

Annual Report

2007/2008



Explore • Discover • Experience • Educate • Conserve


Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority 2007/2008 Annual Report


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Think before you print
Please consider the environment before printing this report

Front Cover Montage: The Lemon Scented Gums of Fraser Avenue, the bright red flower of *Kunzea baxteri* and a walk in the park, photos by D Newcombe; A range of beautiful glass products available from Aspects of Kings Park, photo by R Johnson.

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Statement of Compliance

To The Minister

The Hon. David Templeman MLA
Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel

In accordance with Section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, we hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority for the financial year ended 30 June 2008.

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006*.



Mr Richard Simpson
Chairman
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Board of Management
16 September 2008



Ms Clare Power
Member
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Board of Management
16 September 2008

Chairman's Report



Photo: Z Fulwood

The Authority manages and cares for Bold Park and Kings Park and Botanic Garden, and its team of dedicated staff and volunteers continues to deliver a wide range of services and achieve outstanding outcomes in areas such as horticulture, development and display of indigenous plants; management of extensive parklands and turf areas, memorials, buildings bushland management; restoration science; plant genetics; seed biology; and biodiversity conservation generally. This is in addition to working with community volunteers in the delivery of high quality visitor services to the millions of people who enjoy the managed Parks.

The Authority is charged with the delivery of key services outcomes in Customer Service and Cultural Heritage, and in Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research.

The State's Botanic Garden continues to receive high levels of visitation, and this was particularly apparent during the new format 2007 Kings Park Festival. The Festival was a month long feature of floral displays and colourful community events. Festival activities focussed on the Botanic Garden and parkland areas of Kings Park and attracted half a million visitors in September. The State's Botanic Garden remains an important recreational, cultural, educational and scientific asset of the highest quality.

The innovative research and development programs undertaken by the Authority encompass internationally noted research focused on the bushlands of Kings Park and Bold Park. This work has attracted a prestigious reputation in Botanic Gardens world wide and is delivered in response to the increasing community, industry and government awareness of the value and need for biodiversity conservation.

Aspects of Kings Park has made further inroads in its provision of an important connection between the Authority, the local community and our many visitors. *Aspects* showcases high quality local art and design products inspired by the natural environment.

The planned Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk project has been delayed as a result of unexpectedly high construction costs, and, depending on funding, the Authority is now planning to undertake these works in 2009. The project will ultimately deliver an enhanced ceremonial precinct and improved traffic management and pedestrian safety in this central hub of visitor amenities and cultural significance.

The Kings Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan 2004 – 2009 was amended following a public consultation which resulted in a 94% positive response to the planned creation in the bush arboretum of an experiential learning and environmental discovery facility. This project has been conceived to provide enhanced environmental education opportunities and a tangible connection with nature for children of all ages. The specific plans for this new project will be announced in the next year, however significant sponsorship support has been secured to enable stage one of the project to be completed by late 2010.

The new facilities in the Royal Kings Park Tennis Club site, subleased to Next Generation Clubs Australia have now been open to the community for a year, and operations have been very efficient and effective. The membership base has grown significantly and the key stakeholders in this project are very satisfied with the first successful year of operations.

As Chairman of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Board of Management, it is very rewarding to be involved in the implementation of the Authority's mission "*to conserve and enhance Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park with the community and to conserve biological diversity generally*". This is evident in the wide array of high quality outcomes delivered to the local, national and international community.

We continue to benefit as an organisation and a community as a result of the input, effort and passion of all our staff, volunteers and other key stakeholders. I again express the Board's appreciation to Mark Webb and his enthusiastic team of employees, and to the many dedicated volunteers who maintain and continually enhance the Authority's high standard of services and outcomes. The Board also appreciates the high quality of services provided to visitors by our various lease holders, licensees, contractors and other operators.

I also sincerely thank my fellow Board members for their wise counsel and professionalism in leading the strategic direction of the Authority.

The active support and contributions of the Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel, David Templeman MLA has been an essential and much appreciated factor in the success of the Authority in the past year.

I am very proud to be part of the team.

Richard Simpson
Chairman

Overview

Executive Summary

With 5.8 million visitors in 2007/2008, Kings Park and Botanic Garden is the most significant recreational, ceremonial, cultural and tourism destination in the Perth area. This visitation is almost 11% higher than in the previous year. Tourism Western Australia estimates around 80% of these visitors are Western Australians, 10% are international visitors and 10% are from other Australian States. The State's Botanic Garden further enhanced its reputation and status as an essential and high quality cultural, educational, recreational and scientific asset.

Bold Park has continued to attract increasing numbers of visitors with increased levels of satisfaction recorded. Significant improvements in bushland restoration and track upgrades have ensured better access and sustainability as Bold Park continues to be a cherished tract of unique urban bushland.

The new format 2007 Kings Park Festival was a highlight of the year. The unfenced, primarily free Festival resulted in an unprecedented number of visitors throughout September enjoying the Botanic Garden floral displays and other community events held at Lotterywest Family Area and Synergy Parkland.

A storm on 1 July 2007 caused irreparable damage to eight Lemon Scented Gums on Fraser Avenue, eleven mature trees in the adjacent parkland and two mature trees on Hale Oval that were subsequently removed. In addition there was significant damage to another 25 Lemon Scented Gums and other trees. Remedial repair of all damaged trees was initiated immediately and an ongoing management program is in place to reduce the risk to public safety. The removed trees have been replaced in accordance with Authority management and thematic plans for these areas.

Unprecedented demand for the ecological restoration expertise of Authority scientists has resulted in a significant expansion in research programs to devise effective conservation and restoration technologies to ensure no loss of species occurs especially as a result of increased activity in the resources industry.

The new Conservation Garden in Kings Park and Botanic Garden was established for the cultivation and display of Western Australia's threatened flora as a positive step to raise community awareness of risks of plant species extinctions and to enhance understanding of the threatening processes. The Conservation Garden is a key contribution towards achieving the targets set in the 2002 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation to halt the continuing loss of plant species throughout the world. The Conservation Garden also serves as an *ex situ* collection of threatened species from throughout Western Australia and is a valuable resource in the event of population decline or loss from the conservation estate.

Performance Highlights

The Authority is charged with the delivery of two key services outcomes as follows:

Service 1: Customer Service and Cultural Heritage

Enhancing and promoting recreational and tourist resources and facilities by maintaining Kings Park and Botanic Garden; enhancing and promoting awareness and understanding of Kings Park, Bold Park and the State's Botanic Garden through customer awareness and education forums; and conserving, promoting and developing cultural heritage including indigenous, colonial and contemporary heritage by staging events and displays on the Authority's designated land.

Service 2: Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research

Demonstrating leadership in urban bushland management, especially for Perth and regional communities, horticultural services including new plants developed for the nursery trade, and undertaking and promoting leading edge science and interpretation pertinent to integrated conservation of flora for present and future generations.

There were a number of major achievements in each service area for 2007/08.

Customer Service and Cultural Heritage Major Achievement 2007/2008

- The 2007/08 visitor survey in Bold Park indicated 100% of visitors were satisfied with their visit, and in Kings Park and Botanic Garden the survey results indicate that 98% of visitors were highly satisfied or satisfied with their experience in the park.
- Over 765,000 people attended cultural events, education programs and guided walks within Kings Park in 2007/08. This is an increase of 175% over the previous year which is indicative of the success of the new format of the Kings Park Festival. In previous years the Festival was a fenced, fee for entry, five day event attracting an average of 25,000 people over the five days. In contrast, the month long 2007 Festival is estimated to have attracted at least 500,000 people.
- Planning and documentation of a major public safety and visitor infrastructure project in the Fraser Avenue, State War Memorial and restaurant precinct in Kings Park and Botanic Garden was completed in March 2008. This project is called the Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk project and construction has been delayed due to escalating construction costs. Additional funding to undertake the project in 2008/09 is being sought from Government.
- Significant works to improve the irrigation system in Kings Park and Botanic Garden continued, including upgrades to the filtration system, water capacity and electrical controls, along with the interconnection of internal irrigation systems. These works have significantly improved the reliability of irrigation water supply and systems and contribute to continuous improvement in water use efficiencies.
- A review of pedestrian circulation in the Botanic Garden to provide greater connection between key visitation areas and improve access through the diverse botanical displays was implemented and upgrades to infill paths commenced.
- A significant upgrade to the main walking trails in Bold Park was completed in April 2008. Over three kilometres of trails were resurfaced with cement stabilised limestone to improve visitor safety and quality of experience, to enhance access for bushfire response and to reduce erosion issues associated with the steep terrain.
- The installation of high capacity rock-catch fencing on the Mount Eliza Escarpment below the State War Memorial and extending to the rear of the Mount Medical Centre was completed. These works have further enhanced public safety in the area and enabled the re-opening of pedestrian paths that had been closed as a risk management strategy prior to the works.

Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research Major Achievements 2007/2008

- Stage one of the Conservation Garden in the Western Australian Botanic Garden was completed. This project enhances the display of the State's Declared Rare Flora, and provides interpretation of their status in the wild and the need for their conservation as a public education strategy. Improvements to horticultural displays within the Botanic Garden and the establishment of sustainable, longer-term display gardens to replace the more temporary displays previously constructed for the Kings Park Wildflower Festival were implemented to help promote the use of Western Australian flora and the conservation benefits of growing local plants.

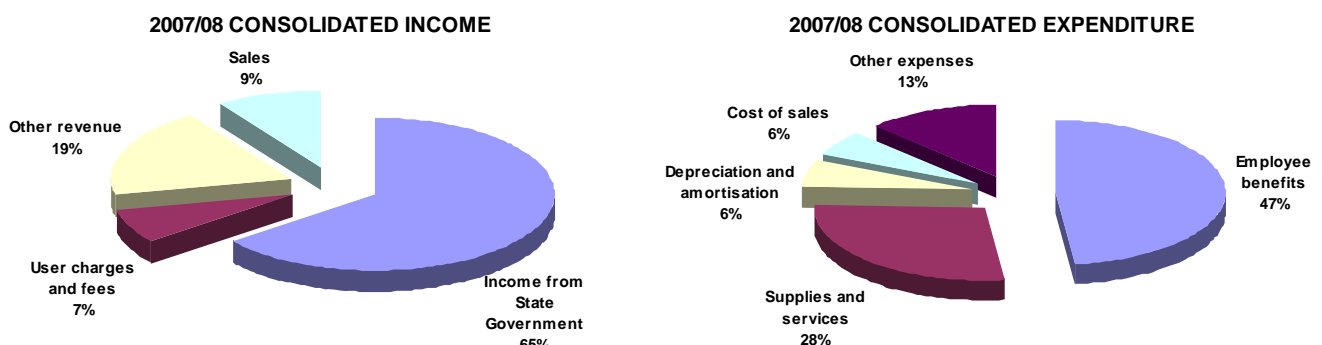
- Ecological restoration and weed control activities based on scientific research outcomes in Bold Park and Kings Park bushland to enhance biodiversity conservation on the designated lands continued. Preliminary investigations for the restoration of wetlands near the Kennedy Fountain in Kings Park and at Camel Lake in Bold Park were undertaken to examine the feasibility of the projects and commence the planning process.
- Breakthroughs in understanding seed dormancy for species from the Shark Bay World Heritage Area has optimised germination and resolved seed dormancy breaking cues for 12 species previously unavailable for restoration work.
- Ten new Western Australian plant species have been discovered and named representing new species in the genera *Lepidosperma* and *Corymbia*.
- A synthetic seed project (Australian Research Council linkage grant, Murdoch University, BGPA and Worsley Alumina) has progressed to the stage of preparing coated somatic embryos of native sedge species. This is the first step towards production of artificial seed for restoration of difficult to propagate native species for large-scale restoration, eg in mined areas.
- *Commersonia adenothalia* (Sterculiaceae), a highly threatened species reduced to one last surviving individual, was rescued from Morawa in the northern wheatbelt region. Shoot tip material taken in January 2008 was successfully initiated into tissue culture and plants are now being multiplied *in vitro*.
- An Australian Research Council funded project (2007-2009) in collaboration with Worsley Alumina, Alcoa of Australia and The University of Queensland has had significant breakthroughs in the germination number of new species required for rehabilitation being successfully grown for the first time. Major field trials have commenced this year to improve the quality of seed obtained for rehabilitation. The first research publications from this project are in press.
- Successful conclusion of a major three-year integrated scientific research program underpinning management and conservation of the impacted DRF banded-iron stone endemic species *Tetratheca paynterae* resulting in long term conservation of the species.

Financial Performance

Financial Performance

The Authority's operating income is 65% derived from State Government with 35% generated through sales, sponsorships, user fees, licences and leases.

The Authority's expenditure breakdown, as shown in the pie chart, consists of 47% for employee costs, 28% for supplies and services, 6% costs of sales, 6% for depreciation and amortisation and 13% in other expenses.



Capital Works

Major projects undertaken in 2007/08 included:

- Stage three of the Deep Sewerage infill program was completed to connect all facilities in and around the Western Australian Botanic Garden. In addition to the environmental benefits from a more sustainable waste management system, this project has enhanced the facilities for all visitors to the Botanic Garden, particularly at peak times associated with major events conducted in this location.
- The replacement of ageing and obsolete plant and equipment.

Major Initiatives 2008/2009

The Authority will undertake the following major initiatives in 2008/09:

- Subject to adequate funding being received from Government, construction works for the Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk project in Kings Park and Botanic Garden will commence in March 2009 and be completed by December 2009. This project will deliver significant improvements to public safety through the creation of a pedestrian-only zone to the south of the State War Memorial and the diversion of all vehicle traffic to the rear of the restaurant area. The main carpark will be reconfigured to enhance bus set-down and parking for cars, coaches and charter vehicles, and to enable safer pedestrian access to park attractions. Visitor facilities will also be improved within this popular, high profile area.
- Detailed design phases of the new environmental 'discovery learning' experience, to be developed in the bush arboretum at Kings Park and Botanic Garden in 2009/10. This initiative is supported primarily through sponsorship funding and a public announcement for this project is expected in October 2008.
- Stage four of the Deep Sewerage infill project in Kings Park and Botanic Garden will be completed in early 2009 with the construction and connection of new toilets in the restaurant precinct near Fraser Avenue, and connection of the lodge at Crawley. This will be the final stage of a five year program to decommission all septic systems throughout Kings Park and connect to deep sewerage, a significant milestone in achieving an environmentally sensitive and sustainable waste management system within the Swan River catchment.
- With funding from Variety WA, an upgrade to visitor facilities in the Saw Avenue Picnic Area in Kings Park will be completed by April 2009. New playground elements with a naturalistic theme will be installed and new paths will provide access for all within the precinct and connect facilities such as new electric barbecues and picnic tables. A new community pavilion will be created through the conversion of an existing building. The area will retain its simplicity and its significant historical and cultural heritage values will be celebrated.
- Improvements to the irrigation system will continue in Kings Park with further upgrades to filtration systems, electrical controls and interconnection between internal irrigation ponds and bores. These improvements are an important risk management strategy to ensure a reliable water supply for maintenance of the high quality parklands and the scientific and heritage plant collections in Kings Park, while contributing to continuous improvement in water-use efficiencies.
- The Kings Park Nature Trail through the bushland will be resurfaced to improve access for all and enhance the experience for its many visitors. A boardwalk will be introduced through some sections with seating and interpretation at intervals along its length, which will help protect the bushland from trampling and enhance nature observation opportunities for visitors.
- Reconfiguration and sealing of the carparks off Perry Lakes Drive in Bold Park will be undertaken in late 2008 to enhance the park entries, define parking bays and protect remnant Tuart and Marri trees within the existing layout.

- The continuation of ecological restoration and weed control activities based on scientific research outcomes in Bold Park and Kings Park bushland to enhance biodiversity conservation on the designated lands.
- A major three-year research collaboration, funded by the Australian Research Council will commence in June 2008 with a new Research Associate position to study the application of the germination-active chemical in smoke (a world first discovery by the Authority and other research partners) as a broad-acre weed control agent. The project is expected to contribute significantly to sustainable methods of controlling some of Australia's most pernicious agricultural weeds.
- A five-year recovery program funded by Main Roads (Southern Gateway Alliance) of the rare and endangered Glossy-Leaved Hammer Orchid will investigate pollination and mycorrhizal ecology to enable long-term conservation of this and other species.
- A major new five-year study has commenced with BHP Billiton Iron Ore to develop a seed atlas to guide conservation and rehabilitation in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.
- Identifying and characterising short-range endemic taxa of the sedge genus *Lepidosperma* may directly impact on proposed resource development in Western Australia. The genus has recently been discovered to hold numerous taxa of outstanding conservation significance. Several projects (including two PhD students) are investigating methods of identifying conservation significant units and implications for conservation and development.
- In collaboration with Rocla Quarry Products, a project to develop restoration principles for the rehabilitation of former pine plantations on the Swan Coastal Plain to Banksia woodland has commenced.
- With funding from the Australian Research Council, Alcoa Alumina Australia, Worsley and Greening Australia, a five-year major research program on a molecular ecophysiological assessment of the importance of using local provenance seed for ecological restoration commenced.

I appreciate the input and support of the Chairman and the Board of Management, the staff at the Department of Treasury and Finance, and the Office of the Auditor General. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Hon. David Templeman MLA Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel and his Ministerial team for their support.

The Authority's achievements over the past year are a direct result of the commitment and professionalism of our staff and volunteers. Our achievements would not be possible without their passion and enthusiasm. I am privileged to be part of this team.

Mark Webb
Chief Executive Officer



Photo: Z Fulwood

Acknowledgements

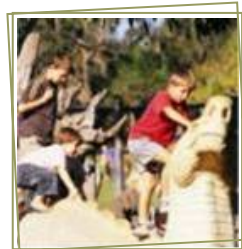
Our Partners

The Authority is especially indebted to the following organisations for their contributions to major projects and events this year:



Kings Park Lights

- Synergy
- TVW Enterprises (Channel 7)



Synergy Parkland

- Synergy



Saw Avenue Playground

- Variety WA



2007 Kings Park Festival

- Hyogo Prefecture Government
- Lotterywest
- Synergy
- Tourism WA
- Water Corporation
- Friends of Kings Park



Our Supporters

The Board of Management and staff wish to acknowledge and thank the many individuals and organisations for their valuable contributions and support this year:

Volunteers and Associated Organisations

- Friends of Bold Park Bushland Inc
- Friends of Kings Park Inc
- Honour Avenues Group
- Kings Park Guides Inc
- Kings Park Master Gardeners
- Returned Serviceman's League of Australia (Western Australia Branch)
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Trustees
- Wardens of the State War Memorial, Western Australian Museum

State and Local Government

- Department of Agriculture and Food
- Department of Environment and Conservation
- Department of Consumer and Employment Protection
- Department of Housing and Works
- Department of Industry and Resources
- Department of Planning and Infrastructure
- Department of Treasury and Finance
- Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia
- Main Roads Western Australia
- Public Transport Authority
- Shire of Bruce Rock
- Shire of Corrigin
- Shire of Westonia
- State Emergency Services
- State Solicitors Office
- Synergy
- Water Corporation
- Western Australian Planning Commission
- Western Australia Police
- Western Australian Tourism Commission
- Town of Cambridge

Private Enterprise

- Alcoa World Alumina
- Alinta Gas
- Asia Iron Holdings Limited
- Austem Pty Ltd
- Australian Centre for Mining Environmental Research
- Australian Orchid Foundation
- BHP Billiton Iron Ore
- Cockburn Cement
- Environmental Australia
- Gindalbie Metals Limited
- GME Resources Limited
- Iluka Resources Limited
- Mt Gibson Mining Limited
- Newcrest Mining (Telfer)
- Pilbara Iron
- Portman Iron Pty Ltd
- Robe River Mining Co Pty Ltd
- Rocla Quarry Products
- Shark Bay Resources Pty Ltd
- TVW Enterprises (Channel 7)
- Western Australian Newspapers
- Westonia Mines Ltd
- Westralia Airports Corporation
- Worsley Alumina

Schools and Universities

- Curtin University
- Kasetsart University, Thailand
- Murdoch University
- The University of Western Australia
- University of Pavia, Italy
- University of Santiago, Spain
- University of Rostock, Germany

National History Institutions

- Korean National Arboretum
- Millennium Seed Bank, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Operational Structure

Enabling Legislation

The Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority is constituted under the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998* (the Act) for the care, control and management of Kings Park and Botanic Garden (reserve A1720 except Perth Lots 64 and 65) and other land including Bold Park (reserve A45409).

Administered Legislation

The Authority was established under Part 2, Section 4 of the Act, and is responsible for administering the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Regulations 1999*, created under the provisions of Part 8 of the Act.

Responsible Minister

The statutory responsibility for the Act is vested with the Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel.

Vision

To create and provide world-recognised botanic gardens and parks and to inspire the conservation of biodiversity.

Mission

To conserve and enhance Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park with the community, and to conserve biological diversity generally.

Organisation Structure

The Authority's vision, mission and services are delivered through three directorates: Horticulture and Conservation; Science; and Business and Visitor Services. Each directorate has its own objectives designed to deliver the two key services to Government (Service 1: Customer Services and Cultural Heritage and Service 2: Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research). The directorate objectives are derived from the functions of the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998*.

Horticulture and Conservation Directorate

Directorate Objectives:

- Provide, improve and promote recreational and tourism services and facilities on the designated land.
- Conserve and enhance any native biological diversity of the designated land.
- Conserve and enhance the natural environment, landscape features and amenity of the designated land.
- Conserve, develop, manage, display, and undertake research into, collections of Western Australian and other flora.
- Enhance and promote the understanding and conservation of the biological diversity of the designated land and of biological diversity generally.
- Conserve, enhance and promote the Aboriginal, colonial and contemporary cultural heritage of the designated land.
- Promote the use of flora for the purposes of horticulture, conservation and education.

Business and Visitor Services Directorate

Directorate objectives:

- Provide, improve and promote recreational and tourism services and facilities on the designated land.
- Enhance and promote the understanding and conservation of the biological diversity of the designated land and of biological diversity generally.
- Conserve, enhance and promote the Aboriginal, colonial and contemporary cultural heritage of the designated land.
- Promote the use of flora for the purposes of horticulture, conservation and education.

Science Directorate

Directorate objectives:

- Conserve, develop, manage, display, and undertake research into, collections of Western Australian and other flora.
- Enhance and promote the understanding and conservation of the biological diversity of the designated land and of biological diversity generally.
- Undertake and promote research and investigation into matters related to or connected with the Authority's functions.

Board of Management

In accordance with the Part 2, Section 6 of the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998*, the Board of Management (the Board) is the governing body of the Authority.

Members are appointed by the Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel according to their experience in areas relevant to the Authority's activities and are eligible for re-appointment at the end of their term.

The Board consists of eight Members:

- Chair
- Deputy Chair
- Six members

The Authority's Chief Executive Officer and Senior Officers attend Board meetings as ex-officio members and are not entitled to vote on matters to be considered by the Board.

The Board meets formally on a bi-monthly basis and has met on six occasions during this reporting period. The current appointed terms and number of meetings attended are outlined below:

Mr Richard Simpson, Chairman

(6 out of possible 6)

Mr Simpson has over 15 years experience in providing investment banking advice to a range of corporate and government clients in Australia and internationally. He has worked in investment banks in London, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. He is currently Managing Director and Head of Corporate Finance at Hartley's Limited. Mr Simpson was re-appointed to the Board in December 2005 for a period of three years until 31 December 2008.

Mr Ross Willcock, Deputy Chair

(5 out of possible 6)

Mr Willcock was elected as the inaugural Mayor of the Town of Cambridge in May 1995 and remained as Mayor until mid 2003. He has extensive experience in commerce and in assisting charitable organisations. In September 1999, Mr Willcock was appointed Deputy Chairman of the Board and he was re-appointed to the Board in September 2006 for a period of three years until 30 August 2009.

Professor John Considine**(6 out of possible 6)**

Professor Considine is a Professor of Horticultural Science at The University of Western Australia. He is interested in the continued conservation and enhancement of Kings Park and Botanic Garden and other designated lands. Professor Considine was re-appointed to the Board in December 2006 until 31 December 2009.

Mrs Patricia Hart**(4 out of possible 6)**

Mrs Hart is a member of the Araluen Botanic Park Board and is Chairperson of the South East Regional Landcare Group. She has extensive experience as a member of landcare and environmental committees both at Local and State Government level. Mrs Hart's current term is due to expire on 31 August 2008.

Ms Clare Power**(4 out of possible 6)**

Ms Power is Director of Salter Pont Power Pty Ltd, a specialist commercial legal practice in Western Australia. Ms Power was re-appointed to the Board in December 2006 for a period of three years to 31 December 2009.

Ms Corinne MacRae**(5 out of possible 6)**

Ms MacRae is a councillor of the Town of Cambridge and is a member of the Western Australian Planning Commission. Mrs MacRae was re-appointed to the Board in December 2007 for a period of two years until 31 December 2009.

Mr Grant Robinson**(5 out of possible 6)**

Mr Robinson is a partner with KPMG with particular interest in audit and risk management services. He has reviewed and evaluated financial management accounting and reporting systems for a range of industrial and research clients. Mr Robinson was appointed to the Board in December 2007 for a period of two years until 31 December 2009.

Dr Mandy Burrows**(4 out of possible 6)**

Dr Burrows is a consultant in Veterinary Dermatology and an adjunct lecturer at Murdoch University; she is also on the Western Australian Committee for the Australian Open Garden Scheme. Dr Burrows was appointed to the Board in December 2007 for a period of two years until 31 December 2009.

**Board Members**

Back row (l to r): Pat Hart, Clare Power, Richard Simpson (Chair), Corinne MacRae, Grant Robinson.

Front Row (l to r): Mandy Burrows, John Considine.

Absent: Ross Willcock

Photo: Z Fulwood

Senior Officers**Mark Webb BSc. Agric (Hons)****Chief Executive Officer**

Mark Webb was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority on 23 November 2004. Mr Webb joined the Authority in October 1998 as Director Living Collections. He has experience in horticultural research, management and business. He is a member of the International Society for Horticultural Science, and sits on a number of local, national and international committees and boards.

**Dr Kingsley Dixon PhD
Director Science**

Kingsley Dixon has worked in the public sector for 25 years and is the head of the science programs with the Authority. Dr Dixon manages the core research outputs for the Authority through the Science Directorate. He holds a Visiting Professorship from The University of Western Australia and maintains a high profile research program in the conservation and restoration sciences. Dr Dixon holds a number of distinguished positions in learned and professional societies including board member of the Society for Ecological Restoration International and board member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission for reintroduction programs. During this year, Dr Dixon was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, the Trustees of Orchid Conservation International invited Dr Dixon to be an Honorary Member for 2008, and Dr Dixon was appointed Adjunct Professor with the Department of Botany, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand, in recognition of the research collaborations with the University.

Marcelle Broderick BSw, MSW (Policy and Administration), Grad Cert. Public Sector Management

Director Business and Visitor Services

Marcelle Broderick joined the Authority in January 1998 as Director Corporate Development and has undertaken a number of job role changes over the past eight years. She is responsible for all internal business and corporate services and reporting, external business development, leases and licences and for direct visitor services incorporating *Aspects of Kings Park*, events, volunteers and education. Prior to joining the Authority, Ms Broderick worked in a number of private and public sector organisations with varied responsibilities including social research, community development, employee support, organisational change and corporate services.

Digby Grows B (Hort Sci) Hons

Director Horticulture and Conservation

Since being appointed Director in November 2005 after 12 years with the Floriculture sub-program of the Western Australian Department of Agriculture, Digby Grows has expanded the plant breeding and development program to include water efficient Western Australian woody plants, focusing on the local, national and international markets. He has also led the enhancement of the display beds in the Botanic Garden and Parklands precincts, the ongoing improvements to the bushland in both Kings Park and Bold Park and the upgrade of facilities to improve the visitor experience.

Volunteers

The Authority is very fortunate to have the committed involvement of five dedicated volunteer groups: the Friends of Kings Park; the Kings Park Guides; the Master Gardeners; the Honour Avenues Maintenance Group; and the Friends of Bold Park Bushland.

Each of these groups offers unique and invaluable services to the Authority. Their amazing efforts ensure that the Authority can offer outstanding services well in excess of those funded through the Authority itself. In supporting the volunteers, the Authority provides some administrative support, training and information, and actively seeks their involvement in operations and planning. Between them the volunteer groups have contributed a total of 26,764 hours of service to Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park this year equating to 13.5 people working full time.

This year the Master Gardeners celebrated their 10th Anniversary, with a luncheon in the Biodiversity Conservation Centre. Volunteer Master Gardener Ethel Lucas received special commendation for her dedication and years of service. Friends of Kings Park inaugural member Tom Alford, received an Order of Australia for his voluntary contributions to society.

Further information about the activities undertaken by our volunteers is outlined in their individual group reports at Appendix 3 of this Annual Report.

Functional Structure at 30 June 2008



Legislation Impacting on the Authority's Activities

While performing its functions under the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998*, the Authority complies with other relevant written laws including but not limited to:

Western Australian State Acts

- Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972
- Auditor General Act 2006
- Bush Fires Act 1954
- Business Names Act 1962
- Cambridge Endowment Lands Act 1920
- Commercial Tenancy (Retail Shops) Agreement Act 1985
- Conservation and Land Management Act 1984
- Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899
- Disability Services Act 1993 (amended 2004)
- Dog Act 1976
- Electoral Act 1907
- Electricity Act 1945
- Environmental Protection Act 1986
- Equal Opportunity Act 1984
- Evidence Act 1906
- Fair Trading Act 1987
- Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 (FAAA applicable until early 2007)
- Financial Management Act 2006 (replaced FAAA in 2007)
- Fines Penalties and Infringement Notices Act 1994
- Freedom of Information Act 1992
- Government Employees Superannuation Act 1987
- Government Financial Responsibility Act 2000
- Health Act 1911
- Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990
- Industrial Relations Act 1979
- Land Administration Act 1997
- Library Board of Western Australia Act 1951
- Liquor Licensing Act 1998
- Litter Act 1979
- Local Government Act 1995
- Long Service Leave Act 1958
- Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993
- Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984
- Parks and Reserves Act 1895
- Plant Variety Rights Act 1987
- Police Act 1892
- Public and Bank Holidays Act 1972
- Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003
- Public Sector Management Act 1994
- Road Closure Act 1969
- Road Traffic Act 1974
- Salaries and Allowance Act 1975
- Sentencing Act 1995
- Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945
- State Records Act 2000
- State Records (Consequential Provisions) Act 2000
- State Supply Commission Act 1991
- Town Planning and Development Act 1928
- Volunteers (Protection from Liability Act) 2002
- Water and Rivers Commission Act 1995
- Water Corporation Act 1995
- Western Australian Planning Commission Act 1985
- Wildlife Conservation Act 1950
- Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 1981

Australian Commonwealth Acts

- A New Tax System (Pay as you go) Act 1999
- A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Regulations 1999
- Copyright Act 1968
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 2000
- Fringe Benefits Tax Act
- Trade Practices Act 1974
- Workplace Relations Act 1996

Performance Management Framework

Outcome Based Management Framework

Five goals are identified in the State Government's 2006 Strategic Management Framework *Better Planning: Better Futures – A Framework for the Strategic Management of the Western Australian Public Sector*. The Authority delivers its services and outcomes in relation to legislative functions and the designated lands and contributes to the goals and objectives of the State as a whole. The Authority has aligned its activities and outcomes with the goals and strategic outcomes of the State, ensuring collaboration and co-ordination of service delivery.

