the weight fell with them. Lieutenant Bell then remained behind and covered the man's retirement till he was out of danger.'

At the time, the Duke also renamed the park, 'Kings Park', previously called 'Perth Park', to honour the accession of his father, King Edward VII, to the throne. He also named May Drive after the Duchess of York (who at the time also had the title of Princess May).

The four South African Memorial Trees were planted within the garden by the South African and Imperial Veterans Association, with plaques to honour its members. The trees are:

- swamp sheoak, *Casuarina obesa*, planted on 16 November 1930 for the Most Reverend Charles Riley, Archbishop of Perth, Patron of the Veterans Association
- Illawarra flame tree, *Brachychiton acerifolium*, planted on 17 November 1935 for Sergeant Major J A Bulloch, Vice President of the Veterans Association
- sausage tree, *Kigelia africana*, planted for Alma George, Thorneycrofts Mounted Infantry, Secretary of the Veterans Association. The tree was dedicated on 19 November 1944.
- African tulip tree or flame of the forest, *Spathodia campanulata*, planted on 12 November 1933 for Lieutenant S J Chipper, Past President.

29. Krupp Gun

The Krupp gun, made in 1897 and captured at Bothaville from the Boers, was presented to the State by the British Government in 1906. A memorial plaque on the gun honours Brigadier General A J Bessell-Browne, who was General President of the South African and Imperial Veterans Association from its inception until his death in 1947.

30. Welcome Signage

A large signage board to welcome visitors to the park is on the eastern side of Fraser Avenue, just beside the first bus stop in the park, and opposite the Lodge. A detailed map of the park is shown which will give those coming to Kings Park for the first time some idea of the extent of the park and its facilities.

31. Main Entrance

Gates were erected in 1898 but removed in 1940. Small hand-gates in each of the two guard shelters, which stood on either side of the gates, were removed in 1938. The guard shelters were removed in 1956.

32. Edith Cowan Memorial Clocktower

In 1921, Edith Dircksey Cowan was the first woman to be elected to an Australian Parliament when, at the age of 60, she became the Nationalist Party member for West Perth. She served in the Western Australian Legislative Assembly from 1921 to 1924 and worked tirelessly for women's rights and the welfare of women and children. The clock-tower, constructed in 1934, two years after her death, honours this extraordinary Australian who is also remembered by her portrait on the Australian \$50 banknote, Edith Cowan University, and the electorate of Cowan.

33. Lodge

The first Lodge, at the main entrance to the park, was erected in October 1897 and was occupied by park superintendents from 1904; it was dismantled in 1927 to make way for the widening of Kings Park Road. In 1931 it was rebuilt further back into the park, to a modified design using much of the original building material. Now the building is used as offices for 'Friends of Kings Park', and other Kings Park volunteer groups.

See: Wanju Marr (67) for the other volunteer hub.

34. Red Flowering Gum

This red flowering gum, *Corymbia ficifolia*, planted in 1929, is the only survivor of the avenue of *C. ficifolia* trees which previously lined Fraser Avenue. It was moved to its present site beside the Lodge in 2009.

35. HMS Queen Elizabeth Shell

During WWI, the battleship HMS Queen Elizabeth helped to cover the operations of the Australian Imperial Force at ANZAC Cove during the battle of Gallipoli. The largest shell from the battleship, donated by Admiral Beatty, Admiral of the British Grand Fleet, is used as a collection box for donations to maintain the Honour Avenues. It was unveiled on 7 August 1921.

36. Nursery and Works Depot

The plant nursery moved to its present site in 1928 and has been extended over many years. This is where Kings Park gardeners cultivate plants for the park. It is also where the Friends of Kings Park cultivate plants for their quarterly plant sales. The works depot and plant nursery are for BGPA use only and are not open to the public.

