



# Growing Australia's national garden

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

## 40 years and still growing



**Walking through the Australian National Botanic Gardens, it's difficult to imagine that only 40 years ago the site was a cleared dairy farm, the soil arguably Canberra's least fertile.**

In the four decades since Prime Minister Ben Chifley planted the first eucalyptus tree, the Gardens has not only grown in a literal sense, it has flourished as a major attraction and national scientific institution.

The growth has been extraordinary. Forty hectares in the heart of Canberra now supports the world's most comprehensive collection of Australian native plants.

One third of all Australian plant families are displayed; our seed bank plays an important role as part of the national biodiversity safety net; and the Australian National Herbarium, in which the Gardens is a major partner, holds a collection of over 1.4 million specimens.

The research and conservation work conducted at the Gardens, often in partnership with other institutions, is internationally recognised and for over a decade we have led the way in managing and sharing botanical information on Australian flora.

In addition to its scientific role, the Gardens has become a popular place for education and enjoyment, attracting students and visitors from across Australia and beyond.

In our 40th anniversary year, we celebrate these achievements and look to the future.

We see enormous opportunities to work in partnership with government, like-minded institutions, the community and the corporate sector to enhance our work – expanding the role of the living collection, developing new research and conservation programs, and creating new gardens that showcase our unique flora.

We welcome your interest in joining us at this exciting time for Australia's National Botanic Gardens.

**Dr Judy West**  
Executive Director



***The national botanic garden – inspiring, informing and connecting people with the Australian flora.***



*Each time I take a tour it strikes me that most people would never be able to see such a collection of plants anywhere else. It's something every visitor, even the children – takes away with them."*

– Hanna Jaireth, Volunteer Guide



## An inspiring place



**Magnificent gardens, tranquil spaces, rare plants and informative tours make the Gardens a much-loved national attraction.**

Each year, we welcome close to half a million people from across the nation and around the world. More than 12,000 students from every state and territory come to take part in Environmental Education Programs.

Throughout the year the Gardens is alive with exhibitions, lectures, cultural events and children's activities – many presented by the Friends of the Gardens.

Each summer the expansive lawns fill with crowds who enjoy the national capital's most popular outdoor concert series.

With your support we plan to do more. Donations to the Garden Development Fund and corporate partnerships will help us to enhance our education programs, develop new public programs and hold events that help us to inspire, inform and connect people to Australian flora.

## A living collection like no other



### The Australian National Botanic Gardens is a national institution with a scientific collection like no other.

In the last four decades, thousands of native plants have been collected from across the country – from coastal regions, alpine meadows, tropical rainforests and harsh deserts.

Now some 6,000 plant types are showcased in themed landscapes that span 40 hectares of water-wise, sustainably managed gardens, so visitors can see first hand close to a third of Australia's flowering plant families.

There's room to grow, and with a master plan to guide development, the living collection will be expanded to include gardens identified as 'gaps' in the current collection.

By contributing to the Gardens' Living Collection Fund, you can help us to create: the Arid Garden, showcasing these unique plant communities; the Children's Garden, to foster a love of Australian native flora; and an Alpine Garden and alpine house, an outcome of our collaborative research work.



*When I see an endangered plant flourishing in the Gardens – to take it from a propagation trial and into a landscape we've created – that gives me hope."*

– Laura Schweickle, Horticulturist



*I've had the joy over the last three decades of studying more than a thousand species of native orchids at the Gardens. I've discovered 300 species in that time, and I never stop marvelling at how magnificent they are."*

– Dr Mark Clements, Research Scientist

## A world-leader in research



### The Gardens has a strong international reputation for scientific and horticultural research.

We often work collaboratively with leading institutions. Our partnership with the CSIRO for example – the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research – fosters vital work that enhances knowledge, conservation and sustainable use of Australian flora.

The Centre also houses the Australian National Herbarium, a leading research institution for the classification and naming of Australian plants.

The Gardens is at the forefront of sharing knowledge about our native flora – with scientists and the public. We play a leading role in Australia's Virtual Herbarium, the Australian Plant Name Index and the development of botanical information systems.

As the challenges of biodiversity and climate change issues become more evident, our conservation work is increasing

– from propagation and cultivation trials, to Seed Bank expansion, preserving species for future generations.

This is only the start – collaborating with government agencies, community groups and industry, in the coming years we'll strengthen our role in biodiversity research and species recovery programs.

By contributing to the Gardens' Conservation and Research Fund, you can help us to expand this important work. Your support will help us to investigate rare and threatened species of South-Eastern Australia and to continue our groundbreaking study of alpine daisies, providing insights into the effects of climate change on our native flora.

## We invite you to join us



**For four decades, the Australian National Botanic Gardens has fostered cutting-edge scientific research, understanding of Australian plant ecology, and a love of our native flora.**

In this time, public support has greatly assisted our work. Generous donations and bequests have enabled us to create iconic areas that would not otherwise have been possible, such as the Burbidge Amphitheatre and Ducrou Pavilion.

Through the generosity of the Friends, we have installed popular public art, enhanced elements of the Gardens, and presented popular events including the summer concert series.

And our many patrons, whose plaques are found on benches throughout the Gardens, have helped us to nurture the extensive living collection.

As we embark on increased research and conservation work, new garden developments and enhanced public and education programs, we invite you to help us make this important work possible.

Your support can take the form of a donation, a bequest, becoming a patron, or joining us as a corporate partner.

Donations are tax deductible, and may be made at any time to one of our four core funds, supporting the Living Collection; Research and Conservation; Garden Development and Environmental Education.

A bequest is a highly personal way to support our work, and we welcome conversations and your ideas about how to make an enduring difference to the Gardens themselves, our programs and research.

Our patronage program offers the opportunity to celebrate a special anniversary, to be a part of your favourite garden, or to give friends and family a 'living gift'.

We also invite interest in corporate partnerships, to enhance our work and our visitors' experience.

**If you would like to discuss how you can help us inspire, inform and connect people to Australian flora, please contact us on (02) 6250 9500 or visit [www.anbg.gov.au](http://www.anbg.gov.au).**



*The Ducrou Pavilion on the Eucalypt Lawn was made possible through a generous bequest from Anne Ducrou. The Pavilion features a series of roofs supported by columns of abstract 'trees', which help reinforce the importance of real trees to the Gardens' landscape. Opened in 1999, the pavilion continues to be a popular venue for picnics, and is often used for special events.*



[www.anbg.gov.au](http://www.anbg.gov.au)



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