The Authority's Strategic Plan 2007-2012 identifies the Functions, Vision and Mission Statements, Core Business and Guiding Principles, which are the key elements in delivering its agency level government desired outcomes, in line with the Strategic Planning Framework *Better Planning: Better Futures* and specifically relating to government Goal 1: Better Services and Goal 3: Lifestyle and the Environment.

Service 1: Customer Services and Cultural Heritage

Agency Level Government Desired Outcome: World-recognised recreation, cultural heritage and tourism experiences within the context of very special urban bushlands, parklands and botanic garden environments.

This outcome is achieved through:

- High quality public services and facilities; providing ongoing care and maintenance of the parkland and bushland; and the enhancement and care of the State's Botanic Garden.
- Cultural and community events including the annual Kings Park Festival, cinema, theatre and concerts.
- Education programs, community workshops, guided walks and interpretative signage.
- Indigenous cultural experiences by way of the Aboriginal Art Gallery, Coolunger education program and Indigenous Tours.
- Memorials and cultural monuments, public artworks and *Aspects of Kings Park*.
- Community feedback via the communications system and formal consultation processes.
- Universal accessibility to designated lands and information.

Our success is measured by:

- The level of visitor satisfaction with Kings Park and Botanic Garden facilities and the Western Australian Botanic Garden.
- The level of visitor satisfaction with Bold Park and facilities.
- The percentage change in the number of cultural events held at Kings Park and Botanic Garden compared to previous years.
- The percentage change in the number attending customer awareness and education forums in Kings Park and Botanic Garden compared to previous years.
- Average cost per visitor to Kings Park and Botanic Garden.
- Average cost per cultural event held in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.
- Average cost per attendee at education forums held at Kings Park and Botanic Garden.
- Response times for public information requests.
- Percentage change in number of visitors to Reabold Hill compared to previous years.

Service 2: Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research

Agency Level Government Desired Outcome: Conservation and enhancement of Western Australian bushland and other flora.

This outcome is achieved through:

- A world-class system of parkland and bushland in heavily urbanised areas, protected, managed and enhanced by the Authority.
- Ongoing research into Western Australian and other flora; biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration.
- The publication of unique research into Western Australia's biodiversity and the application of biodiversity conservation techniques in Authority managed lands.
- Implementation of techniques developed by the Authority's scientists and restoration ecologists to restore local vegetation in degraded areas.
- Promoting the use of Western Australian native flora for the purposes of horticulture, conservation and education.
- Participation in the Carbon Neutral program, effective and consistent restoration work and maintenance of green space in urban areas.

Our success is measured by:

- Percentage of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) species in living collections in Kings Park and Botanic Garden compared to the known number of DRF species in Western Australia.
- Percentage of accessions in living collections in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.
- Percentage of accessions lost in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.
- The presence of 15 nominated perennially evident native plant species, which are the most vulnerable taxa within each Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park.
- Number of common native plant species in Bold Park in areas with high levels of management compared to areas with low levels of management.
- Weed cover in high intensity management areas compared to low intensity management areas in Bold Park.
- Number of representative native plant taxa in Kings Park and Bold Park bushland.
- Average cost of representative native plant taxa in Kings Park and Bold Park bushland.
- Average cost per research grant project administered.
- Percentage change in number of refereed scientific publications published per CF position compared to previous years.

Changes to Outcome Based Management Framework

The Authority's Outcome Based Management Framework did not change during 2007/2008.

Shared Responsibilities with Other Agencies

The Authority did not share any responsibilities with other agencies in 2007/2008.

Agency Performance

Resource Agreement

The following performance information (financial and non-financial) is the subject of a Resource Agreement signed by the Minister, the Authority and the Treasurer under Part 3, Division 5 of the Financial Management Act 2006.

Financial Targets: Actual Performance Compared to Budget Targets

	Target \$,000	Actual \$,000	Variation \$,000
Total cost of services	15,472	17,303	⁽¹⁾ 1,831
Net cost of services	12,436	10,301	(2,135)
Total equity	39,180	44,450	5,270
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(437)	1,453	⁽²⁾ 1,890
Approved full time equivalent (FTE) staff level	112	112	-

Notes:

- (1) The Total Cost of Services is higher than the target due to an increase in the cost of supplies and professional services provided to the Authority.
- (2) The increase in cash held is due to delays in Capital Works projects and an increase in fee for service grants paid to the Authority.

Key Performance Indicators: Actual Performance Compared to Budget Targets

Outcome 1: World-recognised recreation, cultural heritage and tourism experiences within the context of very special urban bushlands, parklands and botanic garden environments.

	Target	Actual	Variation
The level of visitor satisfaction with Kings Park and Botanic Garden facilities and the Western Australian Botanic Garden.	100%	98%	(2%)
The level of visitor satisfaction with Bold Park and facilities.	95%	100%	5%
The percentage change in the number of cultural events held at Kings Park and Botanic Garden compared to previous years.	1%	12%	13%
The percentage change in the number attending customer awareness and education forums held at Kings Park and Botanic Garden compared to previous years.	1%	12%	11%

Service 1: Customer Service and Cultural Heritage

	Target	Actual	Variation
Average cost per visitor to Kings Park and Botanic Garden.	\$2.00	\$1.81	(\$0.19)
Average cost per attendee at cultural events held in Kings Park and Botanic Garden	\$0.38	\$0.32	⁽¹⁾ \$0.04
Average cost per attendee at education forums held at Kings Park and Botanic Garden.	\$0.34	\$1.10	⁽²⁾ \$0.76
Response times for public information requests.	90% within 28 days	98% within 28 days	8%
Percentage change in number of visitors to Reabold Hill compared to previous years.	2%	11%	⁽³⁾ 9%

Notes:

- (1) Wildflower Festival was changed in format and duration from a one week event to a one month event. The additional cost of running the Wildflower Festival is reflected in the increased cost per attendee at cultural events held in the park for 2007/08.
- (2) The number of attendees increased at these forums at 2007/08 and reduced the actual cost compared to 2006/07, but not sufficiently to reach the published target.
- (3) Visitation increased by 9% more than the target for the period, with a total of 44,708 vehicles compared with 40,006 in 2006/07.

Outcome 2: Conservation and enhancement of Western Australian bushland and other flora.

	Target	Actual	Variation
Percentage of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) species in living collections in Kings Park and Botanic Garden, compared to the known number of DRF species in Western Australia.	65%	61%	(4%)
Percentage of accessions in living collections in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.	45%	38%	(7%)
Percentage of accessions lost in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.	5%	5%	-
The presence of 15 nominated perennially evident native plant species, which are the most vulnerable taxa within each Kings Park and Bold Park bushland.	100%	100%	-
Number of common native plant species in Bold Park in areas with high levels of management compared to areas with low levels of management.	1.5	1.4	0.1
Weed cover in high intensity management areas compared to low intensity management areas in Bold Park.	0.65	0.45	0.20
Number of representative native plant taxa in Kings Park bushland.	324	324	-
Number of representative native plant taxa in Bold Park bushland.	310	310	-

Service 2: Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research

	Target	Actual	Variation
Average cost of representative native plant taxa in Kings Park bushland.	\$5,100	\$3,710	(\$1,390)
Average cost of representative native plant taxa in Bold Park bushland.	\$2,200	\$1,234	(\$966)
Average cost per research grant project administered.	\$7,400	\$7,161	(\$239)
Percentage change in number of refereed scientific publications published per CF position compared to previous years.	6%	(25%)	⁽¹⁾ (31%)

Notes:

- (1) The number of refereed scientific publications for 2006/2007 was twenty eight instead of an anticipated thirty five publications. However, this is a traditionally difficult indicator to attain specific targets or maintain a stable trend as science projects differ in terms of complexity and duration from year to year.

Report on Operations

Service 1

Agency Level Government Desired Outcome

World-recognised recreation, cultural heritage and tourism experiences within the context of very special urban bushlands, parklands and botanic garden environments.

Customer Services and Cultural Heritage

This service and outcome supports the State Government's *Better Planning: Better Futures* Framework linking directly with Goal 1: Better Services and Goal 3: Lifestyle and the Environment.

Kings Park and Botanic Garden

Planning for some significant capital works projects to improve public safety, enhance and diversify the visitor experience and provide improved visitor facilities was well advanced during the year.

An application for Section 18 approval under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 to proceed with the Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk project was approved in October 2007. This project aims to improve pedestrian safety in this popular high profile area, enhance the dignity of the State War Memorial precinct, improve traffic flow and parking arrangements and provide new facilities for visitors. A tender was let for the design and documentation of the works following a workshop with key stakeholders in which the proposed project was announced and issues to be resolved in the design were identified.

The design includes the closure and removal of Fraser Avenue from the Floral Clock through to the Lord Forrest roundabout to create an entirely pedestrian precinct between *Aspects of Kings Park*, the State War Memorial and the Botanic Garden entry. Through traffic will be redirected via a new link road to the rear of the restaurant precinct, past the main carpark to a new roundabout on May Drive. A pedestrian concourse through the reconfigured main carpark, new toilet facilities and separate bus drop-off and parking areas were also included in the design.

The construction tender was advertised in May 2008 but tenders for the works contract were significantly above the available budget. A reduced scope of works that addresses the main public safety issues and ceremonial dignity of the site was being negotiated in June 2008.

A proposed amendment to the Kings Park Management Plan 2004-2009 for the installation of an environmental discovery and learning experience within the Kings Park Arboretum was approved, following extensive public consultation in which the majority of respondents indicated their support for the proposal. Feedback from consultation with the Authority's Indigenous Reference Group was also very positive. Under the working title of *The Wilderness*, a broad concept plan for the six hectare site was prepared, which shows the enhancement of existing natural and planted vegetation on the site, the addition of an environmental learning centre and a series of themed discovery areas that will provide unique opportunities for children and families to explore and connect with nature. Extensive feature and vegetation surveys of the area were completed and several workshops were conducted to explore the potential of the site and inform the drafting of tender documentation to engage a consultant design team.

Planning for the Saw Avenue Picnic Area upgrade was also progressed with the preparation of a concept masterplan following consultation with community stakeholders and consideration of the cultural heritage values of the site. The upgrade of this area was originally planned for 2009/10 with funds allocated by State Government; however, private sponsorship from Variety WA enabled an earlier start to the project than originally planned. A Landscape Architect was engaged for the detailed design and documentation of the

proposed upgrade and works completed to date include the conversion of an existing building to a community shelter, called the Variety Pavilion, an upgrade of the power supply to the site and further design of picnic and barbecue facilities, access for all visitors and new adventure play elements.

Botanic Gardens and Display

A new format for the Kings Park Festival that saw the Festival period extended from a five-day fee for entry event to a free entry event for the whole month of September prompted some significant changes to the plant displays in the Botanic Garden, particularly from the entry precinct through to the Wildflower Pavilion surrounds. Permanent plantings of colourful Western Australian plants produced spectacular and diverse displays for visitors from August through to the end of October, reaching a peak during the September Festival period. A display highlight for the Festival was the Japanese display garden constructed by a Japanese Landscape contractor in the Botanic Garden using Australian plants supplied by the Kings Park Nursery. Designed by a Japanese Landscape Architect, this garden and its associated cultural activities were supported by the Hyogo Prefecture, Western Australia's sister State in Japan.

There was a 15% increase in visitation to the Botanic Garden entry from the previous year with over 459,000 people visiting this precinct, and a 44% increase in the number of visitors to the Lotterywest Federation Walkway, which recorded 496,781 people. This significant increase was partially due to the closure of the Walkway for maintenance for six weeks during the spring of the previous year, but the high levels of visitation continue to endorse the success of this feature in attracting people through the Botanic Garden each year. Visitation to the Pioneer Women's Memorial Fountain was consistent with the previous year with 170,915 visitors, as was the visitation to the lower area of the Water Garden with 230,714 visitors recorded.

The refurbishment of the Yorkas Nyinning building in the Botanic Garden was close to completion at the end of June 2008, providing a much-improved facility for the delivery of education programs in the future, with protection from inclement or very hot weather when needed. The 1960's style and character of the original building has been retained in the upgrade but the internal areas have been reconfigured to provide more appropriate spaces for classes and storage. A concept plan to provide improved and universal access to and surrounding Yorkas Nyinning was endorsed, with works due for implementation during 2008/09.

New interpretive signs were installed throughout the Botanic Garden labelling garden beds according to their planting theme, consistent with the Botanic Garden Masterplan. Many new plant labels were developed and installed, providing information for visitors about the Western Australian flora. The installation of new seats to replace the old ones and provide additional seating for visitors commenced during the year, including placement along the alignment of a new path through the Conservation Garden to the Wildflower Pavilion.



Fraser Avenue was closed for several days following a severe storm on 1 July 2007.
Photo: J Thomas.

Arboriculture

The capacity and efficiency of the Arboriculture Team was further enhanced this year with the addition of a Tree Surgeon to the team from 2 July 2007, expanding the team to three staff.

They had a busy start to the year when a severe storm and gale force winds on 1 July 2007 caused extensive and irreparable damage to many trees in Fraser Avenue and the adjacent parkland, including the iconic Lemon Scented Gums (*Corymbia citriodora*) that form the historic avenue and other trees in the Hale Oval precinct. The damage forced the immediate closure of Fraser Avenue for public

safety, which remained closed for several days to enable clean-up operations, aerial tree inspections and emergency risk management works to make the area beneath the trees safe.

Over 40 Authority staff and 17 tree contractor staff were involved in the clean-up along with wide a range of equipment. The total number of trees impacted was 110, of which 21 required immediate removal and 40 sustained significant damage. A monitoring program was established for regular assessment of these trees in the future.

Eight of the Centenary Avenue Lemon Scented Gums had to be removed due to loss of their structural integrity, and timber from these and other trees lost was salvaged for future use within Kings Park and Botanic Garden. On 9 April 2008, a formal tree planting ceremony was held to replace the Centenary trees that were removed after the storm. The Minister for the Environment, Hon. David Templeman, officiated at the ceremony and some family descendants of those honoured in the original ceremonial tree planting in 1929 also participated.



Family descendants of Mr F R Mercer helped to plant a replacement Lemon Scented Gum as part of the ceremonial tree planting on Fraser Avenue.
Photo: D Blumer.

The Arboriculture Team worked closely with the Nursery Team in the further development of new tree production methods and the establishment of tree nursery area within the Kings Park Nursery. A program of advanced tree planting was initiated in 2007 and continued in 2008, with over 350 advanced trees planted throughout parkland areas since July 2007. These included significant replacement plantings for trees lost due to senescence, storm damage or risk management requirements, as well as new plantings in some parkland areas consistent with the draft Parkland Masterplan themes for the precincts. Several large Honour Avenue trees (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) at Synergy Parkland were replaced with advanced Tuarts (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) as part of a management program endorsed the previous year, as they had been assessed as being unsafe for retention in this busy parkland precinct.

The system of tree incident reporting proved to be a successful communication tool for recording stem failures and other tree issues throughout both Kings Park and Bold Park, with over 120 responses to events requiring immediate attention by the Arborist recorded. In addition, over 70 trees were serviced through the year as part of the proactive tree surgery program.

The Authority conducted a successful arborist day in conjunction with the Tree Guild and Challenger TAFE in April 2008 at the Lotterywest Family Area as well as the State Tree Climbing Championships competition also in April at the same venue. This was the third consecutive time this competition has been conducted within Kings Park and Botanic Garden, which has successfully raised the profile of the Authority's arboricultural programs. The Arboriculture Team also continued to assist with training of Arboriculture students through planting and tree surgery activities in Kings Park, under a Memorandum of Understanding with Challenger TAFE.

Parkland Operations and Turf

The Parkland Masterplan was further developed into a final draft for submission to the Board of Management for endorsement at its August 2008 meeting. The Plan aims to guide the long-term thematic planning and management of over 20 individual precincts within the context of the parkland as a whole. It identifies clear roles for each precinct, taking account of key attributes and limitations and the historic and cultural heritage values of each area. The Masterplan documents the intent and guiding principles for future decision-making in each

precinct, to minimise the chance of incremental changes over time that could erode the historic character of the landscape.

The Parkland and Turf teams continued to implement maintenance plans with continuous improvement to horticultural and presentation standards. Turf in the Fraser Avenue area was upgraded as well as the Water Garden area within the Botanic Garden, and low-grade turf on the traffic islands along the drives was replaced with mulch as a water conservation strategy. A partnership with University of Western Australia researchers to investigate best practices in Kikuyu turf management was extended, with a specific focus on the evaluation of the use of wetting agents to improve water retention and reduce water application rates.



New equipment installed for toddlers in the Lotterywest Family Area. Photo: D Blumer.

The ageing toddler slides within the Lotterywest Family Area were removed and replaced with a new range of play equipment designed for children under six years with the addition of a paved seating area under shade. An aeroplane constructed by the Kings Park Operations Team was installed in another area of the playground complete with a shade structure.

Barbecues at Synergy Parkland were upgraded to help cater for the high demand in this popular family precinct and concept plans were prepared for additional artworks reflecting the theme of biodiversity through time.

The Operations Team continued to provide assistance in the maintenance and development of Kings Park and Botanic Garden infrastructure, ensuring that facilities were maintained to a high standard. New seats were installed throughout the Fraser Avenue precinct following careful evaluation of locations to maximise visitor amenity and public safety. Upgrades to Rotunda One and Rotunda Two were completed including refurbishment of roof tiles on Rotunda Two and repainting the structures. Support was also provided for booked events in the Park, including the extended Kings Park Festival in September.

Engineering

Stage Three of the Deep Sewerage infill project was completed, connecting all facilities in and around the Western Australian Botanic Garden. All current public facilities within Kings Park and Botanic Garden are now connected to deep sewerage. The fourth and final stage of this project will commence in 2008/09 with the construction and connection of new toilets near the Fraser Avenue restaurant precinct and the connection of Crawley Lodge. In addition to the environmental benefits from a more sustainable waste management system, this project has provided enhanced amenity for all visitors to Kings Park and Botanic Garden, particularly at peak times.

The groundwater bores, treatment ponds and pump stations performed well during the season with only minimal interruptions to the irrigation water supply. Ongoing improvements to water management systems in Kings Park and Botanic Garden have resulted in significant water use efficiencies with the total groundwater usage for irrigation and water feature maintenance well below the licence allocation. Usage totalled 484MI, which is 96MI below the licence allocation of 580MI and 4MI below the previous year's usage.

A major upgrade and refurbishment of irrigation systems throughout Kings Park and Botanic Garden continued. Works completed include the installation of a new groundwater bore and associated pipe work and power supplies at May Circle, new pumps and control systems for System One pumping station, connection of the new bore to System One irrigation pond and a significant upgrade to the computerised irrigation control systems to a digital system.

Mt Eliza Escarpment and Kings Park Bushland

Trees along the entire network of bushland tracks were assessed for public safety and pruning works implemented to address the identified hazards. Planning for an upgrade to the

Nature Trail commenced with the aim of replacing the concrete slab surface with a new path that will incorporate a raised boardwalk in some sections.

Unacceptable delays by the contractor in the installation of the high capacity rock-catch fencing along the base of the escarpment necessitated re-tendering of the works in late 2007. A revised fence design was adopted and ground anchor installation for all sections was completed, although limitations on site access and difficulties associated with this complex site continued to cause some issues. Fence components were fabricated for installation during July 2008.

A review of the 10kJ rock-catch fencing that was damaged by a rockfall in May 2007 indicated a need for the fence to be redesigned to achieve the desired capacity. Testing off-site confirmed the revised design capacity; however, a further rockfall in June 2008 in the same area has prompted a geotechnical review of the stability of this section of slope. A report and recommendations for the most appropriate remedial treatments is due in July 2008. The path in this section is closed to the public pending completion of the remedial works.

Routine biannual geotechnical inspections of the escarpment continued and two major scaling operations to remove unstable boulders were completed successfully. It is worth noting that the Mt Eliza Escarpment is an inherently unstable limestone slope that is subject to ongoing deterioration and rockfall events that cannot always be predicted or prevented. The continuation of slope monitoring and implementation of risk treatment measures are therefore critical requirements in minimising the risks to public safety.

Bold Park



The track upgrade project at Bold Park provides an improved walking surface and better drainage. Photo: B Fellows

Enhancement of visitor safety, experience and facilities continued in Bold Park with the implementation of key strategies in the Bold Park Management Plan. A significant upgrade to walking tracks in Bold Park was completed during the year to improve visitor safety and amenity and reduce erosion and its impacts on the bushland. Over three kilometres of pedestrian tracks were resurfaced with cement-stabilised limestone and drainage swales were constructed to help disperse run-off water. Some minor track closures were implemented to reduce bushland fragmentation. Costs for these works were higher than originally budgeted due in part to the climate of escalating costs in Western Australia, associated with the resources boom. As a result, proposed works to upgrade and reconfigure the carparks off Perry Lakes

Drive were deferred to the 2008/09 financial year, so that funds could be reallocated to the track works.

New directional signs were installed throughout the park including placement at all intersections to help orientate visitors and name all the tracks to be consistent with those on the map brochure. New signs to be installed at major and minor entry points were drafted and will be installed late in 2008. The Camel Lake Heritage Trail brochure was revised and reprinted.

Design of a ten-kilojoule capacity rock-catch fence was completed for alignment along the base of a limestone cutting adjacent to Oceanic Drive. This followed a report on the geotechnical assessment of slope stability, which recommended an upgrade of existing fencing as a risk management strategy. Fencing along each of the access tracks to the beach from Challenger Parade was replaced to improve the aesthetics and help protect the dune vegetation from pedestrian traffic.

The appointment of a Community Liaison Officer in October 2007 has enabled regular patrols and improved interaction with the public, with personal communication and explanation of the Regulations on an ongoing basis to park visitors. Several guided walks were conducted with assistance from volunteer groups as part of the Kings Park Festival activities and an Open Day was held to celebrate the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Friends of Bold Park in September 2007. A steering group was formed to investigate the feasibility of volunteer guides in Bold Park following a community workshop held in December 2007 to initiate discussions.

A visitor survey conducted during May and June 2008 recorded 100% overall satisfaction with Bold Park with many visitors expressing their appreciation of the bushland experience offered. There was an 11% increase over the previous year in the number of vehicles accessing Reabold Hill, following an 8% decrease in 2006/07, suggesting that 2006/07 was an unusually low visitation year. There was also an estimated 50% increase in the number of participants in booked activities conducted in the Tamala Room in the Western Australian Ecology Centre compared with the previous year. This venue has continued to be a popular choice for environmental community groups to conduct their activities and for a range of both Government and non-Government organisations to conduct workshops, including indigenous cultural awareness training.

Contracts and Asset Management

The appointment of a Contracts and Assets Officer in September 2007 brought key skills to the Horticulture and Conservation Directorate that improved efficiency in the procurement of goods and services in accordance with State Government policy. This greatly enhanced the Authority's program of asset replacement and maintenance and streamlined the preparation and evaluation of written requests for quotation and tenders across all directorates.

A range of equipment was replaced during the year including a front-end loader, a tractor and an electric vehicle for the Botanic Garden, a reel mower, turf cutter and shrouded boom spray equipment for the Turf Team, glasshouse air conditioners and upgraded fogging equipment for the nursery and two all terrain vehicles for the Kings Park and Bold Park bushland teams. Restoration works to the Leake Memorial Fountain as specified by a Heritage Architect and the construction of a new boundary fence surrounding the historic Subiaco Lodge at Saw Avenue were also completed as part of the asset replacement program.

Several new contracts were initiated throughout the year for maintenance services, professional services and the upgrade of the Authority's irrigation systems.

Information Systems

The resignation of the Information Systems Manager early in the year and difficulties encountered in recruitment for a Help Desk position left the branch operating on a skeleton staff for an extended period. Despite this, there were no significant disruptions to internet access or computer operations generally and the network continued to be maintained to support the Authority's business requirements. The information systems component to the Authority's Business Continuity Plan was documented to assist with reinstatement of services in the event of a breakdown or unplanned emergency, and strategies were put in place to ensure regular and routine back up of digital information in alternative locations.

Advances in data management, particularly Geographic Information Systems, were limited due to staff shortages but some progress was made towards the development of an arboriculture package to sit within the Authority's horticultural database, BG-Base. Servers continued to be upgraded on a rotational basis through the Authority's asset replacement program and personal computers were replaced in accordance with a three-year replacement cycle.

The new Voice Over Internet Protocol telephone system was extended to include Bold Park, bringing cost efficiencies with all the Authority's branches being connected through an internal telephone network.

The resignation of the Acting Information Services Manager in March 2008 necessitated the engagement of an agency placement to assist with Information Services for a short term, but the appointment of a new Manager finished the year on a positive note for the branch.

Visitor Services

Visitor Liaison

The Authority's Park Management Officers (PMOs) play an essential role in all visitor liaisons, providing front line customer service to Park visitors in relation to their bookings or other issues. The PMOs maintain daily contact with the Kings Park Guides through the Visitor Information Centre and regular interactions with all lease operators.

Part of the PMO role is to ensure visitors comply with the Authority's Regulations, to ensure the safety and enjoyment of the facilities for all visitors. This year 1,113 infringement notices were issued; 1,076 of which were for parking offences and 37 for other offences, including speeding. There were approximately 170 letters of appeal. In February 2008, PMOs started using new "AutoCITE" (hand-held infringement issuing units) and this has proven to be a far more effective system than the previous hand-written notices. These units are fully integrated with a ticket printer, sound recorder and VGA camera.

Following the successful completion of the Instructor Training course in November 2007, PMOs are now trained in the use of laser speed measuring equipment on site by their own instructor, rather than by the WA Police.

The front reception at Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park provide daily visitor/customer liaison in person, over the phone or by email on a range of services such as events and functions, enquiries, complaints and communications.

Visitor Feedback and Complaints Handling Procedures

Visitor feedback plays a critical role in general management and planning. Visitor Surveys are conducted annually, in both Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park, to assess visitor satisfaction with services, facilities and the overall visitor experience to the Parks. Results of these surveys are also used to provide data for the Authority's Key Performance Indicators, published each year in the Annual Report.

Other communications are received via the front reception at Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park (over the phone and by mail), from the Kings Park Guides Visitor Information Centre and to the enquiries email direct or via the website. Note: communications do not include direct enquiries about Kings and Botanic Garden or Bold Park and their facilities, activities and services.

All formal communications are recorded on an internal Communications Form and are entered into the Authority's records management system and Communications Register. A total of 120 communications were recorded between first July 2007 and 30 June 2008 (compared to 142 in 06/07). Of this 120, there were 82 complaints, 15 compliments and 23 suggestions. With the number of visitors to Kings Park and Botanic Garden estimated at 5.8 million for the same period, this represents 0.002%.

In October 2007, an acknowledgement postcard was introduced and is sent out on receipt of any communication. An automated acknowledgement email was also introduced for all contacts made directly to the enquiries email address or via the Authority's website, to acknowledge receipt of all communications and enquiries and advising that a response, where applicable, would be issued.

Functions and Bookings

Kings Park and Botanic Garden remained a popular location for the many weddings, family, private and corporate functions. In 2007/08 the Bookings Office processed 1,845 bookings for functions, with 345 of these for weddings and 107 wedding photos; 604 social events; 214 film/photo shoots; 575 sporting events, such as walkathons, triathlons, cycle time trials, team-building and fitness groups; 165 schools bookings; 59 Connect With Kings Park community classes and holiday programs; 64 self-guided schools visits; and 50 bookings for Tertiary and Tourism groups.

Over 76,651 people visited Kings Park and Botanic Garden as a result of these booked functions.

The bookings staff were kept very busy fielding calls and bookings for the *Connect with Kings Park* workshops during the 2007 Kings Park Festival. They also organised the Wildflower Wedding Belles event for the Festival that showcased the park as an ideal wedding venue.

Events

A number of events were held again this year to enhance visitor enjoyment. The summer series of concert and theatre performances and the outdoor cinema attracted 82,852 visitors. The 2007 Kings Park Festival attracted an estimated 583,000 visitors. ANZAC Day, New Year's Eve, Valentines Day, Red Bull Air Race and Skyworks contributed a further 92,000 visitors.

An Events Assistant was appointed in 2007 to provide much needed assistance in preparation for the revamped Kings Park Festival format and assist during the busy summer events season.

2007 Kings Park Festival

The 2007 Kings Park Festival successfully engaged with over 500,000 primarily Western Australian visitors through a variety of family days, educational and interpretive opportunities including workshops, demonstrations, live theatre and hands-on participation, to promote the vision and mission of Kings Park and Botanic Garden. The financial support received from sponsors Lotterywest, Watercorp, Synergy and in partnership with the Hyogo Prefecture was absolutely critical to the Festival's success in 2007. Importantly, a more sustainable Festival was achieved by implementing strategies to reduce the environmental impact of the Festival footprint, along with more permanent plantings of native plants and better utilisation of the space and visitor facilities within the park. A total of 3,000 differing Western Australian species were on display throughout the 17 hectares with the intense floral display period being extended from a five day period, to three months.



The Japanese Display Garden was a key feature in the Botanic Garden for the Festival. Photo: D Blumer.

The Kings Park Festival website, with associated e-newsletters, together with a wide ranging series of media releases and coverage in print, radio and televised media ensured the community was well informed of the Festival and the special events and opportunities. The introduction of an international focus with the involvement of Hyogo Prefecture from central Japan was a successful test in taking the event to a new standard of excellence and engaging with other cultural sectors of our community.