37. Biodiversity Conservation Centre

The Biodiversity Conservation Centre (BCC) was opened in August 2005, and provides laboratories, meeting rooms, a library and offices for the science and horticultural staff. The science team research threatened, rare and endangered WA plants to conserve and restore native species and ecosystems. The WA Seed Science and Technology Centre at Kings Park is a partner with the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in England and collects and stores seeds from threatened habitats in WA. They are held for safekeeping at both the WA Seedbank in Kings Park and at the Millennium Seedbank in England. The BCC is now recognised as a world class institution for its achievements in research, horticulture, and conservation of WA native plants.

38. Exhibition Ground and Ngoolaark Pavilion

The Exhibition Ground offers visitors a large open grassed area. The venue has a mix of sunlight and of shade from the mature tuart trees. The area is sometimes used for the Friends of Kings Park native plant sales. It is adjacent to Kings Park Education, used by school students throughout the week as part of their education visit to Kings Park.

The Ngoolaark Pavilion is tucked away within the Exhibition Ground and is a hidden gem. It is easily accessible and close to Fraser Avenue with all its amenities. The pavilion opened in late

2021 and can be hired on its own for a smaller event, or along with the surrounding lawns for larger functions.

39. Education Building and Green Room

Kings Park Education and Learning offers a range of truly local, immersive and connected experiences for all. Education for Schools offers hands-on, inquiry-based learning experiences for kindergarten to tertiary-aged students.

Kings Park Education programs highlight the unique plants, people and places of Western Australia and the actions everyone can take as a connected community to ensure a sustainable future. All programs are delivered by qualified educators in line with the Western Australian curriculum. Its community programs offer truly local experiences to learn more about WA's rich biodiversity, cultural heritage and unique flora. Kings Park Learning provides activities and workshops for all ages, that encourage community wellbeing, health and social inclusion and conservation, fostering a lasting connection to nature. School excursions may also include a visit to the Rio Tinto Naturescape.

Kings Park Education provides teachers with opportunities to broaden their knowledge and be inspired with practical ideas for excursions and classroom learning. Customised professional learning sessions in the Australian Curriculum areas of E-STEM, Cultural Awareness and Wellbeing can be delivered to meet the specific needs of any school.

40. Education Car Park

The car park is on Kattidj Close, west of the Pines Picnic Area.

41. Pines Picnic Area

All visitors are welcome to use the free electric barbecues at the Pines Picnic Area, with lovely lawns, tables and seating, and great city and river views as a backdrop. It is near the 10th Light Horse Memorial, and just across Fraser Avenue from the Bali Memorial.

On very busy days, the barbecues are often in high demand where queuing may be required. Barbecues cannot be reserved for exclusive use, and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. When a specific area or venue is booked for a group function, this does not include exclusive use of the barbecues. The barbecues are maintained by BGPA.

Whilst rubbish bins are in all barbecue areas, in Wadjuk Car Park and in the main visitor precinct near the Kiosk and Botanical Café, visitors are encouraged to take their rubbish away and dispose of it at home. Portable barbecues are not permitted in Kings Park and penalties apply.

42. 10th Light Horse Memorial

The memorial was built in honour of Lieutenant Colonel T J Todd and the 301 officers and troopers, 'the glorious dead', of the 10th Light Horse regiment. The regiment was the only Western Australian mounted unit in WWI. The men of the 10th Light Horse were sent into battle at Gallipoli (without their horses), where they carried out the last bayonet charge in the battle of the Nek. Later they were remounted and served in the Middle East. The regiment took part in the entry to Damascus – before TE Lawrence's Arabs, contrary to the film 'Lawrence of Arabia'. The monument was unveiled in April 1921.

In WWII, the 10th Light Horse did not go overseas but patrolled areas from Wanneroo to Gingin. They were the last mounted unit in Australia. They now form part of the Army Reserve and are equipped with armoured personnel carriers.

The Australian Light Horse regiments all wear emu feathers attached to a slouch hat. On the Sunday before ANZAC Day, the unit parades at the Light Horse Memorial for a wreath-laying ceremony and a sheaf of wheat is laid in honour of the horses.