During the month there were a wide ranging series of workshops, exhibitions and talks from garden specialists, crafts people and artists. Some of which included, celebrity gardener Sabrina Hahn, Dr Neville Marchant, self-styled Artomologist Jane Davenport,

the Artists in Residence program at *Aspects of Kings Park*, Birds Australia, Kings Park Guides, TV presenter Josh Byrne and well known Japanese landscape designer Elji (Age) Morozumi.

The increase in the festival length resulted in an increased visitor spend. *Aspects of Kings Park*, *Zamia Café* and *Stickybeaks* all increased their turnover. The Visitor Information Centre recorded an additional 1,613 people for the month of September which is a 68% increase from 2006 and the number of people taking free guided walks and Special walks rose by more than 100%.

Overall 89.9% of attendees to the Kings Park Festival were well satisfied with the event. Visitor research conducted over each weekend of the Festival indicated that the majority of people (47%) were between 40 to 64 years of age with the next prominent group being the 26 to 39 year olds (23.8%).

Visitor feedback and staff and stakeholder debriefs concluded that the objectives set for the 2007 Festival were met with:

- Increased exposure of WA wildflowers and KPBG to visitors giving it greater global appeal – higher profile for Perth Tourism – promoted as the largest annual Wildflower Festival in Australia.
- Greater community awareness of the constructive scientific work that is being achieved by the Authority both locally and internationally.
- More sustainable impact on the Botanic Garden and keeping it accessible to the public at its prime time.
- Making the Botanic Garden available sooner for concerts.
- Spreading and sharing the impact of the event throughout the Park.
- High levels of visitor satisfaction were achieved based on 315 surveys and general feedback.
- Broadened demographic, with a significant increase in the 26 -39 age group.
- Increased visitation rates for the month of September which was estimated to be in excess of 500,000.
- A more sustainable Festival achieved by implementing strategies to reduce the environmental impact of the Festival footprint and the Botanic Garden was accessible throughout the month of September.



The Wandering Wildflowers were a key feature of the 2007 Kings Park Festival. Photo: BGPA.

Concerts

- Mellen Events presented Crosby Stills and Nash who attracted the largest single crowd with 5,838 people attending in December 2007. During the summer season Mellen Events also presented Joe Cocker, Cyndi Lauper, Air, Harry Connick Jnr, kd Lang and Bjorn Again.
- The four Western Australian Symphony Orchestra Concerts in the Botanic Garden attracted 17,146 people in total. Symphony Under the Stars, Jay Lagaia from playschool and Ben Lee entertained the WASO faithful.

Theatre

- The theatrical performance of Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' was presented by Deckchair Theatre from January to February 2008 in the Botanic Garden. The performances attracted 10,198 people.
- Prompt Corner presented 'The Magic Pudding' at the Saw Avenue Amphitheatre in January attracting 2,757 children and adults during the season.

Outdoor Cinema

- Outdoor movies, presented by Moonlight Cinema in Synergy Parkland, attracted 19,314 people during its fourth season. Attendances for the outdoor cinema were up slightly on previous years.

Other Events

- An estimated 14,000 people came to Kings Park and Botanic Garden to celebrate New Year's Eve.
- The annual Australia Day Skyworks event on the Swan River attracted approximately 25,000 people who watched from various vantage points in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.
- The second Red Bull air race attracted 5,000 people to the park, significantly less than last year.
- Record crowds attended the annual ANZAC Day Dawn Service attracting close to 40,000.
- 68 Wreath-laying and memorial events were conducted in the park this year.

Interpretation and information



The interpretative signage in the Conservation Garden is eye-catching and informative.

Many interpretive signs in the gardens received facelifts in the last year and new signage was developed for the Botanic Garden and the newly planted Conservation Garden, including entry signage as well as naming all the beds in the garden.

This year the Authority tendered for signage manufacture and graphic design services. A number of companies were selected to establish a panel of suitable providers.

A new History of Kings Park brochure was developed in partnership with the Kings Park Guides and it has proven to be very popular with the visitors. A number of the visitor brochures have been revamped and a new poster promoting the Discover Kings Park Education Service was developed to promote the programs to teachers.

The new-look Kings Park Festival received a total makeover which included promotional material, information brochures and signage, with around 500,000 festival brochures distributed throughout Western Australia.

The Authority's new website was launched in October 2007. The new Content Management System (CMS) based website has made information about Authority's activities much more accessible to the general public and includes regular polls to encourage feedback about the website or other activities. It was further refined early 2008 with improvements to the menu structure and continues to be reviewed to ensure current and new information is readily available and out of date information is archived. The website software has enabled the Authority to introduce a monthly e-newsletter which readers can subscribe to find out about Festival events and Authority news and activities.

An Indigenous Cultural Heritage Tour is being trialled for six months with a Nyoongar Guide to gauge the interest of tour groups and tourists. It is intended this activity will be tendered to provide the Authority with a suitable individual or company to deliver this product in the future.

Education

The Authority delivers a range of educational opportunities to visitors and local communities through various methods including: free guided and special walks; self guided walks; the Visitor Information Centre staffed by Kings Park volunteer Guides; Friends of Kings Park - volunteer work and plant sales; Master Gardeners Advisory Service; volunteers and

corporate groups – hands-on work with Bushland, Botanic Garden and Science; external talks to Probis clubs, gardening and community groups; a lunchtime lecture series; Science lectures at UWA; ecotours; interpretive signage; informative brochures; media articles and television; the annual Kings Park Festival; Connect With Kings Park adult education programs and the Discover Kings Park Education Service.

An excursion to Kings Park and Botanic Garden offers an excellent opportunity for students of all ages to further their understanding of environmental and related issues in a safe and stimulating outdoor setting. Curriculum-based programs have been developed by the Education Team to assist teachers and provide an enjoyable and valuable learning experience for students from pre-school to tertiary levels. All the education programs offer discovery learning and work with the learners' curiosity. They allow students to move, sense, explore, discuss and artistically relate to a stimulating environment that can provide opportunities for learning that are not available indoors.

'A Tangled Web of Life' is a new program developed for years five to nine to highlight the effects that climate change is having on our environment and encourages students (and teachers) to "*Consider the issues facing our environment today and what we can do to take care of tomorrow*".

Students participate in an interactive session that introduces a range of environmental concepts that include biodiversity, sustainability, inter-relationships between plants and animals and the threats facing our fragile ecosystems today. The Tangled Web of Life program draws attention to the fact that everything we do has an impact, no matter how large or small, on our environment and, in turn, climate change.

To mark National Threatened Species Day, last September, the Education Team held 'The Great Quiz On Legs Trail' attracting 1,500 primary students to the Botanic Garden. With the help of many guest environmental presenters from conservation organisations, students took part in an educational, informative and entertaining day that helped raise awareness of our vulnerable and threatened species in Australia.

The Education Service delivered 229 lessons to approximately 8,352 students during the year. There were also an additional 64 booked self-guided education visits to the Park involving a further 4,542 participants.

'Connect with Kings Park' is a series of public education programs that are held throughout the year. These programs provide pathways to learning so that people of all ages and experience can take another step in developing their gardening/environmental skills, and creative talents. The programs comprise of lectures, workshops, interactive walks and talks using Authority and external presenters including high profile gardening media presenters. The classes have proved to be highly successful with many being fully booked.

Aspects of Kings Park

Since opening its doors in January 2005, *Aspects of Kings Park* continues to exceed expectations. *Aspects of Kings Park* showcases a wide selection of the finest of contemporary Australian craft and design products in glass, ceramics, jewellery, textiles and wood, as well as a broad range of botanical and special interest books and paper products.

The Authority's Audit Committee reviews internal controls, procedural instructions, staff training and detailed financial and performance reports to ensure effective and efficient processes.

Aspects of Kings Park has developed a solid local client base, including corporate and bridal gifts, and is developing its service to cater to the many interstate and international visitors.



Aspects of Kings Park has a wide selection of contemporary craft and design. Photo: R Johnson

Aspects of Kings Park provides ongoing cross portfolio contributions to the tourism, art, resources and environmental sectors. All proceeds from the sale of goods at *Aspects of Kings Park* supports the Authority's commitment to the unique Western Australian environment.

Business Services

Business Development

The Authority has a modest business development program focused on developing strategies for sustainable fundraising, partnership and sponsorship arrangements for the future enhancement of Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park. We continue to work on building existing sponsorships, creating new partnerships and strategic alliances, and ensure optimal marketing and promotion activities.

Together with the Friends of Kings Park, the Authority participates in a Joint Advisory Committee under the auspices of the Western Australian Community Foundation (WACF). The Friends of Kings Park have established two donation accounts with the WACF, and planning is underway with the Joint Advisory Committee on how best to attract sustainable funding using this framework. The next phase is to establish a business development function.

The Friends of Kings Park are a key stakeholder with the Authority, and they continue to have a very successful partnership with Lotterywest, in addition to raising significant funds themselves through their quarterly public plant sales.

The Authority is also very fortunate to have a number of other significant partners who work with the Authority in delivering high quality outcomes. The Water Corporation and the Authority have a highly productive partnership which through the Kings Park Festival education program promotes mutual conservation messages important to both organisations. Synergy continues its sponsorship of Synergy Parkland and the Fraser Avenue Lights (jointly with Channel 7), and this year participated in the Kings Park Festival. Channel 7 maintains its continued assistance through promotion of the Kings Park Lights and promotion of the annual Kings Park Festival.

The Authority is privileged to work with a range of other organisations that assist in providing resources to support the Authority's outcomes.

Major Promotional, Public Relations or Marketing Activities

A comprehensive marketing and media strategy was undertaken successfully to increase community awareness and build local attendance of the 2007 Kings Park Festival, promoting and celebrating Western Australia's unique environment. Results reveal a strong growth in attendance of young families, with over 500,000 people estimated to have attended the event over the month of September.

Paid media advertising engaged mainstream press to communicate with the broad Western Australian community. The major promotional tool was a 16-page full colour Festival publication that was inserted and distributed on the 1 September via The West Australian Newspaper to a readership of over 955,000.

Radio was a critical medium to maintain momentum of a six week campaign, in particular, 94.5FM was used strategically as to motivate attendance leading into each of the major weekend activities. Television was employed in a limited way and included a four week promotional campaign on Western Australia produced "Home in WA" program.

Extensive direct mail was employed to raise awareness including 400,000 leaflets promoting the Synergy Father's Day event distributed direct to Western Australian households via Synergy's bill network. 30,000 copies of the Festival's event brochures were produced and distributed to the surrounding suburbs via Australia Post, and a further 30,000 were dropped at community centres, public libraries and local cafes.

A dedicated Festival website was launched in August to communicate the breadth of event, recording 10,251 hits over the month of September. Of this number, 8m699 were unique users, averaging 249 unique visits per day to the Festival website. The public were invited to subscribe to the regular weekly Festival e-news. Five e-newsletters were distributed to a total of 455 subscribers who voluntarily chose to receive the Festival's updates.

The media relations campaign succeeded in building event credibility and community awareness of the 2007 new format event. The campaign commenced early August and focused on raising the profile of the event, building visitation, and creating and channelling media opportunities. In total 150 media hits were achieved with eight on television; 65 in print; and 77 radio interviews and live mentions. Publicity received from 720 ABC Perth must be commended. Numerous talkback opportunities were created and program producers were generally supportive of the community events.

Financial Management

The Authority has an Audit Committee established under the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998, which assists the authority to discharge its responsibilities in financial management, compliance and corporate governance. The committee met on 4 occasions during the year. In addition, the internal auditors, 2020 Global, work closely with the Authority to continually improve internal processes and procedures to meet legislative, regulatory and management requirements.

Regular staff training sessions are held to increase staff competency in the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) and State Supply Commission policies and guidelines on procurement, including Common Use Arrangements, the use of purchasing cards, request and tender processes and the financial management of contracts and leases. In recognition of this, the Authority has been used by the DTF on occasions as a model for best practice, and has been invited to nominate for the *Innovation in Procurement - Treasurer's Awards 2008*.

Service 2

Agency Level Government Desired Outcome

Conservation and enhancement of Western Australian bushland and other flora.

Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research

This service and outcome supports the State Government's *Better Planning: Better Futures* Framework linking directly with Goal 3. Lifestyle and the Environment.

The Authority aims to protect and conserve the flora and biodiversity of Western Australia and its ecosystems, undertaking and promoting scientific research and investigation into Western Australian and other flora in a world-class research facility; undertaking restoration activities in Kings Park and Bold Park bushland; and public horticulture and displays in the State's Botanic Garden.

Kings Park and Botanic Garden

The Authority continued its integrated approach to conservation through a range of complementary activities in each branch of the Horticulture and Conservation Directorate, with invaluable assistance provided by teams of dedicated volunteers.

Western Australian Botanic Garden

Many years of planning came to fruition this year with the opening of stage one of the Kings Park Conservation Garden, the development of which was funded by the State Government. This garden had its origins in the former Rare and Endangered Garden but it was allocated a more public site in the development of the Thematic Plan for the Botanic Garden to raise its profile in the community.

Situated next to the Long Vista with a frontage onto the Forrest Carpark and the Lord Forrest Roundabout, Stage One of the Conservation Garden covers almost half a hectare and displays around 400 of Western Australia's threatened flora species. Displays are grouped according to habitat type or State region, with a special display of critically endangered flora. The garden is very well interpreted to communicate important conservation messages to visitors and was officially opened by the Minister for the Environment on World Environment Day, 5 June 2008.



The Botanic Garden was a mass of flowers Spring 2007.
Photo: D Blumer.

Other developments included the planting of a further 10,000 plants in themed beds throughout the Botanic Garden. The main focus beds were the Wheatbelt Flora, the Northern Sandplains, the Goldfields Flora, the Botanic Garden entry, plus the *Acacia*, *Hakea* and *Grevillea*, and *Anigozanthos* (Kangaroo Paw) and *Chamelaucium* (wax flower) gardens.

The addition of three new staff to the team from early July 2007 plus the addition of threatened flora conservation to the Horticultural trainees' program has greatly enhanced the capacity of the Botanic Garden Team to raise horticultural standards in the cultivation and display of the Western Australian flora. The Botanic Garden Carers group of volunteers continued to make a sound contribution to maintenance of displays and played a role in the planting of the new Conservation Garden.

Kings Park Nursery

The nursery continued to play a key role in conservation programs for the State as well as a vital support role for other branches within the Authority.

Over 13,000 plants were produced for planting in the Botanic Garden, including plants for the new Conservation Garden. In addition, over 6,000 plants of potted colour were produced for the festival displays. The further expansion of the grafting program enabled new species to be incorporated into the Botanic Garden, adding diversity to the displays for visitors. This program incorporated plants from a range of genera including *Pimelea*, *Verticordia*, *Eremophila*, *Darwinia*, *Leschenaultia* and *Grevillea*, which had proven difficult to propagate by other means.

The nursery also produced in excess of 45,000 local native plants for restoration programs in Kings Park and Bold Park bushlands, including many species that had been problematic for production in the required numbers by external nurseries. In addition, the nursery conducted germination trials for all species collected by each of the bushland teams, and nursery staff applied the pre-treatments to bushland seed lots prior to despatch to external nurseries for propagation.

Support for the Department of Environment and Conservation programs continued with the production of 2,289 plants of threatened flora for translocation back into the wild.

The nursery space was reconfigured following mature stock planting for the festival to accommodate the tree nursery, bushland restoration plants and potted colour that was previously grown externally, and a collection of grafted specimens held in stock for evaluation.

Western Australian Seed Technology Centre and Millennium Seed Bank Partnership

The total number of collections made throughout the year was 348, which was greater than a 90% increase over the previous year. The collecting, cleaning, testing and storing of seed in response to the requirements of the Western Australian Botanic Garden remains the core business of the Curator of the Western Australian Seed Technology Centre (WASTC), with collecting trips extending throughout the State. The main priority areas were the Goldfields region as well as coastal areas in the south west of the State.

The second phase of the Millennium Seed Bank (MSB) project continued with a total of 248 duplicate collections sent in seven shipments during the year to the seed bank at Wakehurst Place in the United Kingdom for long-term storage. This represents a 70% increase over the previous year. Of those, the WASTC staff made 177 collections and 71 collections were contributed by Greening Australia Western Australia, who are contracted to the Authority to collect seed for this project.

The WASTC continued to keep abreast of the latest information and developments in seed collection and storage through attendance at conferences and networking with revegetation professionals. Staff participated in the International Seed Ecology II conference in Perth in September 2007 and in June 2008, the Curator partnered with MSB staff from the United Kingdom to lead a training session for collectors in Kenya and Portugal, after which the Curator attended the MSB at Wakehurst Place for further training.

The position of the Australian Millennium Seed Bank (MSB) Co-ordinator was extended until December 31 2008, with the appointee choosing to continue to be located in Kings Park and Botanic Garden. This position is fully funded by the MSB project at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and is tasked with both coordinating the current MSB activities of all the Australian states and establishing a way forward for seed conservation in Australia after the current MSB funding ceases in 2009.

As a founding partner of the Australian MSB project, the Authority has made a vital contribution to Western Australia's success in meeting and exceeding Target 8 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, which aims to have 60% of threatened plant species in accessible ex-situ collections, preferably in the country of origin and 10% of them included in recovery and restoration programs.

The Co-ordinator has also played a significant role in working with the Authority to develop a major exhibition on seed conservation that will be a highlight of the 2008 Kings Park Festival.

Herbarium

The Authority's Reference Herbarium continued to provide identification and classification services for the Authority, ensuring that seed and plant material is properly identified before being added to the collections or sent away as part of the MSB project. Linked through the botanical database, this service ensures that plant names are correct and current.

A minor upgrade of facilities occurred with the reconfiguration of the office adjacent to the Herbarium, making room for more volunteer assistants for mounting and maintaining specimens. The Authority Botanist was also involved in survey activity and plant identification in the Arboretum area, in preparation for the planning of the new Wilderness project.

Arboriculture

A new research project was launched in partnership with Murdoch University staff to investigate the effect of stem injection treatments to Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) in arresting or reversing the symptoms of decline caused by the honey fungus, *Armillaria luteobubalina*. This fungus commonly forms fruiting bodies at the base of trees such as Tuart and Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) causing the decline and eventual death of mature trees. With woodland decline becoming a serious problem on the Swan Coastal Plain and beyond, and tree losses from the fungus occurring within Kings Park and Botanic Garden, it is hoped these trials will contribute information that will help to improve tree vigour and decrease the risk of premature mortality.

Scientific trials using a range of mineral treatments and one chemical product will be undertaken over a three year period on selected trees throughout the Botanic Garden and parkland areas in Kings Park and Botanic Garden, with the Authority arboriculture staff playing a key role in implementation and monitoring of the trials.

Plant Development

The Plant Development team is developing Australian native species for horticulture, to derive a greater utility from the remarkable diversity present in our native flora. It incorporates an active plant breeding program, the selection of desirable plants from the wild in order to gain the best genetic material, as well as horticultural research into plant biology, plant breeding systems, plant propagation, grafting and plant cultivation.

Production of new plant varieties and forms, horticultural products and techniques and the increased use of native plants in the urban landscape are major objectives of the plant development program. The opportunity to introduce new plant products into domestic and global markets offers a unique medium to promote and utilise the Australian flora. Traditional markets in horticulture are now seeking new products and the diversity in Australian flora has focused attention on Australian plants as a source of new material. It is anticipated that development of the flora, in the long term, will be linked with its conservation for future generations by improving the understanding and enjoyment of the local flora and by supporting conservation programs.

The Authority is partnering with Austem Pty Ltd to breed new varieties of *Grevillea* and *Hakea*. The partnership agreement includes capital inputs until 2011. It also provides access to large ornamental plant markets and opportunities to position a number of plant products for possible commercial release.

Since the agreement was signed in March 2008, over 6,600 crosses have been made, with about 700 putative hybrids produced.

Funding through the partnership agreement with Ball Flora to breed new varieties and hybrids of *Scaevola* finished in August 2007.

During the year, 43 hybrid *Scaevola* varieties that were bred under the agreement were transferred to Ball Flora for inclusion in their international testing programs. Ball Flora has indicated that one hybrid that was sent in 2006 has been short-listed for commercial release in 2010, and a further 17 remain in the advanced testing phase.

Developmental work was also carried out on a range of other genera including *Agonis*, *Boronia*, *Dampiera*, *Ficus*, *Goodenia* and *Hypocalymma*. Ongoing collection activities are continuing to increase the genetic resources available for the development programs.

Fire Management

Preparation for the 2007/08 fire season was progressed in accordance with the Fire Management and Response Plan, with six new fire officers completing training in basic bushfire fighting conducted by Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) personnel. In house training in the form of a Fire Hydra was conducted successfully in two sessions, providing hands on opportunities for all Fire Officers to refresh their skills and knowledge of fire response. The resignations of two Fire Management Officers lead to two new trainees being incorporated into the team on a trial basis mid-way through the season to assist with 24 hour coverage of the emergency pager, which was highly successful.

There were 10 small fires in Kings Park and Botanic Garden, which burnt a total of 0.15 hectares, the largest of which burnt 0.09 hectares. The first fire occurred very early in July 2007 and the last was very late in June 2008, both of which were presumed to have been deliberately lit. A quick response time by both FESA and Authority crews to all fires was critical in keeping the fire impacts to a minimum.

There were two small fires in Bold Park during the year with the first one, believed to have been deliberately lit, also occurring in July 2007. The second fire was very small and not reported but evidence of it was detected by staff. The total area burnt in Bold Park was only 0.015 hectares.

Upgrades to hydrants in Kings Park and Botanic Garden continued with three upgraded along Kings Park Road and another on Thomas Street south of Saw Avenue. Three new bore fed hydrants were installed along May Drive between May Circle and System One pond another at the corner of Saw Avenue and May Drive. The overhead scheme water fill point on May Drive was replaced with a bore fed hydrant in the same location. Other new equipment included an 800 litre slip-on unit complete with pump and electric start for Mobile 3, the Authority's first response light tanker.

Mt Eliza Escarpment and Kings Park Bushland

The resignation of the Bushland Manager in January 2008 after seven years in the position lead to the promotion of the Environmental Team Leader to Bushland Manager and the subsequent promotion of the Acting Environmental Team Leader to the permanent position. An increase in State Government funding for bushland management enabled staff numbers to be maintained, with an increase in casual staff during the winter peak period.

Almost 80 hectares of bushland was targeted for veld grass control using herbicides, including areas on the escarpment, restoration sites and track edges. In addition to reducing competition for the native species, this also assists in reducing the biomass of this highly flammable species in summer, which is an effective fire management strategy. Other weed control included ongoing spraying of invasive bulbous species and a significant program of physical removal of woody weed species.

As in the previous year, the Authority received \$28,000 funding through the Department of Environment and Conservation's Biodiversity Conservation Initiative, which enabled an extension of the previous years work in specific weed control. This included the physical removal and chemical control of bridal veil (*Asparagus declinatus*) in the bushland as well as a range of other weed species including *Lachenalia* species, *Asparagus plumosus* and *Succowia balearica*.

Several trials of herbicides were undertaken to test their efficacy on a range of difficult to control introduced weed species and their impact if any on local native species. Chemicals included Lontrel, Logran and Propon. Significant levels of control were obtained when using Propon on target species *Ixia maculata* (96-99%), *Babiana angustifolia* (100%) and *Allium triquetrum* (94-97%), which has led to use of this chemical in the field. Trials with Propon have now been expanded to in-situ experiments on *Ferraria crispa*.

The seed collection program proved very successful with a total of 116 collections made, including seed of eight of the site's vulnerable species. Propagation trials were commenced on some species in the *Ericaceae* family, including some vulnerable species, which have proven to be recalcitrant in the past. The availability of the x-ray facility in the Kings Park laboratory to examine seed lots for the presence of healthy embryos was invaluable, enabling a fast and much more efficient method of determining seed viability prior to storage without destroying the seed.

Restoration planting continued with a total of 47,000 plants from 74 species being planted in 46 restoration sites, as identified in the five-year restoration plan. Four of the Kings Park bushland vulnerable species were included in the planting as part of a management program to enhance their conservation on the site.

A draft report on the ecological restoration of the Mount Eliza Escarpment bushland was completed, which documents the success of the project to date by: comparing measures of plant species richness and abundance within permanent plots before (1998) and after (2005/06) restoration; observing changes over time at permanent photographic monitoring points; and, assessing the success of the project against a set of criteria that reflected the project objectives. The study revealed that overall; the condition of the bushland on the escarpment had improved substantially since the implementation of restoration works, but that a 'self-sustaining ecosystem' had not yet been achieved.

Bold Park

Restoration activities continued in Bold Park throughout the year in accordance with the priorities set in the Bold Park Management Plan 2006-2011. Field staff recruited in the previous financial year consolidated their skills and knowledge of the site, but difficulties in recruiting a suitable applicant for the Environmental Manager position following the resignation of the incumbent in January 2008, left the team without a Manager on site until June 2008. There was, however, significant progress made against targets set.



Tree guards are used in restoration planting at Bold Park to provide protection from rabbits for new plants. PhotoS Broomfield.

The winter 2007 planting program included over 58,600 plants in prioritised sites, with planting spanning from late May 2007 through to July 2007. There were three separate plantings that involved community volunteers: The Eastern Gateway site with the Friends of Bold Park, a section of the coastal dunes in association with the Cambridge Coast Care group, and, the replanting of a cleared embankment next to the Mount Claremont bushland area, assisted by students from Christ Church Grammar School. This embankment is outside the Bold Park boundary but following agreement with the school to clear the invasive weed species that were established in the embankment, it was also agreed to supply local native plants and staff

expertise to assist with planting, to reinstate the area with more appropriate species.

The winter 2008 planting commenced in June with approximately half of the 30,000 plants allocated for this season in the ground at the end of June 2008. Planting this season included

some rehabilitation planting in areas that were either partially disturbed during the track upgrade works or closed for revegetation to reduce bushland fragmentation.

Weed control activities continued in the winter months following assessment of weed densities in the Oceanic, Reabold Hill and Mount Claremont precincts. Over 24 hectares were sprayed in total for *Pelargonium* control in the 2007 season and over 30 hectares sprayed in May and June 2008. A total of 32.5 hectares were sprayed for veld grass control in July and August 2007. In addition, all restoration sites past and present were sprayed for these species as well as annual weeds to reduce competition for the local native plants.

During late spring and summer, species led weed control continued as for previous years and included the physical removal of several introduced tree species such as Japanese Pepper, European Olive, non-local *Acacia* species and Spanish Broom (*Retama raetam*). Monitoring for this species will continue in the future to ensure any new plants growing from the soil seed bank are quickly eradicated. Bulbous weed control included African Cornflag (*Chasmanthe floribunda*), Freesia, *Lachenalia* species and the highly invasive Black Flag (*Ferraria crispa*). A root barrier was installed as trial to prevent the spread of Black Flag from the adjacent grass road verge into the bushland in the Mount Claremont area, which will be monitored over time.

Priorities for seed collection included all species required for restoration programs, conservation collections for the vulnerable flora as well as those species that could be opportunistically collected. A total of 124 species were collected overall, including seven of the vulnerable species listed for Bold Park. Additional plants of two of the vulnerable species were recorded, (*Daviesia decurrens* and *Eryngium pinnatifidum*), as part of an ongoing monitoring program and there was good germination of another of the vulnerable species, *Sphaerolobium linophyllum*. Overall there was poor seed set on all of the *Acacia* species compared with previous years as well as some Proteaceae such as *Banksia* and *Hakea*. Good collections were made of some other species for which storage quantities had become very low. The collection priorities also incorporated the addition of several rushes and sedges to boost seed numbers in anticipation of the future restoration of the Camel Lake wetland.

A comprehensive literature review of information relevant to the Camel Lake wetland restoration was undertaken and a report completed, including an annotated bibliography. This information will be invaluable to inform future planning for this project and has enabled identification of information gaps for further research and investigation. An internal workshop on this project was held in April 2008 to highlight progress to date and discuss future directions.

Scientific Research and Development

International Conferences

In September 2007, the Authority hosted two significant international conferences:

The Eleventh International Mediterranean Ecosystems (Medecos XI) conference, held 2-5 September 2007 with 290 delegates registering from 16 different countries. The large number of delegates attending meant that, for the first time, a Medecos conference held concurrent sessions. There were 119 oral and 84 poster presentations. The pre-conference field trip to the south-west attracted 29 participants. The popular opening guest speaker was Prof Stephen Hopper. At a WWF/Medecos event on Tuesday evening, Prof Hopper also gave a free public presentation entitled "Plant diversity and living with climate change". Feedback received confirmed the success of the conference.

The Seed Ecology II conference, held 9-13 September 2007 with 167 delegates registering from 27 different countries. The 40 oral and 67 poster presentations covered topics in seed ecology science from germination and dormancy research, dispersal ecology and seed bank dynamics, applied seed biology, and conservation and restoration. Mid-week conference field

trips took delegates either to the biodiverse Swan Coastal Plains or to view the restoration programs operated by Alcoa World Alumina.

Restoration Ecology

The Restoration Ecology Team continues to research the reasons underpinning ecosystem decline and develop new and innovative enabling technologies for tackling urban bushland, post-mining and post-disturbance restoration of the State's bio-diverse ecosystems. While the focus of the group has generally centred on the *Banksia* woodland that is the heart of the Authority managed bushlands, externally funded projects contribute to restoration ecology knowledge of the State's ecosystems from the Pilbara region, the Swan Coastal Plain to the south-west region and ultimately, build restoration research capability that directly benefits the designated lands of the Authority.

A key research partnership in its 12th year involves the Authority and industry partner, Rocla Quarry Products, collaborating on restoration principles applicable to *Banksia* woodlands. The partners have now initiated research into developing restoration principles for post-pine removal sites within the Gngangara area. The research will help build community knowledge into *Banksia* woodland ecosystems, and ultimately provide indirect benefits to the designated lands of the Authority.

A research program with Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) is demonstrating the potential for fire-suppressants (used in fire control activities) to impart negative effects on native vegetation. FESA have funded a 3-year PhD research program investigating the impacts of fire suppressants on seed germination, seedling emergence, seedling establishment and plant survival of *Banksia* woodland species. The implications of the findings have the potential to be important in bushfire control technology.

Along similar lines, preliminary research has demonstrated the potential for commonly-used herbicides to impact native species common in Kings Park and Bold Park, and has now been expanded into a 3-year PhD program. The study will investigate a significantly greater suite of species, additional aspects of plant development, and the effects, if any, on the soil environment. The findings may affect weed management practices within the Authority and elsewhere.

A study investigating the effects of recreational disturbance (pedestrian and horse riding activities) on native vegetation demonstrated that recreational disturbance, in particular that arising from horse riding activity, has impacts on the health and species composition of *Banksia* woodland species. In addition, weed germination was greater within horse-disturbed soils. Importantly, horse manure was shown to be a significant carrier of exotic species, while increased nutrient loadings from horse manure deposition promoted increased weed growth. The findings indicate the potential negative impacts of horse riding on the biodiversity conservation values of *Banksia* woodlands.

The dissemination of research findings is also a priority of the Authority, and the hosting of conferences and workshops provides the Authority with an avenue to encourage this activity. The Authority was successful in being awarded the 19th Conference for the Society of Ecological Restoration (SER) International – The World Conference on Ecological Restoration to be held in August 2009. The hosting of this conference marks an important occasion in restoration ecology research for Western Australia and represents the inaugural southern hemisphere hosting of SER International. In conjunction, the Authority is currently forming the Australian chapter of the SER International and anticipates garnering more members prior to the hosting of the conference.

Conservation Genetics

The Conservation Genetics Team is applying molecular markers for research and practical outcomes in native plant conservation, landscape restoration, native plant breeding, systematics and phylogenetics. The laboratory is equipped with state-of-the-art automated

DNA sequencers, enabling the rapid application of fluorescent-based DNA fingerprinting and DNA sequencing techniques. Key research areas include: the genetic delineation of local provenance seed collection zones for native plant community restoration; the identification of levels of genetic variation within and among natural populations of native plants; the identification of taxonomic rank and evolutionary relationships in native plant groups; the detailed analysis of realised mating patterns in natural populations; the direct analysis of seed and pollen dispersal within and among native plant populations; and the application of DNA fingerprinting for more efficient native plant breeding for horticultural markets.

As with all external research projects, the Conservation Genetics Team crafts grants to maximise knowledge yield applicable to the designated lands under control of the Authority.

Three nationally competitive ARC (Australian Research Council) grants were held by the Conservation Genetics Team through the Discovery and Linkage Grants Schemes with researchers at UWA, Curtin University, Murdoch University, and the University of Melbourne.

A five-year ARC Discovery grant has extended research on the population dynamics and genetic variation of plants varying in fire response and dispersal capability. The project has shed new light on the role of disturbance and the increased occurrence of hybrids between Hooker's banksia (*Banksia hookeriana*) and *B. prionotes*; on the phylogeographic history of *B. hookeriana*, including range expansion and refugia associated with the last glacial maximum; on patterns of realised mating and levels of genetic variation in aerial seed banks over many years of mating; on pollen dispersal within populations that shows a striking departure from typically leptokurtic pollen dispersal curves, highlighting the importance of birds as pollinators; and has identified a surprisingly high frequency of long distance seed dispersal in *B. hookeriana* and *B. attenuata*, which plays an important role in the metapopulation dynamics of these species. The genetic assessment of long distance seed dispersal has also commenced for *Daviesia triflora* and *Stachystemon axillaris*.

With funds from a three-year ARC linkage grant, significant progress has been made towards a provenance atlas for native plant community restoration in urban bushland remnants in south Western Australia, with genetic provenance information for more than 50 local species now achieved. This information helps identify local provenance seed collection zones, makes restoration activities more efficient and conserves biodiversity within species.

A five-year ARC linkage grant, with funds from industry partners Alcoa World Alumina Australia, Worsley Alumina and Greening Australia, saw research commence on a molecular ecophysiological assessment of the importance of using local provenance seed in native plant community restoration. Specific projects include the assessment of population genomic variation in *Gompholobium spp* and *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (tuart), developing and utilizing non-neutral genetic marker techniques such as expressed sequence tags (ESTs) and microarrays. Additionally, genetic provenance variation was assessed in Jarrah forest populations of the snottygobble *Persoonia longifolia*, and a major experiment established to assess the potential for outbreeding depression following mixing of genetic provenances of triggerplants (*Stylidium spp*).

A major three-year integrated research program on the biology of the declared rare flora *Tetratheca paynterae* and three related species for on- and off-site conservation, was concluded. Population genetic variation has been assessed, mating patterns and pollen dispersal characterised, optimal seed germination and propagation techniques identified, and seed storage protocols defined. This research underpins the conservation and management of this threatened species impacted by mining.

A major research program on the conservation genetics and phylogenetic relationships of the declared rare flora *Darwinia masonii* and *Lepidosperma gibsonii* for on- and off-site conservation continued. Research highlights to date include: a comprehensive molecular phylogeny of the *Darwinia*, *Chamelaucium*, *Verticordia* group, with significant taxonomic implications; a recognition that the number of species currently recognised in *Lepidosperma*

is a gross underestimate; and an understanding of patterns of spatial genetic variation and clonality within these species.

Genetic barcoding of elite wax-flower varieties continues, with funding from AgWA. These results underpin a more efficient native plant breeding program.

Molecular markers have been applied to identify genetically unique conservation units and key population genetic processes in the orchid genera *Caladenia* and *Drakea*. DNA sequence data have been generated to assess the phylogenetic relationships between species within these genera and their symbiotic fungi.

Genetic variation and structure in the sea-grass *Posidonia australis* is being assessed with microsatellites. Preliminary results are characterising the extent of clonality within populations and genetic differentiation among populations, underpinning seagrass restoration efforts.

An integrated research program on the biology of the goldfields DRF *Cratystylis centralis*, and related species, has commenced. This includes an assessment of genetic variation within and among populations, and the resolution of taxonomic relationships within this group.

Seed Science

The Seed Science Team continues to undertake leading research into seed biology and seed ecology to facilitate seed-based conservation and restoration techniques for Australian plants. Key research areas include seed storage physiology and longevity; dormancy alleviation and germination stimulation techniques for propagation of difficult to germinate species, and development and application of seed enhancement technologies for improved seedling survival in restoration programs.

The Millennium Seed Bank program, part of a major international collaborative research partnership between Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom; the Department of Environment and Conservation; and the Authority, continues into its fourth year. Research highlights include the completion of a comprehensive study into orchid seed storage physiology – the first study of this kind on Orchidaceae. The study identified that seeds of Orchid species are extremely short-lived in storage and require specialised techniques for effective seedbanking. In a parallel study under this program, a major inventory of seed longevity of Australian plants continues, with the seed longevity of in excess of 130 plant species being determined to date. This study is identifying short-lived “at risk” species that require special attention for effective seed conservation.

The draft final report of a three-year research program on seedbanking and seed germination and dormancy, funded by the Australian Centre for Minerals Extension and Research, has been submitted to industry sponsors. This collaborative project with the University of Queensland has developed reliable seed germination techniques and new information on seed storage behaviour and longevity for a raft of species required for restoration by mining industry sponsors in WA and QLD.

A three-year research program with Shark Bay Salt Mine is nearing completion. As part of this integrated restoration program on the flora of the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, research on the seed biology of Australian arid zone species has resolved the germination requirements of over 25 species and developed novel methods for accelerating seed dormancy loss via the manipulation of the seed storage conditions.

A major new five year project with BHP Billiton Iron Ore has commenced. This seed science and resource management project will develop a “seed atlas” that provides practical guidelines for the collection, processing, storage, germination and use of seeds in restoration for dominant and priority species in the Pilbara region.

Collaborative research with UWA and Murdoch University under ARC-funded projects continues on karrikinolide, the germination-active molecule in smoke discovered by the Agency and UWA and Murdoch University partners in 2004. Five new germination-active analogues of the parent molecule synthesised in the laboratory have now been identified in plant-derived smoke, providing evidence that there exists a whole new class of naturally occurring compounds with plant-growth regulating activity. This program continues to contribute “world-first” discoveries and information on the mode of action and application these novel compounds.

A further new ARC project on karrikinolide will commence in 2008/09. With a focus on improving the efficacy of the molecule for germination promotion of diverse species and developing improved methods of broad-acre application for restoration, this project will investigate the metabolism and molecular targets of karrikinolide in seeds and the environmental fate of the molecule. Industry partners for this research include Alcoa, Worsley Alumina, Iluka Resources, Extension Hill and the Authority.

An ARC-funded project with industry partners Alcoa and Worsley Alumina continues to develop seed enhancement technologies for minesite restoration. Under this study, methods of seed dormancy alleviation via manipulation of the storage environment continue to be successfully developed. Long-term nursery trials investigating the viability and germinability of seeds sown under nursery conditions is collecting important data for restoration practitioners and landcare groups endeavouring to propagate difficult species.

Restoration Ecophysiology

The Restoration Ecophysiology research group continues to research key physiological markers that underpin early stage establishment in native seedlings. Current projects are targeting the use of native seedlings in altered landscapes, and addressing the need to improve establishment success for restoration of native, mining and agricultural systems. Ecophysiology projects range are addressing key questions in the mining section sector (Mid-west and Swan Coastal Plain), as well as the agricultural sector (WA South, SA, VIC and Qld) and native ecosystems (Cockburn Sound).

Collaborative research continues in several key areas including:

Banksia woodland restoration - Understanding underlying mechanisms of poor establishment post sand extraction in two dominant *Banksia* species (*Banksia attenuata* and *B. menziesii*) and *Eucalyptus tottiana* at Rocla Quarry Products rehabilitation site. Field trials have been established to investigate the ability of *Banksias* to tolerate stresses such as seasonal drought and soil compaction. Improving nursery techniques to improve early growth and performance is seen as a key.

Banded Ironstone restoration - A major three year research program on the ecophysiology of rare Banded ironstone formation (BIF) flora continues with the support from Mt. Gibson Iron Ore Pty Ltd and Asia Iron Ltd. This project will identify adaptations of shallow soil BIF endemic species (*Lepidosperma sp* and *Darwinia sp*) in the form of i) physiological response to spatial and temporal variation in the environment and ii) morphological variation enabling access to stored water in the environment.

Agricultural land restoration and sustainable production - Two major projects are continuing focusing on improving perennial native species establishment for use in Australian agriculture. Both three year national programs are using a greater understanding of seed/seedling physiology to improve seedling establishment success.

Agroforestry production systems - A national project funded by RIRDC (Joint venture in agroforestry) has commenced to improve the use of Australian native woody perennial



Comparing growth of *Banksia* woodland species under drought conditions. Photo: J Stevens.

shrubs for use in agroforestry. Collaborators on this project include SA Dept. of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, DPI Victoria and The University of Western Australia. This project involves understanding and overcoming limitations to successful plant establishment via direct seeding using an understanding of seed ecophysiology.

Seagrass Restoration - Improved understanding of the impact that sediment, nutrients and light have on the development of *Posidonia australis* seedlings. Field and aquarium based trials established during 2008 will assist in the development of a protocol for the effective transplanting of high-health seedlings for restoration activities.

Conservation and Biotechnology

The Conservation Biotechnology group is undertaking research in areas critical to the success of *ex situ* conservation and translocation of recalcitrant and endangered plant species, including advanced *in vitro* technologies, cryogenics and micropropagation of plants for restoration/translocation projects. In addition, the team provide expert advice to other researchers using *in vitro* technology as part of their programs in other disciplines (e.g., genetics, seed biology and restoration).

The Conservation Biotechnology group shares in the success of an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage application entitled 'Development of cryopreservation for high value provenance collections of recalcitrant plant species used in post-mining restoration' (LP0883460). This project is the culmination of a collaboration involving Curtin University of Technology (Dr R.L. Mancera), Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (A/Prof G.J. Bryant), University of Queensland (Prof A.E. Mark, Dr S.R. Turner), The University of Western Australia (Dr P. Che), the Authority (Dr E. Bunn, Dr S.R. Turner) and Industry Partners ALCOA and Worsley Alumina. The project has attracted \$150K pa from ARC substantial backing (>\$70K pa) from the Industry partners and is expected to begin in late 2008 or early 09 and be completed in 2011/12. One post-doctoral position proposed for Kings Park (supervised by principal investigator Bunn and chief investigator Turner) and another at Curtin University (supervised by chief investigator Mancera).



In vitro flowering of *Commersonia adenothalia*.
Photo: E Bunn.

Shoot material of the critically endangered species *Commersonia adenothalia* (Sterculiaceae) was collected in Jan 2008 in the Morewa region and cultures initiated successfully, even producing flowers under culture conditions. This is a significant success as the species has been diminished by drought over several years. It is expected that micropropagated plants will be established in soil by the end of 2008.

Seed collected from introduced (micropropagated) plants of the critically endangered *Symonanthus bancroftii* have been germinated and resulting seedlings returned to field sites in 2007 and 2008. This project is now in the closing stages with only small plantings of seedlings and monitoring of the sites being undertaken.

Mr Beorn Harris joined the Conservation Biotechnology group in February 2008 from the UK and is undertaking a PhD through UWA Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Sciences (Plant Science). His supervisors at Kings Park will be Dr Eric Bunn and Prof Kingsley Dixon. Mr Harris will be researching biotechnology solutions for enhanced propagation of Western Australian *Ericaceae* for minesite restoration and horticultural and conservation applications.

Several publications have arisen from research projects within the Conservation Biotechnology group including: publication of two papers in the Australian Journal of Botany (Bunn et al, 2007 and Panaia et al, 2007). International collaborative research work continues with Dr Guo-Hua Ma of the South China Botanic Gardens and Dr Eric Bunn (Zhou et al, 2007).

Collaborative work also continues with Mr Ruben Mallon from the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela (Spain) on cryogenic storage of rare endemic species from north-west Spain (Galicia), with a forthcoming publication on *Centaurea ultreia* (Compositae) in *CryoLetters*, an international journal on cryogenic science. Mr Mallon undertook a highly successful study project from May-August 2007 in cryogenic storage with supervisors Dr Eric Bunn and Dr Shane Turner. He is due to complete his PhD thesis this year.

Orchid Conservation and Biology

The orchid research team continues to lead national research into orchid seed germination biology and ecology, particularly with rare and endangered species. Key research areas include seed storage physiology, dormancy release, genetic diversity both of plants and mycorrhizal agents, translocation strategies, pollination ecology and recovery planning. The orchid research team is the largest of its type in Australia comprising a post doctorate research scientist, four PhD students, and an honours student. Strong collaborative links with local and international institutions have been established, the most prominent being with the orchid research scientists at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.

Attendance at the 'International Workshop on orchid populations, conservation and cultivation' in Tver', Russia and 'Orchid evolutionary biology and conservation - from Linnaeus to the 21st century' held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, by members from the team enabled profiling of the orchid research programs being undertaken within Kings Park. Highlights of the Russia meeting included collaborative research opportunities being developed with eastern European scientists towards the molecular characterisation of orchid mycorrhiza. The London meeting provided a fantastic opportunity to develop concepts in orchid taxonomy and form collaborations with taxonomic researchers in London to further advance the taxonomy of our Western Australian terrestrial orchids.

Research is continuing on the major three-year research program, funded by Main Roads Western Australia into the population biology, conservation and recovery of the nationally rare glossy hammer orchid, *Drakaea elastica*. Of the ten species in the genus, five are Declared Rare Flora and another is known only from herbarium records. Preliminary work has shown that all species are characterised by highly specific interactions with both pollinators and mycorrhizal endophytes. This study represents the first of its type to integrate research of mycorrhiza and pollinators in the study of orchid speciation and conservation and will serve as a benchmark for orchid conservation research.

Conservation research into the nationally threatened grand spider orchid, *Caladenia huegelii* has continued this year. Through optimised propagation methodologies developed by the orchid research staff at Kings Park, artificially propagated plants flowered in both the glasshouse and in field sites. This work demonstrates the successful translocation and reintroduction of propagated threatened terrestrial orchids to ensure the future conservation and survival of this and other species.

A further initiative, funded by the Millennium Seed Bank, undertaken by Nigel Swarts and Ryan Phillips is the collection and long term storage of all Western Australia's terrestrial orchid seed and associated mycorrhizal endophytes. Presently Kings Park has approximately 55% of all native orchid seed and fungi in storage and is working to increase that number to 80% by the end of the 2008 growing season. In collaboration with the seed science research team, a program, funded by the Australian Orchid Foundation, is underway to refine and optimise long term seed storage for orchids. This national program is providing guidelines to develop leading practice in orchid seed conservation that will substantially improve the conservation outcomes for Australia's rare and threatened orchids.

Biodiversity and Extensions

The core business for Biodiversity and Extensions is to use and promote sound horticultural practices in species restoration and recovery operations, and the use of indigenous species in gardening and landscaping to help maintain biodiversity and minimise the use of fertiliser and water.

Extension activities in 2007/2008 included:

- Environmental weed control, glasshouse and field trials, using a wide range of pre and post emergent herbicides within the Authority, with other agencies including DEC and through the sponsorship of mining companies.
- Networking and collaborating with local and State Government agencies, in particular the Department of Environment and Conservation with the translocation of declared rare flora, managing natural ecosystems and environmental weed control. Representing the Authority on several committees including the Australian Botanic Gardens Weed Network 'Weed Risk Assessment' and Western Australian Weeds Committee.
- Promoting the Authority through presentations to professional organisations, conferences, seminars and the general public
- Networking and serving on advisory groups with local organisations such as the Environmental Weeds Action Network Australian and Association of Bush Regenerators.
- Gardening advice to the general public through the Kings Park Master Gardeners program, using moisture efficient and low nutrient native plants. This group also manages a large bush garden open to public viewing. All the plants in the garden have been raised in house by the Master Gardeners, to illustrate how easy it is raise your own plants and to garden without additional water and fertilisers. The garden is now 3 years old is mulched to reduce moisture loss and to suppress weeds. And recruitment of natural seedlings is increasing each year reducing the need for continually raising some short lived species.

Highlights for 2007/2008 in Biodiversity and Extensions:



Verticordia lindleyi ssp. *lindleyi* in full flower on a translocation site at Perth International Airport. Photo: B Dixon

- Translocation of *Verticordia lindleyi* subsp. *lindleyi* funded by the Public Transport Authority and planted at Perth Airport. This project after its second winter planting of cutting grown plants has again had low survival rates due to continuing drought conditions, no supplementary watering on this site. However, the project is on track with sufficient plants to provide the recommended plant numbers for a viable population, plants are flowering and producing viable seed. A small experiment transplanting a few seedlings at the cotyledon stage in late winter indicates low survival rates.
- The translocation of *Eremophila resinosa* funded by Westonia Mines Ltd and supported by the Shire of Westonia. Both clonal tissue cultured plants and seed generated plants have high survival rates and are growing well producing large amounts of seed to build up the soil seedbank. A new seedling has been found on site but its origin is unknown it could have arisen from seed sown on site or from seed in the soil seedbank as a naturally occurring plant was identified close by before preparation of the translocation site.
- Translocation of the critically endangered Corrigin Grevillea is progressing very well with some natural recruitment on two of the three sites despite the continuing drought conditions. The three translocation sites are now on a maintenance schedule, basically weed control and monitoring. No supplementary watering and no further planting this winter. Seed collection from two sites is continuing for scientific purposes and for long term seed storage. All sites have produced large quantities of seed for a number of years adding seed to the soil seedbank. As time progresses these short lived plants will produce

fewer seed and gradually senesce. Mass germination of seedlings will not occur until a disturbance event such as fire.

- Management of four declared rare flora into a pre-mined area at Beenup, sponsored by BHP Billiton. This site which received good quality top soil is performing well with over 50% more species when compared to the surrounding sites with poorer quality soils. This is a clear indication restoration sites with soil containing a good soil seedbank is critical for successful restoration purposes. The rare species planted on site are performing well. *Grevillea brachystylis* subsp. *australis* is producing large amounts of seed and are now recruiting from the soil seedbank on an annual basis. *Lambertia orbifolia* subsp. *Scott River Plains* is growing well, some plants are over 4 m high, and producing seed. The other two species on-site *Darwinia ferricola* and *Dryandra nivea* subsp. *uliginosa* are also producing large quantities of viable seed. Due to the identification of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and a *Pythium* species on-site the area is routinely treated with phosphite in spring and autumn when these diseases are most active, this treatment appears to be controlling these diseases.
- Translocation of the critically endangered *Symonanthus bancroftii*, in co-operation with Department of Environment and Conservation (Merredin), Shire of Bruce Rock and volunteers is progressing. More seed were collected in late spring 2007 for research purposes and production of seedlings for planting in winter 2008. One of the sites with poor survival rates probably due to compacted soil will be planted this winter following deep ripping which we hope will improve survival rates.

For a comprehensive list of the Authority's research grants refer to Appendix 5 of this report, Scientific Research Grants. For further information on scientists and students involved in Research projects, refer to Appendix 6 of this report, Research Scientists and Students, or the Authority's website.

The University of Western Australia: Plant Conservation and Restoration Biology Unit

The Science Directorate has co-ordinated and taught the third year unit *Conservation Biology and Restoration Ecology* for the School of Plant Biology, The University of Western Australia, for the last five years. The unit provides students with a comprehensive induction into the integrated science of conservation biology and restoration ecology. Of the 25 students undertaking the unit in 2007, eight students chose to undertake their Honours projects with the Authority. Last year and again in 2008, the course was structured around a semester-long research project, undertaken in the Science Directorate's teaching laboratory. These research projects provide the students with an opportunity to participate in 'real life' studies under the supervision of Authority scientists. The unit attracted a strong enrolment of 29 students. Student projects in 2008 included the following:

- Pollen and seed dispersal in banksias
- Genetic erosion in rare species.
- Genetic diversity of rare narrow endemics.
- Fine-scale genetic structure in native triggerplant (*Stylidiaceae*) populations
- Consequences of habitat fragmentation on population viability.
- Ecotypic variability in germination characteristics across three populations of *Ptilotus polystachyus* (Gaud.), an Australian Amaranthaceae.
- Germination biology and optimizing seedling vigour for direct seeding in several native woody perennial species.
- Cryogenics for seed conservation
- Germination biology of dune species for restoration in the coastal zone
- Physiology of smoke stimulated germination
- Identifying an alternative source of the smoke chemical

- How do *Stylobasium australe* seeds germinate?
- Improving establishment of Weeping grass, a new native pasture/horticultural species.
- Restoring native Banksia woodland species in pine plantation landscapes.
- Restoring seagrass communities
- Seed displacement in the Kings Park bushland.
- Seed germination ecology of key weed species in Kings and Bold Park bushlands.
- Defining CAM metabolism through anatomical investigation.
- Assessing the impact of dust deposition on rare and common plant species.
- The *in vitro* rooting conundrum: why do some species grow roots in tissue culture spontaneously while others require specific conditions or appear to resist all efforts to induce rooting?
- Promoting germination of an invasive minesite weed
- Orchid mycorrhizal specialization in a global biodiversity hotspot.
- Optimising *ex situ* conservation technology for the long term storage of terrestrial orchid germplasm.
- Staining orchid seeds for viability assessment

Curtin University 3rd year conservation and biology unit



Student in action completing physiological measurements on some of our rare WA flora. Photo: G Messina

Two Curtin University 3rd year conservation and biology students have commenced projects at Kings Park science laboratories for the first and second semesters this year. Drew Gatum is researching butenolide effects on *in vitro* germination of species of *Solanaceae*, and Chloe Mortimer is researching root induction of *Calectasia grandiflora* and other difficult species *in vitro*, under the supervision of Dr Eric Bunn and Dr Shane Turner.

Summer Scholarships Program

For the Summer 2007/2008 the Authority awarded seven competitive summer scholarships to talented students contemplating honours or postgraduate research in native plant conservation biology or restoration ecology. Under the supervision of an Authority scientist, these students conducted a research program of up to 10 weeks duration. The successful students were Ashleigh Chapman, Erin Griffiths, Janine Sommer, Mark Wallace Rachel Omodei, Robert Alderman, and Julie-Ann Risebroorgh.

Distinguished Scholars

- Professor S Hopper and Dr Rhian Smith and of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK, met with Science Directorate staff at the commencement of an international collaboration to DNA sequence all genera from WA (expected to take two years to complete) involving both the Science and the Horticulture and Conservation Directorates of the Authority. Data analysis will be undertaken by noted evolutionary biologist Dr Felix Forrest.
- Dr Andrea Mondoni from the University of Pavia, Italy and Mr Costantino Bonomi from the Trento Natural History Museum, Italy spent a week with the Authority's Science Directorate discussing seed conservation. Dr Mondoni and Mr Bonomi undertake seed conservation work in partnership with the Millennium Seedbank in Italy.

- As part of the Australian Academy of Science's Scientific Cooperation Program, Professor Liangqian Li and five other Professors from the State Key Laboratory of Systematic and Evolutionary Botany, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy Sciences, visited the Authority's Science Laboratories to undertake joint research into biodiversity richness of the south-west Australian biodiversity hotspot.
- Noted international expert in soil respiration, Professor Karl Ritz of the National Soil Resources Institute at Cranfield University, United Kingdom, visited the Authority to collaborate on a project investigating the natural abundance of the chemical in smoke.
- Noted international seed scientists, Professors Carol and Jerry Baskin from the University of Kentucky, USA, met with Science Directorate staff and students and provided a critical overview of the current seed dormancy research programs and guidance on new approaches for releasing seed dormancy.
- Dr Jae-Hyeun Kim from the Korean National Arboretum undertook a six month research sabbatical with the Seed Science Group. Dr Kim is the recipient of a Korean Government Overseas Fellowship and is undertaking research into seed germination and dormancy at the Authority.

Significant Issues and Trends

Current and Emerging Issues and Trends

A storm on 1 July 2007 caused irreparable damage to eight Lemon Scented Gums on Fraser Avenue that were subsequently removed. In addition there was significant damage to 25 other Lemon Scented Gums. There were no reports of injury resulting from trees or branches falling. In addition to the Fraser Avenue trees, eleven trees in the adjacent parkland and two trees on Hale Oval were irreparably damaged and were removed. Remedial repair of all damaged trees was initiated immediately, and an ongoing management program is in place to reduce the risk to public safety. A tree replacement program has been implemented which will be in accordance with Authority management and thematic plans for these areas. The Lemon Scented Gums on Fraser Ave were replaced with trees grown from seeds taken from the best specimens from the remaining 131 trees.

The potential risk of extinction in native biodiversity is being averted by emergency responses by Authority scientists where cutting edge biotechnology including cryogenics is being deployed to rescue rare and endangered species. However a growing trend where more species appear to be in decline as a result of climate change impacts particularly in the northern wheatbelt is placing considerable strain on existing scientific resources to meet the growing demand for off-site protection of Western Australia's biodiversity.

Unprecedented demand for the ecological restoration expertise of Authority scientists has resulted in a significant expansion in research programs to devise effective conservation and restoration technologies for ensuring no loss of species occurs as a result of the resources boom. The expected increase in resource projects with high impacts on native biodiversity will require a major review of the scientific capabilities of the Authority to meet the growing demand and ensure the State's resources sector develops in harmony with leading practice protection of biodiversity.

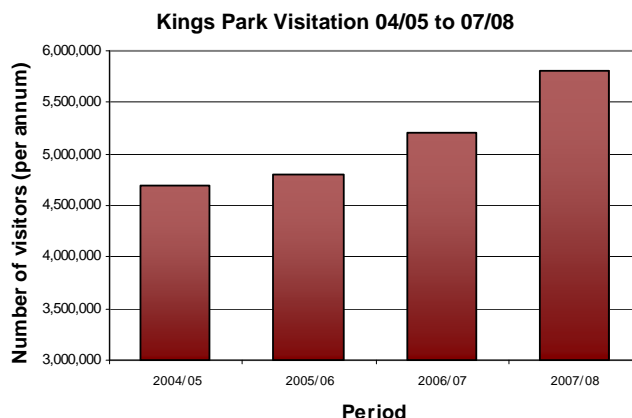
Economic and Social Trends

The number of visitors to Kings Park and Botanic Garden continues to rise at an accelerated rate, placing increased pressure on facilities and resources.

It is likely that the increasing visitation level is partly in response to extremely high standards of presentation and service and to improvements in existing facilities such the recently refurbished Lotterywest Family Area, and to the construction of new facilities such as the Next Generation Kings Park facility in the Royal Kings Park Tennis Club. It may also be driven in part by the construction of new higher density apartments close to Kings Park, and by the population increase in WA generally.

Visitation numbers to Kings Park and Botanic Garden increased by 8.3% from 2005/06 to 2006/07, and by a further 11.5% from 2006/07 to 2007/08.

Year	Total Number of visitors
2004/05	4.7 million
2005/06	4.8 million
2006/07	5.2 million
2007/08	5.8 million



Increased visitation is being experienced in all areas of Kings Park and Botanic Garden, and has various implications including:

- Higher maintenance requirements for public facilities.
- Increased pressure on staff resources to maintain the grounds and facilities, manage bookings, handle general enquiries, and to ensure visitor safety and security.
- Decreasing funds in real terms available to maintain other functions of the park such as bushland restoration programs, scientific research and horticulture.

Escalating construction costs have significantly impacted on planned works such as the Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk project, these costs are likely to continue to outstrip both the Consumer Price Index and available funds.

Likely Developments and Forecast Results of Operations

Likely developments in the operations of the Authority in the 2008/09 financial year will be a period of consolidation during which the plans and improvements made in previous years will have a positive impact. Some of the likely developments will be:

- (a) Fulfilment of the planned Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk plan and associated enhancement of the Fraser Avenue precinct, including the creation of a Ceremonial Walk and a realigned carpark. This will improve risk management, visitor safety and the quality of experience through better traffic management, increase in the dignity of the State War Memorial and enhanced cultural experiences.
- (b) Detailed planning and design for the significant enhancements to the environmental education program and associated facilities. This experiential learning and discovery concept will deliver major benefits in terms of community education, awareness of climate change and the importance of understanding and conserving our natural environment.
- (c) Completion of the upgrade to the Saw Avenue precinct, including the provision of a universal access play area to improve inclusiveness for children with disabilities and children who are disadvantaged.
- (d) A review of plans for the five years of management 2009 – 2014 for Kings Park and Botanic Garden, including conservation of heritage assets, adjusting management and infrastructure to address rising costs, aging assets and increasing visitation and commencement of planning for the 2015 50th anniversary of the State's Botanic Garden.
- (e) Continuation of the restoration, rehabilitation and adaptive management work undertaken to conserve and enhance the bushland areas of Bold Park and Kings Park.
- (f) Continuation of the research and development projects in conservation science. These projects are expected to deliver significant benefits to the community and industry in terms of preservation of endangered species and successful translocations of native flora in disturbed or degraded areas.
- (g) A review of budgets and operational outcomes based on the realities of rising visitation and subsequent maintenance and operational costs impacting on service delivery, including a review of the Kings Park Festival, volunteer engagement strategies and business development activities.