43. Old Tea Pavilion

This was built in 1899 and originally situated on the Terraces near the Kennedy Fountain on Mounts Bay Road. The roof tiles are from Marseilles in France. The building was moved in 1919 to its present site near Kattidj Close. There is a stop for the 935 and Blue Cat buses on Fraser Avenue, near this Pavilion.

44. Water Supply Centenary Fountain and Reservoir Plaque

The fountain commemorates 100 years of Perth's public water supply, with a time capsule buried beneath the fountain; it was dedicated on 1 October 1991. The Mount Eliza Reservoir was built on land excised from Kings Park; construction commenced in 1890 and piping water began in 1891. The entire area was roofed in 1982-83. Originally the water came from Victoria Dam on the Darling Scarp, but water now flows into this reservoir from Canning and Serpentine Dams. The Engineer's house was built in 1911 and is now known as Mount Eliza House.

45. Administration Centre

The Administration Centre – often known as ‘Administration’ – is run by BGPA and is located on Kattidj Close, off Fraser Avenue. It has a brown tile roof which curves over the roof line down the sides of the building. The Administration Centre opened on 5 April 1978 and was named for Sir Thomas Meagher, who was the President of the Kings Park Board for 25 years.

46. Queen Victoria Statue

Mounted on granite from Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and placed on a plinth of Meckering granite, the statue was unveiled on 10 October 1903 and presented to the State by Mr Allen H P Stoneham of London, a private citizen with mining and transport interests in Western Australia. Queen Victoria's ceremonial robes were loaned to the sculptor, Mr F J Williamson of Esher, England, to copy. He also made the bronze bas-relief portrait heads of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra set into opposite sides of the Aberdeen granite. The inscriptions read:

ALEXANDRA

VICTORIA
QUEEN AND EMPRESS
1837 – 1901
DURING HER REIGN AUSTRALIA
WAS COLONISED
AND FEDERATED

EDWARD VII

47. Mt Eliza Reservoir

Perth's first public water supply scheme was constructed in 1891. The reservoir had an original capacity of 3 million litres. In the early 1900's, three new water storage ponds were built to accommodate Perth's growing population, and today the reservoir holds more than 45 million litres of water which is supplied to the Perth CBD and western suburbs.

In 2023, there was an upgrade to replace two ageing water pipe inlets, one of which was 94 years old, and the construction of a new regulating valve building, a valve pit, and the valve pit wall. The valve pit wall runs along Wadjuk Way and features artwork displaying native *Banksia prionotes* to reflect the site's botanic heritage.

48. Mt Eliza House

In 1911, the Engineer's Quarters were built near the Mount Eliza reservoir. The restored heritage-listed Federation home, commonly known as Mount Eliza House, is administered by the Water Corporation and is not open to the public.

49. Fraser's Restaurant and State Reception Centre

Fraser's Restaurant is a fully-licensed venue, with a private dining room and a function centre; upstairs is the State Reception Centre. Fraser's Restaurant opened in 1993. It replaced the Garden Restaurant, built in 1957, that in turn replaced the Mount Eliza Tearooms built in 1909.

50. Botanical Café

Botanical Café is adjacent to Fraser's Restaurant. It opened in 2006 and is next to the Kiosk. It reopened in 2025 following extensive refurbishment necessitated by an internal fire. Free wi-fi is available at the cafe.

51. Botanical Kiosk Kings Park

Known simply as 'the Kiosk', this outlet for take-away food and drinks is next to Botanical Café. The Visitor Information Centre (1) is located between the Kiosk and Aspects.

52. Aspects of Kings Park Gallery Shop

The Gallery Shop is a showcase of the highest quality contemporary Australian art, craft, and design. There is also an extensive selection of books for both adults and children.

53. Wadjuk Car Park

This is the large car park near Aspects.

54. Bus - 935

The 935 Transperth Bus - generally, silver with a green stripe down the side - parks on Wadjuk Way and has a Free Transit Zone (FTZ) within the Perth Central Business District (CBD); the FTZ ends at the Causeway. Brochures are generally available in the VIC. Visitors should check the Transperth website for fares outside the CBD.