Changes in Written Law

There have been no changes to the Act or Regulations administered by the Authority. Where changes have occurred to Acts that impact on the Authority's operations, the Authority has taken appropriate actions to ensure compliance with this legislation.

Disclosures and Legal Compliance

Financial Statements

Refer to **Appendix 1** of this Annual Report for the Authority's complete audited Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2008.

Detailed Key Performance Indicators

Refer to **Appendix 2** of this Annual Report for the Authority's complete audited Key Performance Indicators for the financial year ended 30 June 2008.

Ministerial Directives

There were no Ministerial Directives in 2007/08.

Other Financial Disclosures

Contracts with Senior Officers

At the date of reporting, other than normal contracts of employment of service, no Senior Officers, or firms of which Senior Officers are members, or entities in which Senior Officers have substantial interests, had any interests in existing or proposed contracts with the Authority and Senior Officers.

Pricing Policies and Services

The Authority charges for goods and services rendered on a full or partial cost recovery basis and in accordance with penalties applied under the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Regulations 1999*.

Entry to and parking within the Authority's designated lands is free of charge. Some special events, such as the *Connect with Kings Park* workshops held during the annual Kings Park Festival, incur a cover charge. Costs of events in the Summer Events Program, such as the outdoor cinema, concerts and theatre productions, are applied by the event organiser.

Fees and charges for functions are applied according to the type of function and the location or venue requested. Further nominal charges are applied for power usage and alcohol permits. Fees and charges, application forms and conditions of use are available on the Authority's website.

The Authority did not amend any fees and charges during the 2007/2008 year.

Capital Works

Capital Projects Incomplete

Work in Progress/Incomplete Works	Estimated Total Cost	Estimated Total Cost 2006/07	Estimated Year of Completion
	\$,000	\$,000	
Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk	4,192	4,192	2009
Deep Sewerage program ⁽²⁾	2,142	2,364	2009
Total	7,688	7,281	

Notes:

- (1) The Deep Sewerage Program has increased from the original estimated cost due to cost pressures and technical issues beyond the control of the Authority.

Capital Projects Completed

No capital projects were completed during 2007/2008.

Employment and Industrial Relations

Staff Profile

As at 30 June 2008, the Authority had 149 employees in total. Seven permanent vacancies were advertised throughout the year, and capital works programs and external grants continued to require a number of fixed-term employment contracts.

The majority of the Authority's employees are covered by the Government Officers Salaries, Allowances and Conditions General Agreement 2006 (referred to as GOSAC), or the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Certified Agreement 2007 for the Western Australian Shire Councils; Municipal Road Boards; Health Boards; Parks Cemeteries and Racecourse; Public Authorities; and Water Boards Union (referred to as LGU). The Shop and Warehouse Award covers a number of employees at *Aspects of Kings Park*.

Staff Profile:

Employment Type	2007/08	2006/07
Permanent Full-time	76	79
Permanent Part-time	6	5
Fixed Term Full-time	37	38
Fixed Term Part-time	4	3
Casual paid on 30 June 2008	26	27
Total	149	152

Staff Development

The Authority is committed to the development of its employees. Training and assessments undertaken during the financial year were designed to improve skills and reduce risks for the Authority. These included increasing overall computer literacy skills, Job Description Forms revision, Selection Report writing skills, Blue Card (Safety Awareness Training), Traffic Management for Works and manual handling, first aid, vehicle and equipment safety training was available for relevant employees. The changes to the Occupational Safety and Health legislation required the additional training of the Authority's safety representatives.

Other Legal Requirements

Advertising

In accordance with the requirements of Section 175ZE of the *Western Australian Electoral Act 1907*, the Authority reports that it incurred the following expenditures for the financial year ended 30 June 2007 in advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising:

Advertising Medium	Expenditure	Total
Advertising Agencies		\$51,972.38
Marketforce Productions	7,228.63	
Axiom Design Partners	3,795.75	
Rosalie Okely Graphic Design	12,388.00	
AM Greg	18,000.00	
V Strack	3,840.00	
Julia Berney	6,720.00	
Market Research Organisations		\$4,616.40
University of Western Australia	3,409.09	
Media Monitors	1,207.31	
Polling Organisations	-	-
Direct Mail Organisations		\$16,035.59
Postergirls	\$900.00	
Australia Post	\$15,135.59	
Media Advertising Organisations		\$126,335.46
Association of Perth Attractions	900.00	
Community Newspapers	922.56	
Concept Media (Have-a-Go News)	990.00	
Dingo Infomercials	3,000.00	
Media Decisions	103,385.00	
Perth Child	366.27	
Perth FM	300.00	
Post Newspapers	540.00	
RAC Magazine	879.00	
School Matters Newsletter	4,664.00	
Sunday Times	384.24	
Uniclub	2,170.00	
WA Accommodation and Tours Listing	139.09	
West Australian	643.88	
West Coast Visitor Guide	3,760.00	
Your Guide to Perth and Fremantle	3,291.42	
Total Expenditure		\$198,959.83

Compliance with Public Sector Standards and Ethical Codes

In accordance with section 31(1) of the *Public Sector Management Act 1984*, the Authority reports the following:

1. **Compliance issues that arose during the financial year 2007/2008 regarding the public sector standards included:**
 - Nil breach claims lodged.
2. **Compliance issues that arose during the financial year 2007/2008 regarding the WA Code of Ethics included:**
 - No issues of non-compliance.
3. **Compliance issues that arose during the financial year 2007/2008 regarding the Authority's Code of Conduct included:**
 - The Authority relies on and promotes the WA Code of Ethics as its Code of Conduct. No issues of non-compliance arose.
4. **Significant action taken to monitor and ensure compliance included:**
 - New employees are inducted using the induction process.
 - Regular quarterly meetings are scheduled for all employees, where the Chief Executive Officer addresses general corporate issues, including required standards of behaviour and ethics.
 - The WA Code of Ethics is available to all employees from the Employee Services Coordinator and from the Authority's intranet.

Occupational Safety and Health

Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1984

The Authority will recognise and fulfil its legal obligations under the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1984. The Chief Executive Officer through the Directors shall ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the operations in all BGPA Directorates do not knowingly constitute a hazard to safety or health.

Supervisors are responsible for:

- Ensuring that the workplace meets the required safety standards.
- Ensuring that safety equipment is used correctly.
- Investigating all incidents that are, or have the potential to be, health hazards.

The BGPA recognises that all employees have responsibilities for safety and health and are therefore expected to:

- Take reasonable care for their own safety and that of other persons who may be affected by their acts.
- Comply with instructions and procedures for their own safety and health and those of others.
- Use safety devices and protective equipment correctly.
- Report to their immediate supervisor any situation, which they have reason to believe could present a hazard, which they cannot correct themselves.
- Report any accident or injury to health that arises in the course of their work.

Reports on all accidents or injuries to health shall be recorded and retained on relevant files.

Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981

The Authority is committed to providing injury management support to all workers who sustain a work related injury or illness with a focus on safe and early return to meaningful work and in accordance with the Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981.

BGPA has implemented a policy on Injury Management System to provide an early return to work program for injured employees.

The Workers Compensation claims against the Agency were of a minor nature as reflected by the table below as supplied by the Authority's insurance provider, Riskcover.

Indicator	Target 2007/08	Actual 2007/08
Number of fatalities	0	0
Number of severe claims	0	0
Lost time injury/diseases (LTI/D) incidence rate	0	3
Lost time injury severity rate	0	0

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan Outcomes

In June 2007, the Board of Management endorsed the Authority's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2007–2012 (DAIP). Submitted to the Disability Services Commission in July 2007, the Authority's DAIP outlines the ways in which the Authority aims to ensure that people with disabilities have access to Authority facilities, services, events and information.

In 2007/2008 the Authority achieved the following initiatives in relation to disability access and inclusion:

1. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by the Authority.

- Set-down areas and additional ACROD parking was provided for people with disabilities, and those accompanying them, during 2007/08 major events. On ANZAC Day the Authority, in collaboration with the Returned Serviceman's League (RSL), actively informed participants of parking for the disabled and set-down areas.
- Areas were set aside at major events for chairs, deck chairs, wheelchairs and space for people to assist those with disabilities.
- Volunteers are kept up to date with the Authority's DIAP through their newsletters. Guides who deal with visitors face to face and via phone enquiries are given appropriate training opportunities.

2. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the Authority.

- Improvements to access to the Yorkas Nynning Education Centre building in the Botanic Garden allows for better access for all, including toilet. With new universal access pathways to follow through parts of the Botanic Garden.
- The new Variety Pavilion is underway at Saw Avenue that will provide a new facility at that end of the park. The upgrade to the area will include new paths, BBQ picnic facilities and a new playground for children with disabilities. This is a Variety WA Inc sponsored project.
- Planning is underway for improvements to Fraser Avenue precinct with a new roadway into the Main carpark and a drop off point in front of Fraser's Restaurant and Visitor Information Centre and new toilets and paths. This will result in better and safer access to the State War Memorial and restaurant facilities for disabled, elderly and infirmed.
- The new toilets with disabled access will include an adult change table – developed in consultation with the Independent Living Centre and Disability Services Commission.
- All curbs at bus stops and designated set down areas have ramp curbing.
- Resurfaced tracks in Bold Park allow for better access for all.

3. People with disabilities receive information from the Authority in a format that will enable them to access the information, as readily as other people are able to access it.

- The redevelopment of the Authority's website in 2007 considerably improved visitor accessibility to information and services:
 - Under the Events and Bookings section– Hire a venue or facility – Find your venue – the venues are rated by *access for the visitor*.
 - Under the *Services* section all relevant information concerning a visit to the park is available for visitors to plan and maximise their visit.
 - In addition the website includes a Google translation bar, alternative font sizing, and the inclusion of alt-text on all links and photos. Feedback polls have been used to make targeted improvements according to user requests.
 - The website offers more visual imagery and allows people to access relevant information from home, with all information brochures and Authority publications now available to download in portable document format (pdf).
- Many Authority documents, such as Annual Reports, Strategic Plan and the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan are available electronically and in hard copy as well as alternative formats such as large font.
- Recorded events information is available on the Authority's main telephone line and it is updated regularly in line with new events happening in the park.

4. People with disabilities receive the same level and quality of service from the staff of the Authority as other people receive from the staff of the Authority.

- The Authority's Park Management Officers were provided with ongoing training to enable them to recognise and assist people with disabilities.
- The Authority provides employment and some work experience placements for people with disabilities, which in turn increases staff awareness and understanding of people with disabilities.
- Volunteer group's newsletters regularly remind members of existing and new paths and facilities that have been built for people with limited mobility.
- A new Guide Training Course will be offered in 2008, and will include the provision of training for communicating effectively with all groups of people, including people with disabilities.

5. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make complaints to the Authority.

- The Authority's communications process is available to all members of the community and can be accessed via the website, the enquiries email address, through the Visitor Information Centre or by contacting the main reception of both Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park.
- Visitor surveys were conducted for both Parks. The results of these surveys will be used to determine the Authority's performance and assist with decision-making processes.

6. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any public consultation by the Authority.

- Public consultation and decision-making opportunities are provided through public consultation processes for reviews of key management plans or changes proposed on Authority lands.
- People with disabilities were invited to focus groups for the Wilderness consultative process; children with disabilities were represented at the Saw Ave upgrade

development via Variety WA Inc; informal consultation was undertaken with parents with disabled children on playground, paths, parking and toilet facilities.

Recordkeeping Plans

The Authority has an ongoing commitment to good records management practices and continues to work towards complying with its Recordkeeping Plan 2004, in accordance with the *State Records Act 2000*. The Authority addresses its compliance with the State Records Commission Standard 2 Recordkeeping Plans: Principal 6 – Compliance as follows:

1. The efficiency and effectiveness of the Authority's recordkeeping plan is evaluated not less than once every five years.

Evaluation of the Authority's recordkeeping plan is ongoing through an annual review of the Authority's Records Management Policy and Procedures Manual. A full revised recordkeeping plan is due to be submitted to the State Records Commission in December 2009.

The Authority continues to promote sound record management practises throughout the agency. A considerable increase in the volume of records generated at the Authority, due in part to ongoing in-house records management training, has led to staff coverage of the Records area being upgraded from 0.6 FTE to a full time position.

Ongoing monitoring and review of the agency's records management Performance Indicators has identified areas for improvement such as the Authority's main registry, archival and off-site records areas. A review of these areas commenced January 2008 with completion expected towards the end of this year.

Staff have adapted well to the major upgrade from Captura 4.3 to Context 6.1, with minimal disruption to the high standard of record management within the Authority.

2. The Authority conducts a recordkeeping training program.

Information on recordkeeping practices is included in the Authority's induction package provided to all new staff members. Managers are responsible for identifying and implementing the level of recordkeeping training required.

Regular reminders on recordkeeping responsibilities, in particular the handling of electronic mail, are delivered by CEO at quarterly Managers and general staff meetings. The latest reminder occurred February this year.

Records Management staff attended refresher courses on records responsibilities and TRIM Context 6.1 training in March 2008.

3. The efficiency and effectiveness of the recordkeeping training program is reviewed from time to time.

An annual internal Customer Satisfaction Survey was conducted in February 2008 to establish the level of satisfaction and areas for improvement of the Authority's record management practices. The overall outcome of the survey, and in particular the Authority's recordkeeping training program, is that the majority of satisfaction levels were of a "very satisfied" or "satisfied" standard.

4. The Authority's induction program addresses employees' roles and responsibilities with regard to their compliance with the Authority's recordkeeping plan.

An in-house records management induction brochure created in May 2008 has been placed on the Authority's internal website. The aim of this brochure is to assist new staff members and remind existing staff of their recordkeeping responsibilities. In addition, one-on-one records management training is provided for new employees as required.

Government Policy Requirements

Corruption Prevention

The Authority regularly reviews its risk management register, in accordance with the Treasurer's Instruction 825, using the current Australian Standards Risk Management framework. This includes a focus on organisational risks from misconduct or corruption. The Authority continues to monitor risks in this area and will develop further plans for prevention and/or mitigation throughout 2007/2008, using the *Australian Standards AS 8001 Fraud and Corruption Control* framework.

Security of confidential information has been a continued focus with improvements made in the information system's security measures, including: improved firewall policies; better defined computer access and user policies; the ongoing use of cyclic passwords; and adherence to confidentiality and privacy requirements.

New employees are inducted to ensure they are fully aware of acceptable and unacceptable behaviours in the workplace, and of the consequences of misconduct. The organisational values have been frequently emphasised in staff meetings throughout the year. In addition, regular internal audit reviews are conducted and recommendations are promptly actioned, to ensure good controls and procedures are in place to prevent misconduct or corruption.

The Authority has an Internal Audit Committee that meets regularly to oversee compliance and assist in governance improvements.

Managers have received training and information to assist them in managing teams effectively and preventing corruption, including using performance management systems and team building, based on the Authority's principles of accountability, honesty and transparency. The Authority complies with all requirements of the Public Interest Disclosure legislation. There are clear procedures to ensure confidentiality and protection if any allegation of corruption or serious misconduct is made.

Substantive Equality

The Authority is not required to report on this issue as it is represented at portfolio level only on the Strategic Management council.

Sustainability

The Authority has a strong foundation in sustainability and embraces sustainable practices and principles across all areas of activity. The Authority continues to achieve the sustainability objectives of its Sustainability Action Plan through improved integration of services and funding opportunities, energy conservation, incorporating sustainability into buildings, facilities and services; encouraging and empowering employees to support sustainability principles and through education; community engagement and research.

In 2007/2008 the Authority has specifically achieved the following:

- Incorporation of sustainability principles in the Strategic Plan 2007-2012, which advocates "Achieving and promoting environmental improvements and sustainable practices".
- Preparation of a Water Efficiency Management Plan to identify and implement efficiencies and water conservation measures throughout the Authority, such as the conversion of some nursery irrigation to a low volume drip system.
- Continued commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fleet vehicles through the selection of smaller vehicles as fleet vehicle replacements where possible, use of electric vehicles and scooters within park boundaries, car pooling, promotion of travel alternatives and participation in the Carbon Neutral Program. Over 90,000 trees, shrubs and groundcover plants were planted in the Botanic Garden, parkland and bushlands of Kings Park and Bold Park, helping to offset carbon emissions.

- A review of the Authority's Energy Management Plan for non-transport related energy use in accordance with the State Government Energy Smart Government policy. Despite a significant increase in visitation in Kings Park, there was a 10% reduction in electricity use and a 6% reduction in Bold Park for the period, due partly to the Authority's energy conservation strategies. In addition, Bold Park continues to source 100% of its power as "Natural Power" generated from renewable sources.
- A 12% reduction in gas usage for the year due to the introduction of changes in nursery practices to sterilise potting media.
- Response to the State Government appeal for reduced energy consumption in view of the disruption to the State's gas supply by partial de-lamping of offices, turning off air conditioning and heating in major office buildings and switching off external lights not required for public safety during the crisis period.
- The continued adoption of sustainable practices in waste management and recycling, including recycling green waste from tree and shrub pruning as garden bed mulch in house and transferring surplus green waste to a waste management facility for the formulation of garden products that meet Australian Standards for recycled products. Recycling of paper products and toner cartridges also continued as well as promotion of reduced paper use by staff.
- Provision and management of recreational opportunities for the public that are compatible with long term sustainability of the conservation values and the ecosystems of its designated lands, along with active conservation and restoration programs to conserve and enhance the remnant bushland.
- A change in the format of the Kings Park Wildflower Festival to a largely free event for the public for the month of September and the development of permanent more sustainable plant displays in the Botanic Garden to replace the temporary displays previously established annually specifically for the festival.
- Continued consultation with the community, visitors and key stakeholders through Indigenous Reference Group meetings, visitor surveys in Kings Park and Bold Park, liaison with and support for volunteer groups and public consultation on proposed major capital works projects.
- Additional non-government revenue through corporate sponsorships to support improvement projects in Kings Park, with new alliances formed and existing relationships maintained. In addition, all proceeds from the sale of products at *Aspects of Kings Park* support the Authority's commitment to the environment.
- Active implementation of State Government policies and guidelines regarding procurement including: Common Use Contracts; Buy Local policy; purchasing procedures; and open public tenders.
- The Authority has an Equity and Diversity Plan and staff are informed about Equal Employment Opportunity principles. Training is provided in cross cultural awareness, Indigenous culture and communicating with people with disabilities.

Independent Audit Opinion



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

BOTANIC GARDENS AND PARKS AUTHORITY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

I have audited the accounts, financial statements, controls and key performance indicators of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority.

The financial statements comprise the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008, and the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory Notes.

The key performance indicators consist of key indicators of effectiveness and efficiency.

Board's Responsibility for the Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators

The Board is responsible for keeping proper accounts, and the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions, and the key performance indicators. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances; and complying with the Financial Management Act 2006 and other relevant written law.

Summary of my Role

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators based on my audit. This was done by testing selected samples of the audit evidence. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion. Further information on my audit approach is provided in my audit practice statement. Refer "<http://www.audit.wa.gov.au/pubs/Audit-Practice-Statement.pdf>".

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial statements and key performance indicators is error free. The term "reasonable assurance" recognises that an audit does not examine all evidence and every transaction. However, my audit procedures should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect the decisions of users of the financial statements and key performance indicators.

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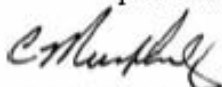
4* Floor Dumas House 2 Havelock Street West Perth 6005 Western Australia Tel: 08 9222 7500 Fax: 08 9322 5664

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators for the year ended 30 June 2008

Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

- (i) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly the financial position of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority at 30 June 2008 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions;
- (ii) the controls exercised by the Authority provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (iii) the key performance indicators of the Authority are relevant and appropriate to help users assess the Authority's performance and fairly represent the indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2008.



COLIN MURPHY
AUDITOR GENERAL
18 September 2008

Appendix 1 - Financial Statements

Certification of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

We hereby certify that the performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority for the year ended 30 June 2008.



Mr Richard Simpson
Chairman
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Board of Management
16 September 2008



Ms Clare Power
Member
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Board of Management
16 September 2008



Mr Richard Ibbitson
Chief Financial Officer
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
16 September 2008

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

Income Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	4	8,298	7,649
Supplies and services	5	4,780	3,785
Depreciation and amortisation expense	6	1,043	984
Capital user charge	7	-	3,178
Cost of sales	10	998	914
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	14	-	50
Other expenses	8	2,184	3,172
Total cost of services		17,303	19,732
Income			
Revenue			
User charges and fees	9	1,423	1,242
Sales	10	1,867	1,680
Commonwealth grants and contributions	11	97	50
Interest revenue	12	291	249
Other revenue	13	3,310	2,060
Total Revenue		6,988	5,281
Gains			
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	14	14	-
Total Gains		14	-
Total income other than income from State Government		7,006	5,281
NET COST OF SERVICES		10,301	14,451
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT	15		
Service appropriation		12,604	14,773
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer		-	8
Resources received free of charge		70	52
Total income from State Government		12,674	14,833
SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD		2,373	382

See also note 37 'Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service'.

The Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
Balance Sheet for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	28	3,251	2,278
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	16,28	2,037	1,557
Inventories	17	326	329
Receivables	18	1,956	1,136
Amounts receivable for services	19	959	1,354
Other current assets	20	-	-
Total Current Assets		8,529	6,654
Non-Current Assets			
Amounts receivable for services	19	3,029	2,847
Property, plant and equipment	21	37,474	35,781
Intangible assets	22	-	7
Total Non-Current Assets		40,503	38,635
Total Assets		49,032	45,289
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	24	766	2,862
Provisions	25	1,263	1,211
Other current liabilities	26	2,178	1,790
Total Current Liabilities		4,207	5,863
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	25	375	357
Total Non-Current Liabilities		375	357
Total Liabilities		4,582	6,220
NET ASSETS		44,450	39,069
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	27	11,790	9,835
Reserves		11,365	10,312
Accumulated surplus		21,295	18,922
TOTAL EQUITY		44,450	39,069

The Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
Balance of equity at start of period		39,069	37,855
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY	27		
Balance at start of period		9,835	16,997
Capital contribution		1,955	500
Correction of prior period errors ^(a)		-	(7,662)
Balance at end of period		11,790	9,835
RESERVES	27		
Asset Revaluation Reserve			
Balance at start of period		10,312	11,468
Restated balance at start of period		10,312	11,468
Gains/(losses) from asset revaluation		1,053	(1,156)
Balance at end of period		11,365	10,312
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (RETAINED EARNINGS)	27		
Balance at start of period		18,922	9,390
Surplus/(deficit) or profit/(loss) for the period		2,373	382
Gain/(losses) recognised directly in equity		-	1,488
Correction of prior period errors ^(a)		-	7,662
Balance at end of period		21,295	18,922
Balance of equity at end of period		44,450	39,069
Total income and expense for the period		2,373	382

The Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

(a) Adjustment arising from the early application of UIG38 in prior period resulting in capital contributions being recognised as equity contributions rather than revenue.

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		11,302	13,499
Salary and Allowances Act 1975		161	154
Capital contributions		1,955	500
Holding account drawdowns		1,354	964
Net cash provided by State Government		14,772	15,117
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(8,434)	(7,629)
Supplies and services		(9,816)	(6,060)
Capital user charge		-	(3,178)
Capital works expenditure		-	(170)
GST payments on purchases		(1,027)	(778)
Other payments		(521)	(277)
Receipts			
Sale of goods and services		1,867	1,093
User charges and fees		1,482	1,240
Fee for service		1,578	1,563
Sponsorship		1,196	176
Interest received		291	239
Donations		28	16
GST receipts on sales		570	420
GST receipts from taxation authority		539	346
Other receipts		638	363
Net cash used in operating activities	28	(11,609)	(12,636)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		14	40
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(1,724)	(1,436)
Net cash used in investing activities		(1,710)	(1,396)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			
		1,452	1,085
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period		3,835	2,750
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF PERIOD	28	5,288	3,835

The Cash Flow Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

1. Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards

General

The Authority's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2008 have been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS), which comprise a Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements (the Framework) and Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

In preparing these financial statements the Authority has adopted, where relevant to its operations, new and revised Standards and Interpretations from their operative dates as issued by the AASB and formerly the Urgent Issues Group (UIG).

Early adoption of standards

The Authority cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard or Australian Accounting Interpretation unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. No Standards and Interpretations that have been issued or amended but are not yet effective have been early adopted by the Authority for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2008.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General Statement

The financial statements constitute a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board as applied by the Treasurer's instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording.

The Financial Management Act and the Treasurer's instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over the Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

Where modification is required and has a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of land and buildings which have been measured at fair value.

The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements have been consistently applied throughout all periods presented unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

(c) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity comprises the Authority.

(d) Contributed Equity

UIG Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities' requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions to be designated by the Government (the owner) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions. Capital contributions (appropriations) have been designated as contributions by owners by Treasurer's Instruction (TI) 955 'Contributions by Owners made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities' and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity.

Transfer of net assets to/from other agencies are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal. See note 27 'Equity'.

(e) Income

Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable. Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

Sale of goods

Revenue is recognised from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets when the significant risks and rewards of ownership control transfer to the purchaser and can be measured reliably.

Rendering of services

Revenue is recognised on delivery of the service to the client or by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction.

Interest

Revenue is recognised as the interest accrues.

Service Appropriations

Service Appropriations are recognised as revenues at nominal value in the period in which the Authority gains control of the appropriated funds. The Authority gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited to the bank account or credited to the holding account held at Treasury. See note 15 'Income from State Government'.

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions

Revenue is recognised at fair value when the Authority obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions, usually when cash is received.

Other non-reciprocal contributions that are not contributions by owners are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

Where contributions recognised as revenues during the reporting period were obtained on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period, and those conditions were undischarged as at the balance sheet date, the nature of, and amounts pertaining to, those undischarged conditions are disclosed in the notes.

Gains

Gains may be realised or unrealised and are usually recognised on a net basis. These include gains arising on the disposal of non-current assets and some revaluations of non-current assets.

(f) Property, Plant and Equipment

Capitalisation/Expensing of assets

Items of property, plant and equipment costing \$5,000 or more are recognised as assets and the cost of utilising assets is expensed (depreciated) over their useful lives. Items of property, plant and equipment costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Income Statement (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

Initial recognition and measurement

All items of property, plant and equipment are initially recognised at cost.

For items of property, plant and equipment acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

Subsequent measurement

After recognition as an asset, the revaluation model is used for the measurement of land, buildings and infrastructure and the cost model for all other property, plant and equipment. Land and buildings are carried at fair value less accumulated depreciation on buildings and accumulated impairment losses. All other items of property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost, less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Where market-based evidence is available, the fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of current market buying values determined by reference to recent market transactions. When buildings are revalued by reference to recent market transactions, the accumulated depreciation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount.

Where market-based evidence is not available, the fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of existing use. This normally applies where buildings are specialised or where land use is restricted. Fair value for existing use assets is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset, i.e. the depreciated replacement cost. Where the fair value of buildings is dependent on using the depreciated replacement cost, the gross carrying amount and the accumulated depreciation are restated proportionately.

Independent valuations of land and buildings are provided annually by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services) and recognised with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from the asset's fair value at the balance sheet date.

The most significant assumptions in estimating fair value are made in assessing whether to apply the existing use basis to assets and in determining estimated useful life. Professional judgement by the valuer is required where the evidence does not provide a clear distinction between market type assets and existing use assets. See note 21 'Property, plant and equipment'.

Derecognition

Upon disposal or derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment, any revaluation reserve relating to that asset is retained in the asset revaluation reserve.

Depreciation

All non-current assets, having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits.

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight line method, using rates which are reviewed annually. Estimated useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

Buildings	22 to 67 years
Plant and equipment	5 to 10 years
Software ^(a)	5 years
Motor vehicles	7 years
Monuments and Special Items	40 years

(a) Software that is integral to the operation of related hardware.

(g) Intangible Assets

Capitalisation/Expensing of assets

Acquisitions of intangible assets costing \$5,000 or more and internally generated intangible assets costing \$50,000 or more are capitalised. The cost of utilising the assets is expensed (amortised) over their useful life. Costs incurred below these thresholds are immediately expensed directly to the Income Statement.

All acquired and internally developed intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

The cost models applied for subsequent measurement requiring the asset to be carried at cost, less any accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation for intangible assets with finite useful lives is calculated for the period of the expected benefit (estimated useful life) on the straight line basis using rates which are reviewed annually. All intangible assets controlled by the Authority have a finite useful life and zero residual value. The expected useful lives for each class of intangible asset are:

Licences and software^(a) 5 years

(a) Software that is not integral to the operation of any related hardware.

Licences

Licences have a finite useful life and are carried at cost, less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Research and Development Costs

Research costs are expensed as incurred. Development costs incurred for an individual project are carried forward when the future recoverability can reasonably be regarded as assured and the total project costs are likely to exceed \$50,000. Other development costs are expensed as incurred.

Computer Software

Software that is an integral part of the related hardware is treated as property, plant and equipment. Software that is not an integral part of the related hardware is treated as an intangible asset. Software costing less than \$5,000 is expensed in the year of acquisition.

Website costs

Website costs are charged as expenses when they are incurred, unless they relate to the acquisition or development of an asset when they may be capitalised and amortised. Generally, costs in relation to feasibility studies during the planning phase of a website, and ongoing costs of maintenance during the operating phase are expensed. Costs incurred in building or enhancing a website, to the extent that they represent probable future economic benefits that can be reliably measured, are capitalised.

(h) Impairment of Assets

Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets are tested for any indication of impairment at each balance sheet date. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised. As the Authority is a not-for-profit entity, unless an asset has been identified as a surplus asset, the recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value, less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost.

The risk of impairment is generally limited to circumstances where an asset's depreciation is materially understated, where the replacement cost is falling or where there is a significant change in useful life. Each relevant class of assets is reviewed annually to verify that the accumulated depreciation/amortisation reflects the level of consumption or expiration of the assets' future economic benefits and to evaluate any impairment risk from falling replacement costs.

Intangible assets with an indefinite useful life and intangible assets not yet available for use are tested for impairment at each balance sheet date irrespective of whether there is any indication of impairment.

The recoverable amount of assets identified as surplus assets is the higher of fair value less costs to sell, and the present value of future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Surplus assets carried at fair value have no risk of material impairment where fair value is determined by reference to market-based evidence. Where fair value is determined by reference to depreciated replacement cost, surplus assets are at risk of impairment and the recoverable amount is measured. Surplus assets at cost are tested for indications of impairment at each balance sheet date.

Refer also to note 2(p) and note 18 'Receivables' for impairment of receivables.

(i) Non-current Assets (or Disposal Groups) Classified as Held for Sale

Non-current assets (or disposal groups) held for sale are recognised at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell and are presented separately from other assets in the Balance Sheet. Assets classified as held for sale are not depreciated or amortised.

(j) Leases

The Authority enters into commercial operating leases for specified business premises located in Kings Park and Botanic Gardens. The Authority acts as Lessor and revenue is recognised as income as per the terms and conditions of the lease agreement. *See note 21 'Property, plant and equipment'.*

The Authority holds operating leases for motor vehicles. Lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis over the lease term as this represents the pattern of benefits derived from the leased motor vehicles. *See note 30 'Commitments'.*

The Authority does not hold any finance leases.

(k) Financial Instruments

In addition to cash, the Authority has two categories of financial instrument:

- Receivables; and
- Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost.

These have been disaggregated into the following classes:

Financial Assets:

- Cash and cash equivalents
- Restricted cash and cash equivalents
- Receivables

Financial Liabilities:

- Payables

Initial recognition and measurement of financial instruments is at fair value which normally equates to the transaction cost or the face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The fair value of short-term receivables and payables is the transaction cost or the face value because there is no interest rate applicable and subsequent measurement is not required as the effect of discounting is not material.

(l) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purpose of the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalent (and restricted cash and cash equivalent) assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value, and bank overdrafts.

(m) Accrued Salaries

Accrued salaries (*See note 26 'Other liabilities'*) represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year, as the pay date for the last pay period for that financial year does not coincide with the end of the financial year. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight of the financial year end. The Authority considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its net fair value.

(n) Amounts Receivable for Services (Holding Account)

The Authority receives funding on an accrual basis that recognises the full annual cash and non-cash cost of services. The appropriations are paid partly in cash and partly as an asset (Holding Account receivable) that is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover items such as leave entitlements and asset replacement. *See note 15 'Income from State Government' and note 19 'Amounts receivable for services'.*

(o) Inventories

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned by the method most appropriate to each particular class of inventory, with the majority being valued on a first in, first out basis.

Inventories not held for resale are valued at cost unless they are no longer required, in which case they are valued at net realisable value.

See note 17 'Inventories'.

(p) Receivables

Receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less an allowance for any uncollectible amounts (i.e. impairment). The impairment for uncollectible amounts (doubtful debts) is raised when there is objective evidence that the Authority will not be able to collect the debts. The collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis and any receivables identified as uncollectible are written-off against the expense account or where impaired the impairment account. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days. *See note 2(k) 'Financial Instruments' and note 18 'Receivables'.*

(q) Payables

Payables are recognised at the amounts payable when the Authority becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as they are generally settled within 30 days. *See note 2(k) 'Financial Instruments' and note 24 'Payables'.*

(r) Provisions

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing or amount and are recognised where there is a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and when the outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is probable and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are reviewed at each balance sheet date. *See note 25 'Provisions'.*

(i) Provisions - Employee Benefits

Annual Leave and Long Service Leave

The liability for annual and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the balance sheet date is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Annual and long service leave expected to be settled more than 12 months after the end of the balance sheet date is measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Leave liabilities are in respect of services provided by employees up to the balance sheet date.

When assessing expected future payments consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non-salary components such as employer superannuation contributions. In addition, the long service leave liability also considers the experience of employee departures and periods of service.

The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the balance sheet date on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

All annual leave and unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as current liabilities as the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date.

See Note 4 'Employee benefits expense and note 25 'Provisions.'

Purchased Leave

The provision for purchased leave relates to Public Service employees who have entered into an agreement to self-fund up to an additional four weeks leave per calendar year. The provision recognises the value of salary set aside for employees and is measured at the nominal amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. This liability is measured on the same basis as annual leave. See Note 4 'Employee benefits expense and note 25 'Provisions.'

Superannuation

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) administers the following superannuation schemes.

Employees may contribute to the Pension Scheme, a defined benefit pension scheme now closed to new members or the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS), a defined benefit lump sum scheme also closed to new members.

The Authority has no liabilities under the Pension or the GSS Schemes. The liabilities for the unfunded Pension Scheme and the unfunded GSS Scheme transfer benefits due to members, who transferred from the Pension Scheme, are assumed by the Treasurer. All other GSS Scheme obligations are funded by concurrent contributions made by the Authority to the GESB. The concurrently funded part of the GSS Scheme is a defined contribution scheme as these contributions extinguish all liabilities in respect of the concurrently funded GSS Scheme obligations.

Employees commencing employment prior to 16 April 2007 who are not members of either the Pension or the GSS Schemes became non-contributory members of the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS). Employees commencing employment on or after 16 April 2007 became members of the GESB Super Scheme (GESBS). Both of these schemes are accumulation schemes. The Authority makes concurrent contributions to GESB on behalf of employees in compliance with the Commonwealth Government's *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*. These contributions extinguish the liability for superannuation charges in respect of the WSS and GESBS Schemes.

The GESB makes all benefit payments in respect of the Pension and GSS Schemes, and is recouped by the Treasurer for the employer's share.

See note 2(s) 'Superannuation expense'.

(ii) Provisions - Other

Employment On-Costs

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other expenses' and are not included as part of the Authority's 'Employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'. See note 8 'Other expenses' and note 25 'Provisions'.

(s) Superannuation Expense

The following elements are included in calculating the superannuation expense in the Income Statement:

- (a) Defined benefit plans - Change in the unfunded employer's liability (i.e. current service cost and, actuarial gains and losses) assumed by the Treasurer in respect of current employees who are members of the Pension Scheme and current employees who accrued a benefit on transfer from that Scheme to the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS); and
- (b) Defined contribution plans - Employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS) and the GESB Super Scheme (GESBS).

Defined benefit plans - in order to reflect the true cost of services, the movements (i.e. current service cost and, actuarial gains and losses) in the liabilities in respect of the Pension Scheme and the GSS transfer benefits are recognised as expenses. As these liabilities are assumed by the Treasurer (*refer note 2(r)(i)*), a revenue titled 'Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer' equivalent to the expense is recognised under Income from State Government in the Income Statement. See note 15 'Income from State Government'.

The superannuation expense does not include payment of pensions to retirees, as this does not constitute part of the cost of services provided in the current year.

The GSS Scheme is a defined benefit scheme for the purposes of employees and whole-of-government reporting. However, apart from the transfer benefit, it is a defined contribution plan for agency purposes because the concurrent contributions (defined contributions) made by the agency to GESB extinguishes the agency's obligations to the related superannuation liability.

(t) Resources Received Free of Charge or for Nominal Cost

Resources received free of charge or for nominal cost that can be reliably measured are recognised as income and as assets or expenses as appropriate, at fair value.

(u) Comparative Figures

Comparative figures are, where appropriate, reclassified to be comparable with the figures presented in the current financial year.

3. Disclosure of changes in accounting policy and estimates

Initial application of an Australian Accounting Standard

The Authority has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2007 that impacted on the Authority:

1. AASB 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures' (including consequential amendments in AASB 2005-10 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 132, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 117, AASB 133, AASB 139, AASB 1, AASB 4, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]' (This Standard requires new disclosures in relation to financial instruments and while there is no financial impact, the changes have resulted in increased disclosures, both quantitative and qualitative, of the Authority's exposure to risks, including enhanced disclosure regarding components of the Authority's financial position and performance, and changes to the way of presenting certain items in the notes to the financial statements.

The following Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations are not applicable to the Authority as they have no impact or do not apply to not-for-profit entities:

AASB Standards and Interpretations	
101	'Presentation of Financial Statements' (relating to the changes made to the Standard issued in October 2006)
2005-10	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (AASB 132, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 117, AASB 133, AASB 139, AASB 1, AASB 4, AASB 1023, & AASB 1038)'
2007-1	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 11 [AASB 2]'
2007-4	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from ED 151 and Other Amendments (AASB 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 102, 107, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141, 1023 & 1038)'. The amendments arise as a result of the AASB decision to make available all options that currently exist under IFRSs and that certain additional Australian disclosures should be eliminated. The Treasurer's instructions have been amended to maintain the existing practice when the Standard was first applied and as a consequence there is no financial impact.
2007-5	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard – Inventories Held for Distribution by Not-for-Profit Entities [AASB 102]'
2007-7	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 1, AASB 2, AASB 4, AASB 5, AASB 107 & AASB 128]'
ERR	Erratum 'Proportionate Consolidation [AASB 101, AASB 107, AASB 121, AASB 127, Interpretation 113]'
Interpretation 10	'Interim Financial Reporting and Impairment'
Interpretation 11	'AASB 2 – Group and Treasury Share Transactions'
Interpretation 1003	'Australian Petroleum Resource Rent Tax'

Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

The Authority cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard or Australian Accounting Interpretation unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. Consequently, the Authority has not applied the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations that have been issued and which may impact the Authority but are not yet effective. Where applicable, the Authority plans to apply these Standards and Interpretations from their application date:

Title	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements' (September 2007). This Standard has been revised and will change the structure of the financial statements. These changes will require that owner changes in equity are presented separately from non-owner changes in equity. The Authority does not expect any financial impact when the Standard is first applied.	1 January 2009
Review of AAS 27 'Financial Reporting by Local Governments', 29 'Financial Reporting by Government Departments' and 31 'Financial Reporting by Governments'. The AASB has made the following pronouncements from its short term review of AAS 27, AAS 29 and AAS 31:	
AASB 1004 'Contributions' (December 2007).	1 July 2008
AASB 1050 'Administered Items' (December 2007).	1 July 2008
AASB 1051 'Land Under Roads' (December 2007).	1 July 2008
AASB 1052 'Disaggregated Disclosures' (December 2007).	1 July 2008
AASB 2007-9 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the review of AASs 27, 29 and 31 [AASB 3, AASB 5, AASB 8, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 116, AASB 127 & AASB 137] (December 2007).	1 July 2008
Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities (revised) (December 2007).	1 July 2008
The existing requirements in AAS 27, AAS 29 and AAS 31 have been transferred to the above new and existing topic-based Standards and Interpretation. These requirements remain substantively unchanged. AASB 1050, AASB 1051 and AASB 1052 only apply to government departments. The other Standards and Interpretation make some modifications to disclosures and provide additional guidance (for example, Australian Guidance to AASB 116 'Property, Plant and Equipment' in relation to heritage and cultural assets has been introduced), otherwise, there will be no financial impact.	

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

The following Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations are not applicable to the Authority as they will have no impact or do not apply to not-for-profit entities:

Title	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
AASB 3 'Business Combinations' (March 2008)	1 January 2009
AASB 8 'Operating Segments'	1 January 2009
AASB 123 'Borrowing Costs' (June 2007). This Standard has been revised to mandate the capitalisation of all borrowing costs attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of qualifying assets. The Authority already capitalises borrowing costs directly attributable to buildings under construction, therefore, this will be no impact on the financial statements when the Standard is first applied. Agencies presently expensing such borrowing costs will need to report the impact.	1 January 2009
AASB 127 'Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements' (March 2008)	1 July 2009
AASB 1049 'Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting'	1 July 2008
AASB 2007-2 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 12 [AASB 1, AASB 117, AASB 118, AASB 120, AASB 121, AASB 127, AASB 131 & AASB 139]' – paragraphs 1 to 8	1 January 2008
AASB 2007-3 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 8 [AASB 5, AASB 6, AASB 102, AASB 107, AASB 119, AASB 127, AASB 134, AASB 136, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]'	1 January 2009
AASB 2007-6 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 123 [AASB 1, AASB 101, AASB 107, AASB 111, AASB 116 & AASB 138 and Interpretations 1 & 12]'	1 January 2009
AASB 2007-8 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101'	1 January 2009
AASB 2008-1 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard - Share-based Payments: Vesting Conditions and Cancellations'	1 January 2009
AASB 2008-2 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Puttable Financial Instruments and Obligations arising on Liquidation [AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 132, AASB 139 & Interpretation 2]'	1 January 2009
AASB 2008-3 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 3 and AASB 127 [AASBs 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 101, 107, 112, 114, 116, 121, 128, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138, 139 and Interpretations 9 & 107]'	1 July 2009
AASB 2008-4 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard – Key Management Personnel Disclosures by Disclosing Entities [AASB 124]'	30 June 2008
Interpretation 4 'Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease' (February 2007)	1 January 2008
Interpretation 12 'Service Concession Arrangements'	1 January 2008
Interpretation 13 'Customer Loyalty Programmes'	1 July 2008
Interpretation 14 'AASB 119 – The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding Requirements and their Interaction'	1 January 2008
Interpretation 129 'Service Concession Arrangements: Disclosures'	1 January 2008

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
	\$000	\$000
4. Employee benefits expense		
Wages and salaries ^(a)	6,648	5,884
Superannuation – defined contribution plans ^(b)	487	441
Superannuation – defined benefit plans ^{(c)(d)}	163	163
Long service leave ^(e)	187	214
Annual Leave ^(e)	501	610
Other related expenses	312	337
	8,298	7,649

(a) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefits tax component.

(b) Defined contribution plans include West State, GESBS and Gold State (contributions paid).

(c) Defined benefit plans include Pension scheme and Gold State (pre-transfer benefit).

(d) An equivalent notional income is recognised (see note 15 'Income from State Government').

(e) Includes a recognition of annual and long service leave liability and a superannuation contribution component is included (see note 25 'Provisions').

Employment on-costs such as workers' compensation insurance are included at note 8 'Other Expenses'. The employment on-costs liability is included at note 25 'Provisions'.

5. Supplies and services

Communications	149	158
Consultants and contractors	2,660	1,668
Consumables	1,191	1,016
Travel	134	114
Other	646	829
	4,780	3,785

6. Depreciation and amortisation expense

Depreciation

Plant, equipment and vehicles (includes monuments)	804	767
Buildings	232	208
Other	-	-
Total depreciation	1,036	975

Amortisation

Intangible assets	7	9
Total amortisation	7	9

Total depreciation and amortisation	1,043	984
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7. Capital User Charge

Capital user charge	-	3,178
	-	3,178

The charge was a levy applied by Government for the use of its capital. The final charge was levied in 2006/2007.

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
8. Other expenses		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	205	459
Building maintenance	1,034	1,623
Equipment repairs and maintenance	311	403
Doubtful debts expense ^(a)	3	8
Employment on-costs ^(b) (see Note 4 'Employee benefits expense')	89	85
Fee for service ^(c)	480	520
Other ^(d)	62	74
	2,184	3,172

- (a) See also note 36 'Supplementary financial information'.
- (b) Includes workers' compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability is included at note 25 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.
- (c) Fee for service recognised as a liability, see also note 26 'Other liabilities'.
- (d) Audit fees and write-offs, see also note 35 'Remuneration of auditor' and note 36 'Supplementary financial information'.

9. User charges and fees

Rent and licence fees	571	468
Functions and events	758	709
Fines and infringements	94	65
	1,423	1,242

10. Trading profit

Sales	1,867	1,680
Cost of Sales:		
Opening inventory	(329)	(275)
Purchases	(995)	(968)
	(1,324)	(1,243)
Closing inventory	326	329
Cost of Goods Sold	(998)	(914)
Trading Profit	869	766

See note 2(o) 'Inventories' and note 17 'Inventories'.

11. Commonwealth grants and contributions

Recurrent	97	50
	97	50

12. Interest revenue

Interest revenue ^(a)	291	249
	291	249

(a) Commonwealth Bank of Australia

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	2008	2007
	\$000	\$000
13. Other revenue		
Fee for service	1,481	1,513
Recoups	589	248
Sponsorships	1,196	176
Other	44	123
	<u>3,310</u>	<u>2,060</u>

14. Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets

Costs of Disposal of Non-Current Assets

Buildings	-	(81)
Plant, equipment and vehicles	-	(6)
Monuments and special items	-	(4)

Proceeds from Disposal of Non-Current Assets

Plant, equipment and vehicles	14	41
-------------------------------	----	----

Net gain/(loss)	<u>14</u>	<u>(50)</u>
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See also note 2(i) 'Non-current Assets (or Disposal Groups) classified as Held for Sale' and note 21 'Property, plant and equipment'.

15. Income from State Government

Appropriation received during the year:

Service appropriation ^(a)	12,604	14,773
	<u>12,604</u>	<u>14,773</u>

The following liabilities have been assumed by the Treasurer during the financial year:

- Superannuation ^(b)	-	8
Total liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	-	8

Resources received free of charge^(c)

Determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:

State Solicitor's Office	8	16
Department of Health	62	36
	<u>70</u>	<u>52</u>
	<u>12,674</u>	<u>14,833</u>

- (a) Service appropriations are accrual amounts reflecting the net cost of services delivered. The appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.
- (b) The assumption of the superannuation liability by the Treasurer is a notional income to match the notional superannuation expense reported in respect of current employees who are members of the Pension Scheme and current employees who have a transfer benefit entitlement under the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (the notional superannuation expense is disclosed at note 4 'Employee benefits expense').
- (c) Where assets or services have been received free of charge or for nominal cost, the Authority recognises revenues equivalent to the fair value of the assets and/or the fair value of those services that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if not donated, and those fair values shall be recognised as assets or expenses, as applicable. The exception occurs where the contribution of assets or services are in the nature of contributions by owners, in which case the Authority makes adjustment directly to equity.

	2008	2007
	\$000	\$000
16. Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
Current		
Fee for service	2,037	1,557
	<u>2,037</u>	<u>1,557</u>

17. Inventories

Current		
Inventories held for resale:		
-Purchased stock	326	329
Total current	<u>326</u>	<u>329</u>

See also note 2(o) 'Inventories' and note 10 'Trading profit'.

18. Receivables

Current		
Receivables	1,787	931
Infringements	31	21
Allowance for impairment of receivables	(7)	(8)
Accrued revenue	110	49
GST receivable	23	132
	<u>1,944</u>	<u>1,125</u>
Prepayments (see also note 20 'Other assets')	12	11
Total current	<u>1,956</u>	<u>1,136</u>

Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivables:

Balance at start of year	8	-
Doubtful debts expense recognised in the income statement	3	8
Amounts written off during the year	(2)	-
Amount recovered during the year	(2)	-
Balance at end of year	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>

The Authority only recognises an allowance for impairment of infringement receivables over 12 months that are registered with Fines Enforcement Registry.

Credit Risk

Ageing of receivables past due but not impaired based on the information provided to senior management, at the balance sheet date:

Not more than 3 months	8	45
More than 3 months but less than 6 months	8	6
More than 6 months but less than 1 year	3	2
More than 1 year	-	-
	<u>19</u>	<u>53</u>

See also note 2(p) 'Receivables', note 33 'Financial instruments'.

	2008	2007
	\$000	\$000
19. Amounts receivable for services		
Current	959	1,354
Non-current	3,029	2,847
	<u>3,988</u>	<u>4,201</u>

Represents the non-cash component of service appropriations. See note 2(n) 'Amounts Receivable for Services (Holding Account)'. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

20. Other assets

Current	-	-
Total current	-	-

In 2006/2007 Accrued Revenue (\$49,000) and Prepayments (\$11,000) were classified as 'Other assets'. These have been classified as 'Receivables' in 2007/2008. See also note 18 'Receivables'.

21. Property, plant and equipment

Land		
At fair value ^(a)	10,730	10,730
Accumulated impairment losses	-	-
	<u>10,730</u>	<u>10,730</u>
Buildings and residences		
At fair value ^(a)	13,012	11,921
Accumulated depreciation	(676)	(407)
Accumulated impairment losses	-	-
	<u>12,336</u>	<u>11,514</u>
Assets under construction		
Construction costs	3,782	2,473
Plant, equipment and vehicles		
At cost	6,656	6,444
Accumulated depreciation	(3,661)	(3,230)
Accumulated impairment losses	-	-
	<u>2,995</u>	<u>3,214</u>
Monuments and special items		
At cost	8,947	8,947
Accumulated depreciation	(1,316)	(1,097)
Accumulated impairment losses	-	-
	<u>7,631</u>	<u>7,850</u>
	<u>37,474</u>	<u>35,781</u>

(a) Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2007 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2008 and recognised at 1 July 2007. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined on the basis of existing use. See note 2(f) 'Property, Plant and Equipment'.

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Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of property, plant, equipment and vehicles at the beginning and end of the reporting period are set out below:

	Leasehold land	Buildings and residences	Assets under construction	Plant, equipment and vehicles	Monuments and special items	Total
2008	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Carrying amount at start of year	10,730	11,514	2,473	3,214	7,850	35,781
Additions	-	-	1,309	455	-	1,764
Other disposals	-	-	-	(88)	-	(88)
Depreciation expense	-	(231)	-	(586)	(219)	(1,036)
Revaluation	-	1,053	-	-	-	1,053
Increments / (decrements)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount at end of year	10,730	12,336	3,782	2,995	7,631	37,474
2007	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Carrying amount at start of year	9,980	13,710	479	3,185	6,585	33,939
Additions	-	-	1,994	582	-	2,576
Discovered Assets	-	-	-	-	1,488	1,488
Other disposals	-	(81)	-	(6)	(4)	(91)
Depreciation expense	-	(209)	-	(547)	(219)	(975)
Revaluation	750	(1,906)	-	-	-	(1,156)
Increments / (decrements)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount at end of year	10,730	11,514	2,473	3,214	7,850	35,781

2008
\$000

2007
\$000

Operating Leases

The Authority leases buildings to commercial tenants for retail purposes under operating leases of varying terms and duration. Details of the minimum lease payments receivable are detailed below.

Future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases in the aggregate:

Not later than 1 year	497	540
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	2,087	2,014
Later than 5 years	10,377	10,947
	<u>12,961</u>	<u>13,501</u>
Total contingent rents recognised	<u>540</u>	<u>443</u>

Operating leases fall into two categories; those based on a percentage of gross turnover and fixed leases with either scheduled increases or increases based on annual CPI increases. There is one significant operating lease which expires in 2032.

22. Intangible assets

Computer software		
At cost	7	45
Accumulated amortisation	<u>(7)</u>	<u>(38)</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>7</u>

Reconciliations:

Computer software		
Carrying amount at start of year	45	45
Amortisation expense	<u>(45)</u>	<u>(38)</u>
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>-</u>	<u>7</u>

23. Impairment of assets

There were no indications of impairment to property, plant and equipment and intangible assets at 30 June 2008.

The Authority held no goodwill or intangible assets with an indefinite useful life during the reporting period and at balance sheet date there were no intangible assets not yet available for use.

All surplus assets at 30 June 2008 have either been classified as assets held for sale or written-off.

	2008	2007
	\$000	\$000
24. Payables		
Current		
Accounts payable	273	805
Accrued expenses	362	1,956
Accrued salaries	131	101
Total current	<u>766</u>	<u>2,862</u>

See also note 2(q) 'Payables' and note 33 'Financial instruments'.

In 2006/2007 Accrued Expenses (\$1,956,000) and Accrued Salaries (\$101,000) were classified as 'Other liabilities'. These have been reclassified as Payables in 2007/2008. See also note 26 'Other liabilities'.

25. Provisions

Current		
Employee benefits provision		
Annual leave ^(a)	584	588
Long service leave ^(b)	538	499
48/52 leave arrangements	106	90
	<u>1,228</u>	<u>1,177</u>
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	35	34
	<u>35</u>	<u>34</u>
	<u>1,263</u>	<u>1,211</u>
Non-current		
Employee benefits provision		
Long service leave ^(b)	342	328
48/52 leave arrangements	23	19
	<u>365</u>	<u>347</u>
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	10	10
	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
	<u>375</u>	<u>357</u>

(a) Annual leave liabilities have been classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after balance sheet date. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:

Within 12 months of balance sheet date	644	651
More than 12 months after balance sheet date	-	-
	<u>644</u>	<u>651</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
	\$000	\$000
(b) Long service leave liabilities have been classified as current where there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after balance sheet date. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:		
Within 12 months of balance sheet date	359	310
More than 12 months after balance sheet date	635	607
	<u>994</u>	<u>917</u>

The settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments. The associated expense, apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost), is disclosed in note 8 'Other expenses'.

Movements in Other Provisions

Movements in each class of provisions during the financial year, other than employee benefits, are set out below.

Employment on-cost provision

Carrying amount at start of year	44	34
Additional provisions recognised	1	10
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>45</u>	<u>44</u>

26. Other liabilities

Current		
Unearned revenue	21	56
Fee for service	2,037	1,557
Other (bonds/retentions/suspense)	120	177
Total current	<u>2,178</u>	<u>1,790</u>

In 2006/2007 Accrued Expenses (\$1,956,000) and Accrued Salaries (\$101,000) were classified as 'Other liabilities'. These have been reclassified as Payables in 2007/2008. See also note 24 'Payables'.

27. Equity

Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of the Authority. The Government holds the equity interest in the Authority on behalf of the community. The asset revaluation reserve represents that portion of equity resulting from the revaluation of non-current assets.

Contributed equity

Balance at start of year	9,835	16,997
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Contributions by owners

Capital contribution ^(a)	1,955	500
Correction of prior period errors ^(b)	-	(7,662)
Total contributions by owners	<u>1,955</u>	<u>(7,162)</u>

Balance at end of year	<u>11,790</u>	<u>9,835</u>
------------------------	---------------	--------------

(a) Capital Contributions (appropriations) and non-discretionary (non-reciprocal) transfers of net assets from other State government agencies have been designated as contributions by owners in Treasurer's Instruction TI 955 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities' and are credited directly to equity

(b) Adjustment arising from the early application of UIG38 in prior period resulting in capital contributions being recognised as equity contributions rather than revenue

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	2008	2007
	\$000	\$000
Reserves		
Asset revaluation reserve:		
Balance at start of year	10,312	11,468
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	-	750
Buildings	1,053	(1,906)
Balance at end of year	<u>11,365</u>	<u>10,312</u>
Accumulated surplus		
Balance at start of year	18,922	9,390
Result for the period	2,373	382
Income and expense recognised directly to equity	-	1,488
Correction of prior period errors ^(a)	-	7,662
Balance at end of year	<u>21,295</u>	<u>18,922</u>

(a) Adjustment arising from the early application of UIG38 in prior period resulting in capital contributions being recognised as equity contributions rather than revenue.

28. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

Cash and cash equivalents	3,251	2,278
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (<i>see note 16 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents'</i>)	2,037	1,557
	<u>5,288</u>	<u>3,835</u>

Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows provided by/(used in) operating activities

Net cost of services	(10,301)	(14,451)
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation expense (<i>note 6</i>)	1,043	984
Resources received free of charge (<i>note 15</i>)	70	52
Net (gain)/loss on sale of property, plant and equipment (<i>note 14</i>)	(14)	50
Bad Debts written off	1	11
(Increase)/decrease in assets:		
Current receivables ^(c)	(925)	(577)
Current inventories	(58)	124
Other current assets	-	(10)

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	2008	2007
	\$000	\$000
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:		
Current payables ^(c)	(2,136)	618
Current provisions	52	214
Other current liabilities	449	327
Non-current provisions	18	41
Other non-current liabilities	-	-
Net GST receipts/(payments) ^(a)	81	(12)
Change in GST in receivables/payables ^(b)	111	(7)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>(11,609)</u>	<u>(12,636)</u>

(a) This is the net GST paid/received, i.e. cash transactions.

(b) This reverses out the GST in receivables and payables.

(c) Note that the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) receivable/payable in respect of GST and the receivable/payable in respect of the sale/purchase of non-current assets are not included in these items as they do not form part of the reconciling items.

29. Resources provided free of charge

During the year no resources were provided to other agencies free of charge for functions outside the normal operations of the Authority.

30. Commitments

Capital expenditure commitments

Capital expenditure commitments, being contracted capital expenditure additional to the amounts reported in the financial statements, are payable as follows:

Within 1 year	5,638	5,033
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	6,437	15,216
Later than 5 years	-	-
	<u>12,075</u>	<u>20,249</u>

The capital commitments include amounts for:

Buildings	4,202	4,137
Biodiversity conservation	-	6,924
Infrastructure	4,679	5,615
Asset replacement	3,194	3,573
	<u>12,075</u>	<u>20,249</u>

Lease Commitments

Commitments in relation to leases contracted for at the balance sheet date but not recognised in the financial statements are payable as follows:

Within 1 year	123	98
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	91	75
Later than 5 years	-	-
	<u>214</u>	<u>173</u>

Representing:

Cancellable operating leases	214	173
	<u>214</u>	<u>173</u>

These commitments are all exclusive of GST.

31. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

The Authority has no contingent liabilities or contingent assets.

32. Explanatory statement

Significant variations between estimates and actual results for income and expense are shown below. Significant variations are considered to be those of a material nature greater than 10% or \$250,000.

Significant variances between estimated and actual result for 2008

	2008 Actual \$000	2008 Estimate \$000	Variation \$000
Supplies and services	4,780	4,151	(629)
User Charges and Fees	1,423	1,021	(402)
Other revenue	3,310	1,490	(1,820)

Supplies and services

The variance is due to greater than expected expenses in consumables, electricity, lease and minor capital works projects.

User Charges and Fees

The variance is due to greater than expected revenue from functions and events, rent and licence fees, and fines and infringements.

Other revenue

The variance is due to additional recoups of expenses in electricity and salaries, together with greater than anticipated revenue received from sponsors for new and continuing projects. In addition, revenue from fee for service projects was greater than expected.

Significant variances between actual results for 2007 and 2008

	2008 \$000	2007 \$000	Variance \$000
Income			
Other revenue	3,310	2,060	1,250
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	8,298	7,649	649
Supplies and services	4,780	3,785	995
Capital user charge	-	3,178	(3,178)
Other expenses	2,184	3,172	(988)

Other revenue

The variance is due to \$970,000 received by way of sponsorship revenue for new and existing projects in 2008, together with an increase in recoups of electricity and salaries.

Employee benefits expense

The variance is due to an award increase in wages of approximately 10% during 2008, including back pay to 2007. The number of FTE employees was higher for 2008 than 2007.