55. Bus - Blue Cat

All CAT (Central Area Transit) buses are silver with a large black cat on the sides and are free. Passengers may hop on or hop off (ho-ho) as often as they like without paying a fare. The Blue Cat bus parks on Wadjuk Way. The colour relates to the map route. Brochures are available in the VIC (1).

56. Bus - Perth Explorer

The red, double-decker Perth Explorer bus parks inside Wadjuk car park. It is run by a private company and fares apply. Visitors can travel just within the park (with stops at Wadjuk car park, Roe Gardens, Forrest Drive – near the steps leading to the Blue Boat House – and May Drive Parklands) for \$6.00. Brochures are available in the VIC (1).

57. Floral Mound and Floral Clock

The Floral Mound is opposite Aspects of Kings Park Gallery Shop (52) and displays the best of the State's flora at any time of year.

Floral Clock – Mr F F B Wittenoom, a pioneer pastoralist in the north of Western Australia, bequeathed £1,000 to Kings Park in 1939. This was used for the Floral Clock, unveiled on 30 September 1962 by Sir Charles Gairdner, Governor of Western Australia. The original clock had wooden hands featuring carvings of a koala, kangaroo, and the floral emblem of WA, a kangaroo paw.

In 1990, the clock was removed to allow Fraser's Restaurant to be built, and was rebuilt in 1994, 50 metres south, after the restaurant opened. In 2011 the floral clock was again removed and put into storage, when a second storey was added to Fraser's, becoming the State Reception

Centre used for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) that year. In 2015 the clock was relocated to the southern end of the Mound, adjacent to the Botanic Garden entry, its current location.

In June 2022 the clock mechanism and the hands of the clock were upgraded by a team of craftspeople. Artist Emma Blyth embellished the hands of the clock with banksia, red tailed cockatoos and the WA floral emblem, the red and green kangaroo paw, capturing the local beauty of flora and fauna. The clock demonstrates how WA native plants can be grown in a cottage garden setting, and as numbers for the clock.

58. Botanic Garden Entry and 'Symbiotica'

The entry of the Western Australian Botanic Garden is prominently designated with its name in 600 mm high letters of brushed aluminium and mounted on a low granite wall; the sign completed the final element of a grand entry in early 2017. The lettering style and materials were designed to complement the entry sculpture 'Symbiotica', which was unveiled in September 2016.

Symbiotica frames the entry and was created by Artventure's Paul Johnson and Gail Mason. Stretching 8 metres high and fabricated from aluminium with copper and dichroic glass highlights, Symbiotica was inspired by the relationships between plants and insects. The arching aluminium panels may be interpreted as leaf blades, or alternatively as insect wings. Intricate seed patterns representing 11 endemic WA plant species have been laser-cut into the aluminium panels, highlighted by changing colours as light reflects on the dichroic glass elements that suggest both shimmering insect wings and the colours in wildflowers.

59. Kokoda Track Memorial Walk and Kennedy Fountain

The Kokoda Track Memorial Walk is a tribute to the bravery of Australian troops who fought through atrocious conditions and against vastly superior numbers in the Papua New Guinea campaign of July 1942 to January 1943. There are 150 steep steps, with a vertical rise of 62 metres, and story board plaques along the steps.

The Kennedy Fountain is at the lower end of the track on Mounts Bay Road. Governor Arthur Kennedy, for whom the fountain is named, originally had a cistern and pipe installed in the natural spring in 1861. The fountain was restored in 1969-70 with simple limestone blocks enclosed in Toodyay-stone retaining walls with black iron railings.