Supplies and services

A number of capital projects, delayed in 2007, were completed in 2008 incurring increased expenses in professional fees.

Capital user charge

The variance is due to the final charge of \$3,178,000 being levied in 2007. No charge was levied in 2008.

Other expenses

The variance is due to a decrease in repairs and maintenance expenses for building, infrastructure and equipment. Expenses for the purchase of property, plant and equipment were less in 2008 than 2007.

33. Financial instruments

(a) Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies

Financial instruments held by the Authority are cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, receivables, and payables. The Authority has limited exposure to financial risks. The Authority's overall risk management program focuses on managing the risks identified below.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the Authority's receivables defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Authority. The Authority measures credit risk on a fair value basis and monitors risk on a regular basis.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance sheet date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any provisions for impairment as shown in the table at Note 33(c).

Credit risk associated with the Authority's financial assets is not material to AASB101, because the main receivable is the amounts receivable for services (holding account). For receivables other than government, the Authority trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. The Authority has policies in place to ensure that sales of products and services are made to customers with an appropriate credit history. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the Authority's exposure to bad debts is minimal. There are no significant concentrations of credit risk.

Liquidity risk

The Authority is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business. Liquidity risks arise when the Authority is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

The Authority has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows including drawdowns of appropriations by monitoring forecast cash flows to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet its commitments.

Market Risk

The Authority does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks. Other than as detailed in the Interest rate sensitivity analysis table at Note 33(c), the Authority has limited exposure to interest rate risk because it has no borrowings.

(b) Categories of Financial Instruments

In addition to cash, the carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the balance sheet date are as follows:

	2008	2007
	\$000	\$000
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,251	2,278
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2,037	1,557
Receivables ^(a)	1,933	1,004
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Payables	766	2,862

(a) The amount of receivables excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable)

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(c) Financial Instrument disclosures

Credit Risk, Liquidity Risk and Interest Rate Risk Exposures

The following table details the Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk and the exposure to liquidity risk and interest rate risk as at the balance sheet date. The table is based on the information provided to senior management of the Authority. The contractual maturity amounts in the table are representative of the undiscounted amounts at the balance sheet date. An adjustment for discounting has been made where material.

The Authority does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancements relating to the financial assets it holds.

The Authority does not hold any financial assets that had to have their terms renegotiated that would have otherwise resulted in them being past due or impaired.

Contractual Maturity Dates:

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	Variable Interest Rate	Non-Interest Bearing	Within 1 year	1-2 Years	2-3 Years	3-4 Years	4-5 Years	More than 5 Years	Adjustment for discounting	Carrying amount
2008	%	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Financial Assets											
Cash and cash equivalents	6.32	3,251	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,251
Restricted Cash and cash equivalents	6.32	2,037	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,037
Receivables	-	-	1,933	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,933
		5,288	1,933	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,221
Financial Liabilities											
Payables	-	-	766	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	766
		-	766	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	766

Contractual Maturity Dates:

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	Variable Interest Rate	Non-Interest Bearing	Within 1 year	1-2 Years	2-3 Years	3-4 Years	4-5 Years	More than 5 Years	Adjustment for discounting	Carrying amount
2007	%	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Financial Assets											
Cash and cash equivalents	5.64	2,278	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,278
Restricted Cash and cash equivalents	5.64	1,557	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,557
Receivables	-	-	1,004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,004
		3,835	1,004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,839
Financial Liabilities											
Payables	-	-	2,862	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,862
		-	2,862	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,862

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The following table represents a summary of the interest rate sensitivity of the Authority's financial assets and liabilities as the balance sheet date on the surplus for the period and equity for a 1% change in interest rates. It is assumed that the change in interest rates is held constant throughout the reporting period.

Interest rate sensitivity analysis					
	Carrying amount	-1% change		+1% change	
		Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
2008	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	3,251	(33)	(33)	33	33
Restricted Cash and cash equivalents	2,037	(20)	(20)	(20)	(20)
Financial Liabilities					
Total Increase/Decrease		(53)	(53)	53	53
2007					
	Carrying amount	-1% change		+1% change	
	\$000	Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	2,278	(23)	(23)	23	23
Restricted Cash and cash equivalents	1,557	(16)	(16)	16	16
Financial Liabilities					
Total Increase/Decrease		(39)	(39)	39	39

Fair Values

All financial assets and liabilities recognised in the balance sheet, whether they are carried at cost or fair value, are recognised at amounts that represent a reasonable approximation of fair value unless otherwise stated in the applicable notes.

	2008	2007
	\$000	\$000

34. Remuneration of members of the accountable authority and senior officers

Remuneration on Members of the accountable authority

The number of members of the accountable authority, whose total of fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for the financial year, fall within the following bands are:

\$		
0-10,000	7	7
10,000-20,000	1	1

The total remuneration of members of the accountable authority is: 49 49

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	<u>2008</u> <u>\$000</u>	<u>2007</u> <u>\$000</u>
The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by the Authority in respect of members of the Accountable Authority.		
No members of the Accountable Authority are members of the Pension Scheme.		
Where a member's remuneration is zero, the member has been included in a band labelled '\$0 - \$10,000'.		
<u>Remuneration of Senior Officers</u>		
The number of senior officers, other than senior officers reported as members of the Accountable Authority, whose total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for the financial year, fall within the following bands are:		
\$		
140,001 – 150,000	-	1
150,001 – 160,000	2	1
160,001 – 170,000	1	-
170,001 – 180,000	-	1
190,001 – 200,000	-	1
201,000 - 210,000	1	-
The total remuneration of senior officers is:	<u>676</u>	<u>665</u>

The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by the Authority in respect of senior officers other than senior officers reported as members of the Accountable Authority.

No senior officers are members of the Pension Scheme.

35. Remuneration of auditor

Remuneration payable to the Auditor General for the financial year is as follows:

Auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators	<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>
<i>The expense is included at note 8 'Other expenses'.</i>		

36. Supplementary financial information

Write-Offs

Bad debts written off	2	3
Public property written-off during the financial year	-	-
Inventory	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

Losses Through Theft, Defaults and Other Causes

Losses of public moneys and, public and other property through theft or default	1	-
Inventory	3	4
Amounts recovered	<u>(1)</u>	<u>(2)</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

37. Schedule of income and expenses by service

	Service 1 Customer Service and Cultural Heritage		Service 2 Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research		Total	
	2008 \$000	2007 \$000	2008 \$000	2007 \$000	2008 \$000	2007 \$000
COST OF SERVICES						
Expenses						
Employee benefits expense	5,268	5,425	3,030	2,224	8,298	7,649
Supplies and services	3,495	2,873	1,285	912	4,780	3,785
Depreciation and amortisation expense	772	728	271	256	1,043	984
Capital User Charge	-	2,328	-	850	-	3,178
Cost of Goods Sold	998	914	-	-	998	914
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	-	27	-	23	-	50
Other Expenses	1,475	2,330	709	842	2,184	3,172
Total cost of services	12,008	14,625	5,295	5,107	17,303	19,732
Income						
User Charges and Fees	1,347	1,214	76	28	1,423	1,242
Sales	1,860	1,678	7	2	1,867	1,680
Commonwealth grants and contributions	-	-	97	50	97	50
Interest Revenue	215	184	76	65	291	249
Other Revenue	1,654	1,563	1,656	497	3,310	2,060
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	14	-	-	-	14	-
Total income other than income from State Government	5,090	4,639	1,912	642	7,002	5,281
NET COST OF SERVICES	6,918	9,986	3,383	4,465	10,301	14,451
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service Appropriation	8,275	9,872	4,329	4,901	12,604	14,773
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	-	8	-	-	-	8
Resources received free of charge	52	38	18	14	70	52
Total income from State Government	8,327	9,918	4,347	4,915	12,674	14,833
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	1,409	(68)	964	450	2,373	382

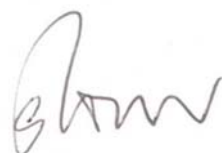
Appendix 2 – Key Performance Indicators

Certification of the Key Performance Indicators for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

I hereby certify that the performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority for the year ended 30 June 2008.



Mr Richard Simpson
Chairman
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Board of Management
16 September 2008



Ms Clare Power
Member
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Board of Management
16 September 2008

Key Performance Indicators for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

Relationship to Government Goals

Broad, high level Government goals are supported at agency level by more specific desired outcomes. The Authority delivers services to achieve these desired outcomes, which ultimately contribute to meeting the higher level government goals. The following table illustrates the relationship between Authority level desired outcomes and the most appropriate Government goal.

Government Goal

To ensure that Western Australia has an environment in which resources are managed, developed and used sustainably, biological diversity is preserved and habitats protected.

Agency Level Government Desired Outcome 1

Awareness and appreciation of recreation and tourist resources, and cultural heritage for visitors' enjoyment.

Service 1: Customer Service and Cultural Heritage

Agency Level Government Desired Outcome 2

Conservation and enhancement of Western Australian bushland and other flora.

Service 2: Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research

Outcome 1

This outcome is achieved through improving and promoting education and recreation in the designated lands; providing safe and accessible facilities; providing and promoting cultural experiences and events and by actively seeking to improve and provide additional visitor services and facilities.

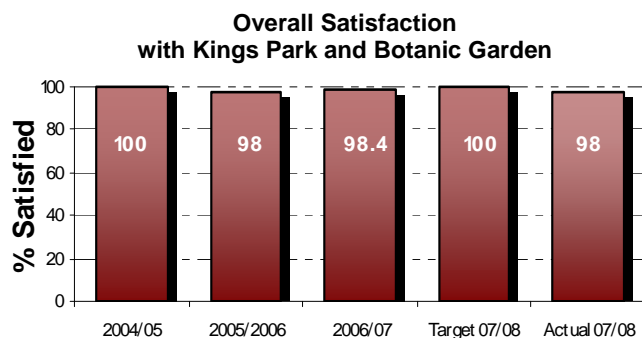
Key Effectiveness Indicators

1.1 The level of visitor satisfaction with Kings Park and Botanic Garden facilities and the Western Australian Botanic Garden.

This key indicator measures the level of satisfaction visitors have concerning the extent to which recreational and tourist resources have been conserved, enhanced and promoted for visitor enjoyment.

Visitor surveys were conducted in Kings Park and Botanic Garden during the year. The majority of visitors (98%) reported high to very high levels of satisfaction whilst visiting the gardens.

Visitor surveys were conducted in Kings Park and Botanic Garden during March 2008. A random sample (n=167) provided a response rate of 100% with all visitors approached agreeing to be interviewed. Based on the sample of 167 individuals, the percentage of overall visitor satisfaction was 98% with a margin of error of 8% at a 95% level of confidence.



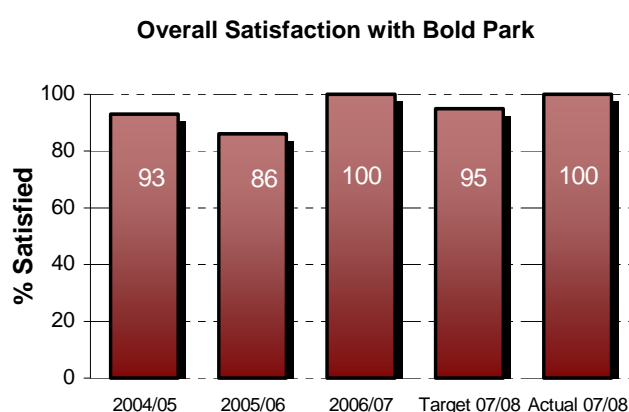
In 2008 a five point Likert-type scale was used to measure visitor satisfaction. Visitors were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with the facilities in Kings Park and the Western Australian Botanic Garden by indicating a level of satisfaction: Dissatisfied, Neither satisfied or dissatisfied scaled up to Very satisfied.

The visitor survey was administered in person to 167 visitors to Kings Park and the Western Australian Botanic Garden. These visitors were interviewed in Fraser Avenue and the Western Australian Botanic Garden, which is a change from previous years, when interviews were conducted in Synergy Parkland and the Lotterywest Family Area. The change was made to keep the survey in line with our involvement this year in a National Visitor Survey of Botanic Gardens.

1.2 The level of visitor satisfaction with Bold Park and facilities.

This key indicator measures the extent of visitor satisfaction with how recreational and bushland resources have been conserved, enhanced and promoted and the impact of these activities on visitor enjoyment within Bold Park.

Visitor surveys were conducted in Bold Park during May and June 2008. The total survey sample (n=105) had a response rate of 95% (100 responses), providing an error margin of 10% at the 95% confidence level.



Visitors were asked to indicate their satisfaction with a range of aspects relating to Bold Park and then rate their overall satisfaction. Of the 100 people surveyed, 100% indicated their overall satisfaction with Bold Park, with 4% rating their satisfaction as adequate, 53% as very good and 43% as excellent. In contrast with the previous year, satisfaction with the condition of the trails increased with only 2% indicating they were not satisfied compared with 11% in the June 2007 survey. This is most likely due to the completion of a major upgrade to the track surfaces in 2008.

1.3 The percentage change in the number of cultural events held at Kings Park and Botanic Garden compared to previous years. ⁽¹⁾

Cultural events are defined as memorial, military commemorative ceremonies and other community organised events. These include the Anzac Day ceremony; summer events such as classical and contemporary music concerts; Shakespeare theatre; and community events, such as the Kings Park Festival.

Reporting Year	No. of Cultural Events	Target Percentage (%) Change	Actual Percentage (%) Change
2007/2008	240	+1	+12 ⁽²⁾
2006/2007	214	+1	-3.6
2005/2006	222	-6.2	-6.7
2004/2005	238	n/a	-2.5

Notes:

- (1) 2005/2006 was the first year reporting on this revised indicator. Comparative data has been collated from previous overall figures provided however, no targets existed prior to 2005/2006.
- (2) An increase in the number of cultural events held in 2007/2008, including increased wreath-laying ceremonies and memorial services, were greater than anticipated.

1.4 The percentage change in the number attending cultural events, customer awareness and education forums held at Kings Park and Botanic Garden compared to previous years.

This indicator is derived from total numbers attending Cultural Events, Education Programs and Free Guided Walks.

Reporting Year	No. Attending Cultural Events and Customer Awareness Programs	Target Percentage (%) Change	Actual Percentage (%) Change
2007/2008	765,186	+1	+175 ⁽¹⁾
2006/2007	278,331	+1	+10.2
2005/2006	252,545	-13.1	-13.2
2004/2005	290,862	n/a	-0.12

Notes:

- (1) The success of the new monthly format of the Kings Park Festival is reflected in the large increase in numbers attending Cultural Events and Customer Awareness Programs in 2007/2008. In previous years this was a fenced, fee for entry, five day event attracting an average of 20,000 - 25,000 people over the five days. The 2007 Festival is estimated to have attracted at least 500,000 people during the month long event.

Service 1 – Customer Service and Cultural Heritage

To measure the success of Service 1, the Authority uses the data collected from annual visitor surveys as demonstrated in indicators 1.1 and 1.2 above; the overall number of visitors promoting and enhancing customer awareness by providing education forums; by conserving, promoting and developing cultural heritage including indigenous, colonial and contemporary heritage; and by staging events and displays on designated lands.

Key Efficiency Indicators

	Actual 2006/2007	Target 2007/2008	Actual 2007/2008	Notes
Average cost per visitor to Kings Park and Botanic Garden	\$2.45	\$2.00	\$1.81	1
Average cost per attendee at cultural events held in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.	\$0.35	\$0.34	\$0.32	2
▪ Average cost per cultural event held in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.	\$753.36	\$817.00	\$938.61	3
Average cost per attendee at customer awareness and education forums held at Kings Park and Botanic Garden	\$1.62	\$0.34	\$1.10	4
Response times for public information requests	98% within 28 days	90% within 28 days	98% within 28 days	5
Percentage change in number of visitors to Reabold Hill compared to previous years	-8.75%	2%	11%	6

Notes:

- (1) Visitation to the park increased by over half a million visitors for 2007-2008, due mainly to the success of the Kings Park Festival.
- (2) The Kings Park Festival was changed in format and duration from a five day event to a one month event in September 2007. The substantial increase in patronage to the event has

resulted in a reduction in the cost per attendee, notwithstanding the additional cost of running the Festival over the month.

- (3) This indicator has been replaced in 2007/08 by the average cost per attendee at cultural events and will no longer be reported in future annual reports. The number of cultural events increased by 32 in 2007/08 to 231 events.
- (4) The number of attendees increased at these forums during 2007/08 and reduced the actual cost compared to 2006/07, but not sufficiently to reach the published target.
- (5) Information requests are received through telephone enquiries, in person, via the post, and via email. Public enquiries are dealt with by the Visitor Information Centre (Kings Park Guides) and front reception services at both Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park. All enquiries and requests are dealt with as promptly as possible, with the vast majority of responses provided immediately. The figures reported for 2007/08 are based on the following:
The Authority's Communications Register records written complaints, compliments, suggestions and requests for information. The Authority's Communications Register for 2007/08 includes 120 formally recorded communications. 100% of the communications were responded to with an interim reply within 5 working days of receipt. More complete responses to specific requests were provided with 28 working days in 98% of all cases.
- (6) This indicator is measured by the number of vehicles accessing Bold Park via Scenic Drive at Reabold Hill compared with the number for the previous financial year. Visitation increased by 9% more than the target for the period, with a total of 44,708 vehicles compared with 40,006 in 2006/07.

Outcome 2

This outcome is achieved through the development and management of the scientific collections, and display of Western Australian and other flora; promoting the use of Western Australian flora for horticulture, conservation and education; and continually undertaking and promoting scientific research into Western Australia flora for biodiversity conservation and restoration.

The effectiveness of ex-situ species conservation and botanic research is assessed through the success in collecting and maintaining living collections of indigenous plants for research, display, public education and restoration.

Key Effectiveness Indicators

2.1 Percentage of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) species in living collections in Kings Park and Botanic Garden, compared to the known number of DRF species in Western Australia.

This key indicator measures the effectiveness over time of the DRF collecting and collections maintenance program, bearing in mind that the number and range of plants gazetted as DRF varies from year to year, and species vary significantly in their ease of collections.

Total DRF species gazetted is a number derived from the list of species of Declared Rare Flora in the Government Gazette 22 January 2008 by the Minister for the Environment; Climate Change; Peel under section 23F(2) of the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950.

The collection of DRF held by the Authority increased by six species to a total of 238. This reflects a commitment to continue to increase the number of DRF held in living collections. This represents 61.3% of the total DRF listed for the State, which is 2.3% higher than in 2006/2007 and slightly lower than the target set for this year. Collection of DRF species from the wild is the primary responsibility of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), with whom the Authority liaises closely to assist with collections from remote areas as opportunities arise. The Authority therefore has a limited capacity to increase its DRF collections unless plants from germination testing are provided by DEC to be maintained in the Kings Park nursery or planted in the Botanic Garden.

The opening of Stage One of the Kings Park Conservation Garden in June 2008 has provided new opportunities to display and interpret DRF species for the community, which in turn aims to enhance public understanding and appreciation of the importance of conserving these species and their natural habitats.

Number of DRF species in Living Collections

Reporting Year	No. of DRF Species in Living Collections	Total DRF Species Gazetted	Target %	Actual %
2007/2008	238	388	65	61
2006/2007	232	392	65	59
2005/2006	220	360	62	61
2004/2005	222	360	64	62

2.2 Percentage of accessions in living collections in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

This indicator is a measure of horticultural and management skills in maintaining the living collections of plants and increasing the diversity of plants on public display.

An accession is a collection of material that can be propagated from an individual plant, including flowers, foliage, seeds, shoots, roots or the whole plant. The number of accessions on botanical display is the number growing in the Botanic Garden, Synergy Parkland, Lotterywest Family Area and Fraser Avenue garden beds.

This measure is calculated by the number of accessions in botanical displays in Kings Park and Botanic Garden over the total number of accessions alive in living collections. There was an increase of 20 in the actual number of accessions on display compared with the previous year, however the percentage of accessions on display decreased by 2% from the previous year. This percentage decrease resulted from an increase of 794 in the total number of accessions alive this year compared with the 2006/07 year. This increase in total accessions has resulted from collection programs to meet long-term conservation initiatives associated with the Millennium Seed Bank project, the display of which is not a primary consideration.

Number of Accessions in Botanical Displays

Reporting Year	No. of Accessions in Botanical Display	Total No. of Accessions Alive	Target %	Actual %
2007/2008	6,669	17,396	45	38
2006/2007	6,649	16,602	45	40
2005/2006	6,518	16,178	43	40
2004/2005	6,590	15,416	40	43

2.3 Percentage of accessions lost in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

This is a measure of horticultural and management skills in maintaining the living collections of plants, where a lower percentage represents an improvement. The number of new living accessions this year was 1,581, but the loss of 787 accessions in the same year has resulted in a net gain of 794 accessions. The loss of accessions was slightly better than expected at 4.5% instead of 5%, and was also better than the previous year in which an 8% loss of accessions was recorded.

It should be noted that there will always be losses of accessions caused by natural attrition, the replacement of ageing plants with new plantings to maintain optimum display and loss of seed viability over time. The Authority has procedures in place to ensure that, while specific accessions may be lost, the taxa are still retained in the living collections.

Number of Accessions Lost

Reporting Year	No. of Accessions Lost	Total No. of Accessions Alive	Target %	Actual %
2007/2008	787	17,396	5	4.5
2006/2007	1,282	16,602	3	8
2005/2006	845	16,178	4	5
2004/2005	553	15,416	2	4

2.4 The presence of 15 nominated perennially evident native plant species, which are the most vulnerable taxa within each Kings Park and Bold Park bushland.

This indicator measures the Authority's effectiveness in conserving a range of native plants in Kings Park and Bold Park bushland that have been selected and documented as the most vulnerable taxa in each park. The top 15 most vulnerable species are determined in each park through primary and secondary selection criteria. Primary criteria include species listed in the State Priority Flora list, or taxa that are rare, have limited distribution in the park or are known to be declining in the park. Secondary criteria include the species' reproductive method, occurrence in vulnerable habitats or sites at risk, or publicly important icon species.

The indicator is measured by an annual survey of the presence or absence of 15 nominated perennially evident native plant species in each park, which are the most vulnerable taxa within each of Kings Park bushland and Bold Park. Results of these surveys during the 2007/08 financial year recorded 100% presence of the nominated 15 species in each Park.

2.5 Number of common native plant species in Bold Park in areas with high levels of management compared to areas with low levels of management.

This indicator measures the Authority's effectiveness in restoring areas of degraded bushland in Bold Park. It is derived by annually surveying 15 nominated common native plant species within representative quadrats for two dominant community types, and comparing presence in both low management zones and high management zones.

High management zones are degraded areas undergoing ecological restoration. Low management zones are those areas not being actively restored at this time.

The dominant community types in Bold Park are Banksia woodland and heath over sand. Ten quadrats for each community type in both high and low management zones have been established (total of 40), and the number of common species present in each quadrat averaged to give a single figure for each management regime.

The indicator is calculated by dividing the average number of common species present in high management zones by the average number of common species present in low management zones, as determined through annual monitoring of representative quadrats within each zone. A figure greater than one indicates a higher number of common species in the high management areas.

This indicator is expected to increase over time and then stabilise once the broad restoration objectives of ecological stability and resilience are attained. New plantings are not scored as present until they have been established for a minimum of 30 months, due to high mortality rates during the establishment period.

The indicator this year is slightly lower than the target figure. This reflects the plot relocation and the associated increase in the number of common native species in the low management site, which has raised the average. One of the low management monitoring quadrats was relocated at the commencement of 2007/08 as it was observed that pedestrian traffic was wearing a trail through the site, which in turn was causing artificially low representation of the weed cover in the area. A new site close to the original quadrat but not affected by pedestrian traffic was selected, but it was not possible to match the number of common species present to the number in the previous site. This resulted in an increase in the number of common species in this low management site by two.

Average Numbers of Common Species Present

	Actual 2005/2006	Actual 2006/2007	Target 2007/2008	Actual 2007/2008
Average number of common species present in high management zones	5	5.4	-	5.6
Average number of common species present in low management zones	3.8	3.8	-	4.0
Indicator value	1.32	1.42	1.5	1.4

2.6 Weed cover in high intensity management areas compared to low intensity management areas in Bold Park.

This indicator measures the Authority's effectiveness in bushland restoration. It is derived by annually recording percentage weed cover within two dominant community types and comparing results for both low management zones and high management zones (high management zones are degraded areas undergoing ecological restoration. Low management zones are those areas not being actively restored at this time).

The dominant community types in Bold Park are Banksia woodland and heath over sand. Forty quadrats for each community type in both high and low management zones have been established (total of 160) and percentage weed cover recorded in each.

The indicator is calculated by dividing the average percentage weed cover in high management zones by the average percentage weed cover in low management zones. A figure less than 1 indicates a lower average percentage weed cover in the high management areas. The indicator is expected to decrease over time and then stabilise once the broad restoration objectives of ecological stability and resilience are attained.

This year the indicator value has decreased beyond the target figure due to a marked reduction in weed cover in the high management areas, reflecting the effectiveness of weed control programs that have been implemented. Weed cover in the low management areas was generally consistent with the 2006/2007 year.

Average Percentage of Weed Cover

	Actual 2005/2006	Actual 2006/2007	Target 2007/2008	Actual 2007/2008
Average percentage weed cover in high management zones	43.5%	24.8%	-	16.3%
Average percentage weed cover in low management zones	70.05%	36.8%	-	35.8%
Indicator value	0.62	0.67	0.65	0.45

2.7 Number of representative native plant taxa in Kings Park bushland.

This indicator is measured by an annual survey of the presence or absence of 15 nominated perennially evident native plant species, which are the most vulnerable taxa within Kings Park bushland. The continued presence of these species in Kings Park bushland provides an appropriate scientific measure of overall taxa present. It is not practical or feasible to annually survey all native plant taxa in all lands managed.

The total number of native plant taxa recorded has remained at 324 as there were no new recorded plant species and all of 15 nominated most vulnerable species were surveyed and recorded as present. The total number may vary from time to time as a result of new species being discovered, verification of plant records or as a result of genetic analysis of provenance, which may show that some species considered native were in fact early introductions to the park from nearby areas.

Number of Representative Native Plant Taxa in Kings Park Bushland

Reporting Year	Target	No. of Native Plant Taxa Recorded
2007/2008	324	324
2006/2007	324	324
2005/2006	324	324
2004/2005	319	324

2.8 Number of representative native plant taxa in Bold Park bushland.

This indicator is measured by an annual survey of the presence or absence of 15 nominated perennially evident native plant species, which are the most vulnerable taxa within Bold Park. The continued presence of these species in Bold Park provides an appropriate scientific measure of overall taxa present.

The number of native plant taxa recorded has remained the same as last year with a total of 310, as there were no new recorded plant species and all 15 of the nominated most vulnerable species were surveyed and recorded as present. The total number may vary from time to time as a result of the discovery of new species, verification of plant records or as a result of genetic analysis of provenance, which may show that some species considered native were in fact early introductions to the park from nearby areas.

Number of Representative Native Plant Taxa in Bold Park Bushland

Reporting Year	Target	No. of Native Plant Taxa Recorded
2007/2008	310	310
2006/2007	310	310
2005/2006	298	310
2004/2005	298	298

Service 2 – Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research

To measure the success of Service 2 the Authority uses the data collected from annual visitor surveys as demonstrated in indicators 2.1 to 2.5 above and through demonstrating leadership in urban bushland management, especially for Perth and regional communities; horticultural services including new plants developed for the nursery trade, and undertaking and promoting leading edge science and interpretation pertinent to integrated conservation of flora for present and future generations.

Key Efficiency Indicators

	Actual 2006/2007	Target 2007/2008	Actual 2007/2008	Notes
Average cost of representative native plant taxa in Kings Park bushland.	\$5,793	\$5,100	\$3,710	1
Average cost of representative native plant taxa in Bold Park bushland.	\$2,279	\$2,000	\$1,234	2
Average cost per research fee for service project administered.	\$6,733	\$7,400	\$7,161	
Percentage change in number of refereed scientific publications published per CF position compared to previous years	(20%)	6%	(25%)	3

Note:

- (1) The average cost of the native plant taxa in Kings Park has fallen due to the removal of the Capital User Charge for 2007/08.
- (2) The average cost of the representative native plant taxa in Bold Park has decreased following a change to the methodology for the re-allocation of Corporate Service costs of Bold Park between Service One and Service Two and the removal of the Capital User Charge for 2007/08.
- (3) The number of refereed scientific publications for 2006/07 was 28 instead of an anticipated 35 publications. However, this is a traditionally difficult indicator to attain specific targets or maintain a stable trend as science projects differ in terms of complexity and duration from year to year. This indicator was incorrectly reported in the 2007/08 published Budget Papers as the number of referred scientific publications in the year.

Appendix 3 – Our Volunteers

Friends of Kings Park President's Report

The 2007/08 year has seen the Friends build on the success of previous years, with an increase in membership to over 900 plus over one hundred staff members from the Authority. New facilities have been provided at the Lodge including a new shed for the storage of all our plant sale equipment, an undercover area to work under the new carport roof, along with a sealed work area under the carport. There has been an upgrade of the telephones within the Lodge and we have been able to increase the number of hours that our part time staff work in order to better meet the needs and expectations of our expanding membership.

Work continues on establishing new forms of membership, such as Corporate Membership in order to attract some of the companies that are developing their own corporate social and environmental goals and wish to become associated with the good works the Friends perform.

At the 2008 Annual General Meeting, there were changes made to our Constitution which are meant to facilitate the inclusion of Friends on the Register of Environmental Organisations, maintained by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, and the granting to the Friends of Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status by the Australian Taxation Office. This means that donations made to the Friends would be tax deductible. Hopefully, this will attract larger donations which can be put to good use in supporting the park and enhancing the environment. It will also make it possible for some philanthropic organisations whose Constitutions require them to donate to DGRs, to make donations to the Friends.

At the Volunteers Christmas Party in December, the President, Tom Alford presented Trish Bylsma with her Life Membership. Trish Bylsma retired as Vice President at the 2007 AGM, but continued in assisting the Management Committee through her membership of the Policy Advisory Group.

At the same event, Tom awarded six most worthy recipients; Kathy Baker, Colleen Bauer, Nick Davis, Anita Harrop, Darren Harrop, and Patrick Richardson-Bunbury with 10 Year Volunteers Badges and Certificates. He also awarded 10 Year Supporter Badges and Certificates to Jan Stacey, Rick Stacey, Heather Stacey, Marian Quantock, Ross Carville and Margaret Carville.