60. Botanic Steps and Botanic Pavilion

In October 2015 the WA Botanic Garden celebrated its golden anniversary with a contemporary new feature, the Botanic Terraces and Pavilion. At the top, two beautifully crafted dry Kimberley stone walls display an earthy palette of muted creams, through to pastel pink and purple. Endemic plants, Aboriginal designs and whimsical words appear on the journey down the Botanic Terraces. At the base of the Terraces lies an impressively designed split-level pavilion with its two steel, copper-coloured windswept 'tree' structures. Indigenous artwork by Noongar artist Richard Walley, and 'stones' of polished aggregate concrete (or are they dinosaur eggs?) feature in this area, along with the spectacular view from the Terraces and the Pavilion. The surrounding garden beds are home to the flora of the Mallee, Mulga and Desert regions of Western Australia.

61. Botanic Garden

Western Australia has more than half of Australia's 25,000 plant species and most of those are found nowhere else on earth. The original vision for Perth Park, later Kings Park, was of a European-style garden with lawns, shady trees, and flower beds. Recognition of the climatic differences and the low-nutrient soil changed this vision, and in October 1965 the 17-hectare Western Australian Botanic Garden was opened.

The WA Botanic Garden is an ever-changing, living research centre committed to the conservation of Western Australia's flora. The garden beds display over 3,000 of WA's 13,500 most diverse and spectacular plant groups, offering beautiful river and city views.

62. John Forrest Monument

The statue in the Forrest Roundabout honours Sir John Forrest, the first Premier of Western Australia (1890 –1901) and the first President of the Kings Park Board. It was unveiled in August 1928. Forrest became Surveyor General in 1883 and officially named the gazetted public area as Perth Park in 1895. In 1918, Sir John Forrest was to be made a Baron of the United Kingdom, but he died in September before King George V formally signed the Letters Patent. The title of Lord Forrest was therefore never legally conferred but was applied to this monument when erected.

In his time, Forrest doubled the size of the reserve, sought funding for the park and heavily influenced the first years of design and planning. He was also responsible for the construction of Fremantle Harbour (1898), the Eastern Goldfields Water Supply Scheme (1903) and the Transcontinental Railway (1917).

63. Forrest Car Park

Places of interest here include the Kimberley Garden, Boab Tree, Conservation Garden, and parking for events at the Wildflower Pavilion.

64. Giant Boab Tree – 'Gija Jumulu'

In July 2008, a very old and very large boab had to be removed to make way for roadworks on the Great Northern Highway near Warmun in the east Kimberley, not far from Kununurra. The complex removal of the 750-year-old 'Jumulu' (boab tree in Gija language) took four days to complete.

Then the epic seven-day overland journey began, on board a 75-tonne truck, through the Australian outback, travelling 3,200 km south to its new home in Kings Park – the longest known land journey of a living tree of this size at the time.

65. Wildflower Pavilion

The Wildflower Pavilion has a long history: the 'roof structure' was originally from the Botanic Garden office building, and was identified as an important architectural design of the 1960's. The unique design of the roof, a 'hyperbolic paraboloid', enabled it to be craned into its current location to create the Wildflower Pavilion in 2002.

After being badly damaged in a storm in March 2014, the Wildflower Pavilion roof was carefully dismantled, redesigned to meet the current building code, and rebuilt with a new steel frame and recycled wood-panelled ceiling with very effective acoustics. The pavilion has retained its unique shape and appearance and was reopened in April 2015. It is now used as a venue for functions.

66. Conservation Garden

The Conservation Garden is a half-hectare garden dedicated to Western Australia's rarest plants, which few people would ever have the chance to witness growing in their natural habitat.

It is a visual consolidation of many years' work to conserve the State's unique plant biodiversity, including rare and endangered species, and to present this spectacular flora to visitors. The garden was opened on 5 June 2008 to celebrate World Environment Day.

67. Wanju Marr

A dedicated volunteer hub (on Lovekin Drive) called 'Wanju Marr', meaning 'welcoming hand', was officially opened on 30 August 2019 by Mr Patrick Gorman MP, Member for Perth, and representatives from Lotterywest, which generously supported the construction of the facility with a \$2.4 million grant to the Friends of Kings Park.

References:

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