As in past years, the response to our plant sales has been very positive with sales reaching in excess of \$89,000. This year saw the first of our four day sales as part of the month long Wildflower Festival in September. Our sales are only successful because of the hard work of the volunteers who prepare, erect and dismantle the sales area and the volunteers who serve on the day. The work is hard, but enjoyable and very satisfying. During the year, our volunteers were issued with new shirts to provide a more positive image for the Friends as well as enhance their identification at sales and events.

In addition to the plant sales, we had a very successful year with our calendar sales and received donations of over \$8,000 from attendees to the Skyshow in January.

Wildflower Address

The tradition of our annual Wildflower Address was maintained in September. We were privileged to have Professor Richard Hobbs from Murdoch University who provided an informative talk on our ecosystems and the impact of natural phenomenon and human intervention.

Sponsorship

The Friends aims as part of its objects, to provide public education and support environmental study and research. Some of this is achieved by hosting the Wildflower Address and some by sponsoring others to gain experience, or participate in such work. This year, the Friends sponsored two Kings Park Guides, Carol Munt and Kathy Baker to attend a conference in Adelaide, was a major sponsor of the Medecos XI Conference held at the University of Western Australia, and made a donation to the Honour Avenues Group in recognition of the work done by the Group throughout the park.

Bob Bunny
President, Friends of Kings Park

Kings Park Guides President's Report

The Kings Park Volunteer Guides have been performing a service to Kings Park and Botanic Garden and the community for almost a quarter of a century. At the end of this financial year there were 103 Guides available for duty. This number, as has been the pattern for many years, shows a natural decline from last year's figure of 117. Following our established two year cycle there will be a training course for new Guides starting in July to bring the number back to the desired level.

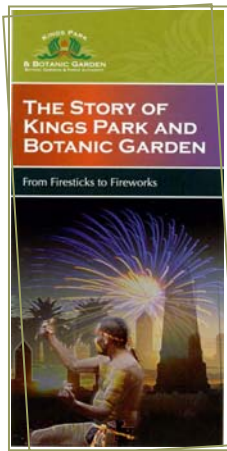
Over the course of the last twelve months the Guides have continued to carry out over 6000 hours of regular duties in the Visitor Information Centre and on guided walks. In addition to this, a small band of about thirty guides have given over 2000 hours to extra duties. These include:

- committee meetings and the accompanying work involved
- preparation of new and revised brochures
- organisation of Guide assessment (TEG – Team for Evaluating Guides)
- compiling rosters for general duties and those during the Wildflower Festival
- organization of the training course for new Guides

It is a most dedicated effort, and both the public and the Authority benefit greatly.

Visitor Information Centre

The Visitor Information Centre has opened daily (except Christmas Day) from 9.00am to 4.00pm with extended hours during the Wildflower Festival. Two Guides are on duty each shift, with two shifts covering the opening hours.



Since moving into the new Visitors Information Centre in 2006 Guides have used the opportunity to improve services to visitors. The display areas are fully utilised to allow visitors to view a continuous video display of attractive features of the park and to browse a wide range of pamphlets and brochures about the park and selected tourist attractions in the city.

Many of these park pamphlets have been developed in conjunction with or at the request of Guides. The latest of these "From Firesticks to Fireworks", written by the Guides, sets out the way the area now known as Kings Park has been a prominent part of life for the original Aboriginal custodians, the 19th Century colonists, the 20th Century people of the State of Western Australia and now the citizens of a mature, successful country. A most important aspect of the park's heritage is of course the large numbers of memorials to people and events of the past.

A daily record has been kept of the number of visitor contacts, and the statistics for the year show a total of 50,665 contacts by visitors from every continent (50,976 in 2006/07). There were also many phone enquiries.

The lightweight folding wheelchair purchased by the Guides for use by visitors to the Park has been loaned out many times, thus demonstrating that it does indeed fill a need. The funds for the wheelchair were raised by our Trading Table, which is held at each general meeting.

Free Guided Walks

Our program of two free guided walks a day, at 10.00am and 2.00pm has continued this year with the same calendar as before, depending on the season. Numbers of walkers vary according to the weather – fewer walkers if it is wet or windy, and a significant increase in September/October and during the Wildflower Festival. The regular walks take visitors into

the bushland in the appropriate seasons and into the Botanic Garden and the formal part of the park all the year round.

When requested, we also undertook special walks for larger groups or people with special interests. The Authority makes a small per capita charge for these.

Numbers of walkers in 2007-08:

Free Guided Walks	4,828	[4,210 in 2006/07]
Special Walks	825	[620 in 2006/07]
Total Walkers	5653	[4830 in 2006/07]

Evaluation

The Guides have continued to develop a compulsory, ongoing evaluation program for all Guides to ensure that our standards of performance match the expectations of visitors to WA's most visited attraction. The high standard of Guiding has been maintained, and despite some initial resistance to "Assessment" most Guides now accept the process and are happy with the compliments and suggestions that come out of this experience. The Team Evaluating Guides (TEG) is a body of ten experienced Guides elected by the whole group, who give extra voluntary time to observe and assess the quality of service given by each individual Guide. The TEG member quietly evaluates a Guide on duty and then provides confidential feedback, usually over a cup of coffee and may also offer guidance and support and listen to any problems that the Guide may want to put forward.

The TEG ensure all Guides meet the highest standards in keeping with our quality assurance. On the whole, Guides find being assessed a positive experience and the standard of Guiding remains very high. The Comments Book entries written by visitors reflect the intrinsic beauty of Kings Park and Botanic Garden, but also compliment the Guides who lead the walks and offer assistance in the Information Centre.

The TEG is operated on a two year cycle and this year has seen the first half of the required assessments completed.

Uniform

As much of our time is spent out of doors, our uniform shirts have long sleeves, we have wide brimmed hats and are encouraged to wear sunscreen, all of which offer protection against ultra-violet radiation, in the course of our duties. This provides an important example to the public. The Authority has also made sunscreen freely available to visitors at the Information Centre. Guides each have been provided free of charge with a uniform shirt that has the Authority logo plainly visible and also that of the Authority sponsor, Synergy. Each Guide is also provided with a hat for guided walks. This uniform gives conformity to the Guides and allows them to be easily recognizable when in the park.

We co-operate very closely with the Authority staff who have the statutory duty of ensuring that health and safety requirements are met. Guides are mindful of visitors' safety when in walking groups and advise them of possible risks during the introduction before the start of the walk.

This year steps have been taken to add a matching sleeveless vest to the uniform. It is expected the new vests will be available before the Wildflower Festival in September.

Wildflower Festival

The 2007 Wildflower Festival took on a new format. Instead of the activities and displays limited to a single weekend the Festival was spread over the entire month of September.

A new program of additional Festival Walks was instituted and the experience will prove invaluable as plans for the 2008 Festival Walks are drawn up. The extra duties were welcomed by Guides who had expanded opportunities to show visitors, local, interstate and overseas, the glories of Western Australian flora.

Further Education

All Guides are expected to update their knowledge and skills and to know the latest relevant information about the park and the flora. To this end we have instigated a group email notification process so that important news can be circulated rapidly to Guides who are on line. We also have ten meetings a year which all Guides are strongly encouraged to attend. Matters pertaining to our duties are discussed and then there is a speaker who gives a talk on a relevant subject. We have had, inter-alia, several Authority staff address us on a variety of topics.

During the week following each meeting there is usually a walk in the park that demonstrates some of the same information that was given in the talk at the General Meeting. The monthly newsletter is posted to all Guides and relevant Authority staff and provides articles with further educational content.

The Lodge

The Lodge, at the Fraser Avenue entry to the Park, continued to be used by the volunteer groups who work in Kings Park and Botanic Garden. Each group has its own room. There is a board room for meetings and a large central area. The Authority has generously provided the volunteers with a new photocopier which is in this area and is very well used. This central area also contains the printer and currently a large number of books that have been transferred to The Lodge from the library at the Biodiversity Conservation Centre. Work has begun on the make-over of the garden at the rear now that the old asbestos garage has been replaced with a better, larger model. The Master Gardeners have made a plan for the garden, the Friends have promised suitable plants, and the Authority will attend to the lawn area. All the volunteer groups will organize a busy bee to do the work once everything is ready.

Having all the volunteer groups with offices in the same building allows much more interaction which is very pleasant and engenders a co-operative working spirit.

Training Course for New Guides

Over the years a two year cycle of training new Guides to keep up our numbers has proved most effective. Following successful past practice a group of about 30 trainees has been selected by panel interview from the applicants for the course. With most valuable and welcome assistance from Authority staff, the course spread over 13 weeks has been organised and will be run by a Guide committee. Trainees will be expected to learn the required botanical and heritage information and of equal importance, training will be given in guiding techniques.

The wealth of knowledge and expertise available from the staff and experienced Guides will enable trainee Guides to reach a high standard of performance, ready to take their place with established Guides.

Jim Davies

President, Kings Park Guides

Kings Park Master Gardeners President's Report

At 30 June 2008, there are 35 Master Gardeners, 2 Master Gardener Interns and 5 Associate Members. In all we have contributed some 3,295 hours of voluntary service to the park and the public. To support this effort some 857 hours have been devoted to administrative work including rostering of members, review and reorganisation of our reference collection, the production of newsletters and articles, representation at meetings, preparation for public presentations and co-ordination of further education activities.

10th Anniversary Celebration

The highlight of our year has been the celebration of our 10th anniversary. At a very relaxed and warm celebratory morning tea, members were joined by the Chairman of the Board of Management, the Chief Executive Officer, Directors, Visitor Services staff, representatives of the other volunteer groups and a number of past members. As we met and mingled, a video loop showing many of our ten years' activities was projected on the wall. Speeches were light-hearted with Dr Kingsley Dixon setting the tone with his admission that his founding of the group in order to provide the public with a free telephone Gardening Advisory Service was somewhat premature since initially the park was unable to provide us with a phone! Following presentation of a ten year badge to the longest serving member and a Certificate of Appreciation to Bob Dixon, who has been responsible for the group since planning the first training course, the birthday cake - a mud cake - was cut. Guests then had a further opportunity to reminisce and a number of past members took the opportunity to tour the building and marvel at the contrast with the old Science building where we were originally housed.



BGPA CEO Mark Webb presenting Master Gardeners President Ethel Lucas with the 10 Year certificate. Photo: B Dixon

Gardening Advisory Service

Provision of advice to home gardeners on the growing of native plants is still the core business of our group and members have continued to operate the free telephone service on three half days per week, dealing with both recorded and direct calls. Several members now attend each Friends of Kings Park Plant Sale to assist buyers with their selections and to give planting and growing tips for the many species on offer. A start has been made on the revision and upgrading of the 'Native Plant Notes' which have always been an integral part of the service and a portable pamphlet holder has been purchased for their display at events.

Traditionally we have operated a 'Help Desk' as an extension of the Gardening Advisory Service at the annual five-day Wildflower Festival. Last year the Master Gardeners wholeheartedly embraced the new month long format of the festival. With a colourful new banner we made our presence known at almost every event and, equipped with a case of pamphlets and information, members became 'roving ambassadors' generally assisting visitors as well as dispensing gardening advice. We also took responsibility for the traditional named Plant Display table during the Market Weekend since many Science staff were participating in a conference, for the official dinner of which Master Gardeners produced the floral table decorations. In conjunction with the Education staff we presented an activity for children on Threatened Species Day and assisted children to plant seeds at the 'Great Granny and Gramps Gumboot Gardening' event.

Practical Activities



Master Gardeners at work in the Bush Garden.
Photo: B Dixon.

We have continued to 'practice what we preach' by further developing our Bush Garden adjacent to the Biodiversity and Conservation Centre. Fortunately, damage from the July 2007 storm was slight and maintenance work has been minimal, consisting mainly of the topping up of mulch, some weed control, occasional light pruning and the 'dead heading' of spent flowers. Although no fertiliser whatsoever, and no water, apart from that applied at planting, has ever been used, the display in spring was outstanding and the survival rate and general appearance over summer was very good. A further 1,000 plants raised by members have been added and natural recruitment will necessitate considerable thinning out. The garden now

provides an excellent example of the benefits of growing 'local' plants, as well as an attractive approach to an important building.

The Authority's Bushland Management team have again given Master Gardeners the opportunity to be involved in restoration work on the Scarp. This year's task of adding plants to enhance the remaining access route, the Kokoda Track, was a pleasant contrast to past years of plantings to stabilise closed pathways. Importantly, it was an informal learning opportunity and also a chance to work as a group and to enjoy the camaraderie this engenders, while making a practical contribution to the park.

Master Gardeners now have two 'teams' making a weekly contribution to the park's plant breeding program. This work is seen as highly relevant as further development of attractive and reliable plants can only make the task of encouraging the public to make greater use of Australian plants easier.

Other members are regularly committed to assisting in the seed technology area, and with tissue culture, including an orchid project. Many members assist on a 'needs basis' responding to requests for assistance by staff and post graduate students working in the Science area and simple tasks, such as seed cleaning, are often carried out in conjunction with rostered phone duty sessions.

Involvement in the program to return rare and endangered species to their natural habitat remains a major aspect of our work. Members have worked on the preparation of labels, planting out, watering, monitoring and data entry, and the collection and cleaning of seed from translocation sites. This work generally entails long days working on country sites and sometimes an overnight stay.

Promotional Activities

Master Gardeners have continually sought opportunities to promote the beauty and diversity of our native flora, the work of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, our own Gardening Advisory Service, and the work carried out by the other volunteer groups. A number of talks have been given to service, social and gardening groups in return for a donation to the park. Members have also accepted an invitation to present a session of a local authority seminar series, the chance to advertise the 2007 Festival on radio and to participate in a segment of the 'Wonders of WA' television program, as well as assisting with filming associated with an around the world yacht race!

The Friends of Kings Park have kindly included a regular Master Gardeners' article featuring attractive garden plants, together with details of their propagation and cultivation, in their quarterly magazine, 'For People and Plants'. The new 'BGPA Newsletter' has provided yet another avenue for promotion, and abbreviated versions of our Native Plant Notes have now been added to the Authority's website.

Training and Further Education

Seventeen members of the 2006 Training Course completed the requirements of their internship and were awarded certificates and badges at last year's Christmas function. Without their expertise, enthusiasm and dedication, the Master Gardeners could not have offered so much assistance to staff and students, nor accepted the opportunity to be involved in so many activities, especially during the 2007 Festival.

Our monthly newsletter, MAGAZine, continues to keep members informed of our activities, developments within the park and botanical and horticultural issues, as well as challenging members with a regular quiz. Through our program of speakers we have learned something of the original collectors of Western Australian plants and the fate of their collections, the process of creating new hybrids and cultivars, and gained a better understanding of the management and financing of park projects. Many members also took the opportunity to attend a workshop on FloraBase. Following the Festival we rewarded ourselves with a visit to Ellis Brook Reserve, a superb wildflower site within easy travelling distance of Perth, and more recently have visited several nurseries and learned of the commercial realities of raising and selling native plants.

Improved Facilities

Funding to purchase additional books, the committee's total reorganisation of our reference collection, and provision of computer access to FloraBase and other relevant websites have greatly improved our ability to respond to the public's enquiries from the Gardening Advisory Service desk in the Biodiversity and Conservation Centre.

Improved storage in our office in the Lodge is improving the organisation of and accessibility of our equipment and records. While provision of a phone in that office has overcome some communication problems we have experienced regular difficulties with our aged computer and email 'outages' in the building. An excellent printer and the installation of a new photocopier has, however, benefitted all volunteer groups sharing the building.

Master Gardeners and Staff Interaction

We once again sincerely thank Chief Executive Officer, Mr Mark Webb, for his continued interest and encouragement. His support for volunteers is reflected throughout the Authority. We also thank the directors, Ms Marcelle Broderick, Dr Kingsley Dixon and Mr Digby Grows for their ongoing support and the opportunities they have given us to participate in the work and activities of the Authority.

We are grateful to all members of the Visitor Services team and especially to Peter Netherway who has not only given outstanding assistance to our group but has facilitated closer co-operation between all volunteer groups. We express our gratitude to the administrative assistants who facilitate our work and interface with the Authority and to all staff and students who happily share their knowledge, skills and facilities with us.

Above all we must thank our mentor, Biodiversity and Extensions Manager, Bob Dixon. Without his untiring assistance and confidence in our ability we could not have continued to contribute, and to enjoy the many rewards of voluntary service in Kings Park and Botanic Garden over the last ten years.

Ethel Lucas

President, Kings Park Master Gardeners

Honour Avenues Group Chairman's Report

We are very pleased indeed to announce the completion of a major task, set in the latter part of last year, which was to complete the refurbishment of all 1,312 plaques within the three Honour Avenues of Kings Park, together with their posts.

The plaques to be refurbished were recovered in groups of 20 and returned to our workshop for shipment to a local contractor who blasted them back to bare metal and applied a high quality primer before returning them to us.

In our Kings Park workshop we then applied two coats of black enamel, by brush, before finishing off by applying an aluminium paint to the letters and numerals using the stippling method. The post, if reusable, is cleaned and sanded before three coats of a durable white paint is applied. If the post is damaged a new one that has been previously prepared is used. Finally the distinguishing unit acrylic colour patch is screwed on to identify that person's branch of the service or Regiment/Battalion.

Where a plaque is damaged, or unreadable through the passing of time, it is replaced with a new aluminium based plaque the lettering and numerals being set in the Kings Park workshop.

We are indebted to ALCOA Australia and their great community spirit, for supplying all of the special aluminium needed to make these and future plaques. This gesture will ensure that our Honour Avenues' plaques live on down through the years reminding park visitors of the sacrifice made for them by so many young Western Australians.

With a strength of 16 former servicemen and women, all members of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch, over 1,464 working hours have been achieved this year. Our new projects include the replacement of 106 cast-iron plaques that have been welded over the years and the refurbishment of The Centenary plaques and posts in Fraser Avenue.

There is the usual week by week work such as cleaning, straightening and resetting of existing posts and sometimes the replacement of plaques and unit patches following a clash with a parking vehicle.

None of this work, I might add, could have been undertaken without the granting of financial support from the Western Australian Government and last year the Authority for which we shall be forever grateful.

This support demonstrates clearly that the Authority believes totally, together with ourselves, in the words, *Lest We Forget*.

Our Dedication Services are now being held in May Circle, May Drive, the site of the original opening of the first Honour Avenue in August 1919. During this last year three services were held on this site and a total of 24 new plaques dedicated in the presence of relatives and friends, Authority and RSL officials and an Army Chaplain and Bugler.

The most memorable service was in May of this year when a memorial stone, obtained from an unused rock pile in the park, was laid on the Southside of May Circle and a special plaque attached to it telling the story of the "Vyner Brooke Tragedy"

Five Honour Plaques were then attached, by relatives, to posts located next to new plantings. These were dedicated to the five Western Australian women of the Australian Army Nursing Service who either drowned at sea, or were shot by the Japanese, when coming ashore, on Bangka Island following the fall of Singapore in 1942.



Five West Australian Army nurses lost their lives in 'The Vyner Brook Tragedy' during WWII. Photo: J Thomas

We sincerely thank the Board, Mr. Mark Webb, the executive staff and park staff for their wonderful advice and co-operation in making this project come to life.

Many relatives, of those who are remembered in the Honour Avenues of Kings Park, contact us and enquire as to who places a flower on their relative's plaque on ANZAC Day each year. We are pleased to inform them that this is done on the day before by students of Carine Senior High School and in fact this has been carried out now for over 20 years. The school is also custodians of the memorial, in Marri Walk, dedicated to the men who died on the infamous Sandakan Death March and therefore clearly demonstrates the close relationship existing between the school and the memorials of Kings Park.

Our aim is to ensure that the plaques within the Honour Avenues of Kings Park are forever pristine and a source of pride for the citizens of Western Australia.

We believe:

*These plaques, with their white posts, are their spiritual crosses,
wherever their physical remains maybe on land or sea.
Here they rest together and share an undying comradeship in this park of peace.
Lest We Forget*

Norman G Manners
Chairman
Highgate RSL Honour Avenues Group

Friends of Bold Park Bushland President's Report

Although our committee has been small and we have not had a secretary we have managed well and have had a productive year. Four past or present committee members received certificates from the Authority for twenty years of active support of the Friends – these were Norma Calcutt, Joy and Alex Robinson, and myself. Other committee members comprise David Ball, John McNaught, Barbara Knott and Judith Harvey.

Newsletters

We have made a concerted effort to make our newsletters more visually appealing, with greater use of coloured photos. As well as being sent to members, these are made available at the front counter of the Ecology Centre and at special events. Our next aim is to produce these more frequently and to distribute them more widely.

Adopt-a-Highway program

We have continued our involvement in the Adopt-a-Highway program. Four times a year a group of around three to five members meets to collect rubbish from the West Coast Highway frontage of the park. About 20 – 30 large bags of rubbish are collected each time and are later picked up by the Town of Cambridge. Jeremy Owens organises this valuable activity which helps to keep this very visible edge of the park looking respectable and cared for.

Bushland Regeneration Group

The Bushland Regeneration Group weeds between May and November, twice monthly. The core group of six regular members has concentrated on removing Euphorbia, gladioli and bridal creeper from the Eastern Gateway site, uphill from the Tuart Car Park off Perry Lakes Drive. John Abernathy, Dorothy Anderson, David Ball, Jan Dyson, Soo Harries and Annette Roberts have continued their work with this group, with activities organised by Barbara Knott.

We have also undertaken planting within selected sites in the Eastern Gateway rehabilitation, using a larger group of volunteers and working closely with Authority staff.

Monitoring Group

The Monitoring Group has continued to record the survival rates of the previous year's plantings. They meet at the end of each season and this group is now scrutinising a total of nine sites in the Eastern Gateway area. This work has been undertaken by Dorothy Anderson, Shirley Cranigan, Barbara Knott and Annette Roberts.

Twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Friends

This year marked the twentieth anniversary of the Friends, which was formed in 1987 in order to protect Bold Park from very real threats in the form of housing and road proposals. These days the park is largely secure from such proposals, but a number of our current members and committee members were active during the early days of the group.



A walk led by Birds Australia WA was held in conjunction with the Friends 20th Anniversary celebration. Photo: J Crandell

To celebrate this milestone in our history, last spring we staged a very enjoyable reunion attended by around sixty members, both past and present, and representatives of the Authority. The reunion comprised a luncheon at the Ecology Centre, in conjunction with several guided walks organised by the Authority as part of the annual wildflower festival. The Urban Bushland Council presented us with a special certificate recognising our achievements. The event received advance publicity in the local Post newspaper and gave us the opportunity to communicate with past members as well as publicise our achievements.

Displays

This year we mounted displays of photographs of the park and information about our activities at several venues: the Floreat Library (for Conservation Week), Claremont Rotary Fair and Floreat Primary School Fair.

Links with other conservation groups

We have maintained our formal links with peak conservation bodies, the Conservation Council of WA and the Urban Bushland Council, as well as informal links supporting the activities of local groups WREN (Western Region Environmental Network) and the Friends of Underwood Avenue.



Display at the Floreat Library during Environment Week. Photo: S Clegg.

Guided walks for Bold Park

Significant steps have been made towards establishing a program of guided walks in Bold Park. Last December a workshop organised by the Urban Bushland Council explored the concept of a program of guided walks in Bold Park. Apart from the Friends, other community groups involved in the workshop and subsequent liaison with the Authority were the Wildflower Society, Birds Australia WA and the Naturalists Club. The Authority supports investigation of the concept and work has begun on making guided walks a reality for Bold Park.

Campaigns

We have continued to be involved in activities in relation to developments near Bold Park - at the Ocean Mia site on The Boulevard and the new stadium and basketball facilities under construction on the AK Reserve next door to the CSIRO. We have also actively opposed UWA proposals for housing development on remnant bushland at the corner of Selby Street and Underwood Avenue, Floreat, on the grounds that this area comprises a significant link between Bold Park and Kings Park.

Our main campaign activity has been in relation to Stephenson Highway, in response to renewed pressure for construction of the northern end of this highway, near the Mitchell Freeway in Osborne Park. If the highway was built through City Beach, it would run through the centre of the northern section of Bold Park, between The Boulevard and Oceanic Drive.

We have publicised the highway proposal in public displays and letterbox drops and encouraged people to write to the planning minister. A written report has been compiled that documents the conservation values of the northern section of the park where the highway reserve is located, and identifies potential environmental impacts. We have worked closely with sympathetic members of Parliament and have written to and met with relevant Cabinet Ministers to voice our concern about the highway reservation's continued location within the park.

Liaison with Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

We are increasingly part of the wider family of community groups associated with the Authority. Various events organised by the Authority provide valuable opportunities to exchange ideas with other volunteer groups, for example, in relation to the very successful Kings Park Guides program.

We have a close working relationship with staff located at Bold Park, who work with us on our bush care programs, attend our monthly meetings and assist with newsletter production.

Stephanie Clegg

President, Friends of Bold Park Bushland Inc

Appendix 4 – Publications

The Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority creates and contributes to, many publications throughout the year.

Refereed publications

- Barrett, R.L. (2007). *Corymbia cadophora* subsp. Polychrome (Myrtaceae): a new subspecies from the east Kimberley region of Western Australia. *Nuytsia* 17: 13-36.
- Barrett, R.L. (2007). *Lepidosperma gahniodes*, a new species of Cyperaceae from the Ravensthorpe region, Western Australia. *Nuytsia*, 17: 61-66.
- Barrett, R.L. (2007). New species of *Lepidosperma* (Cyperaceae) associated with banded ironstone in southern Western Australia. *Nuytsia* 17: 27-60.
- Barrett, R.L., Wilson, P.G. (2007). Request for recommendation on valid publication of a 'normen subnudum'. *Taxon* 56:4 1295-1207.
- Bunn, E., Turner, S.R. Panaia, M. and Dixon, K. W. (2007). The contribution of in vitro technology and cryogenic storage to conservation of indigenous plants; an Australian example. *Australian Journal of Botany* 55: 345 – 355.
- Commander, L.E., Merritt, D.J., Rokich, D.P., et al. (2008). Seed germination of *Solanum* spp (Solanaceae) for use in rehabilitation and commercial industries. *Australian Journal of Botany* 56: 333-341.
- Cook, A., Turner, S.R., Baskin, J.M., Baskin, C.C., Steadman, K.J. and Dixon, K.W. (2008). Occurrence of physical dormancy in seeds of Australian Sapindaceae: A survey of 14 species in nine genera. *Annals of Botany* 101: 1349-1362.
- Crosti, R., Dixon, K.W., Ladd, P.G., Yates, C.J. (2007). Changes in the structure and species dominance in vegetation over 60 years in an urban bushland remnant. *Plant Conservation Biology* 13: 158-170.
- Esther, A., Groeneveld, J., Enright, N.J., Miller, B.P., Lamont, B.B., Perry, G.L.W., Schurr, F.M. and Jeltsch, F. (2008). Assessing the importance of seed immigration on coexistence of plant functional types in a species rich ecosystem *Ecological Modelling* 213: 402-416
- He, T.H., Lamont, B.B., Krauss, S.L., Enright, N.J. & Miller, B.P. (2008). Covariation between intraspecific genetic diversity and species diversity within a plant functional group. *Journal of Ecology* (in press)
- Hollick, P.S., McCombe, J.A., Dixon, K.W. (2007). Introduction, growth and persistence *in situ* of orchid mycorrhizal fungi. *Australian Journal of Botany* 55: 665-672.
- Krauss, S., Hermanutz, L., Hopper, S.D., Coates, D.J. (2007). Population-size effects on seeds and seedlings from fragmented eucalypt populations: implications for seed sourcing for ecological restoration. *Australian Journal of Botany* 55: 390-399.
- Merritt, D.J. Turner, S.R. Clarke S. and Dixon K.W. (2007). Seed dormancy and germination stimulation syndromes for Australian temperate species. *Australian Journal of Botany* 55: 336 – 344.
- Perry, G.L.W., Enright, N.J., Miller, B.P. and Lamont, B.B. (2008). Spatial patterns in species-rich Mediterranean-type shrublands of south-western Australia. *Journal of Vegetation Science* 19: 705-716.
- Roberts, D.L., Dixon, K.W. (2008). Orchids. *Current Biology* 18: R325-R329.

- Rudall, Paula, J., Remizowa, Margarita, Beer, Anton, S., Bradshaw, Elizabeth., Stevenson, Dennis, W., Macfarlane, Terry, D., Tuckett, R.E., Yadav, Shrirang, and Sokoloff, Dmitry, D. (2008). Comparative Ovule and Megagametophyte Development in Hydatellaceae and Water Lilies Reveal a Mosaic of Features Among the Earliest Angiosperms, *Annals of Botany*, 101:7, pp 941-956
- Sinclair, E. A. and Hobbs, R. (2008). Sample size effects on estimates of population genetic structure: implications for ecological restoration. *Restoration Ecology*. Published online June 2008.
- Sinclair, E. A., Cheetham B., Krauss S. L., Hobbs R. J. (2008). Patterns of morphological and molecular variation in *Conospermum triplinervium* R.Br (Proteaceae), the tree smokebush, and their implications for bushland restoration. *Australian Journal of Botany*. 56: 451-460.
- Sokoloff, Dmitry,D., Remizowa, Margarita, MacFarlane, Terry D., Tuckett, Renee E., Ramsay, Margaret M, Beer, Anton S., Yadav, Shrirang R and Rudall, Paula J. (2008). Seedling Diversity in Hydatellaceae: Implications for the Evolution of Angiosperm Cotyledons, *Annals of Botany*, 101: pp 153-164 (2008)
- Stevens, J.C., Merritt, D.J., Flematti, G.R., Ghisalberti, E.L. and Dixon, K.W. (2007). Seed germination of agricultural weeds is promoted by the butenolide 3-methyl-2H-furo[2,3-c]pyran-2-one under laboratory and field conditions. *Plant and Soil* 298: 113-124.
- Zhou J, Ma G-H, Bunn E, Zhang X. (2007). Shoot organogenesis from leaf and petiole in mosquito plant (*Pelargonium citrosum*). *Floriculture and Ornamental Biotechnology* 1:147-149.

Non-refereed publications and reports

- Anthony, J.M. and Dixon, I.R. (2007). *Acetosa vesicaria* – The case of the mistaken wildflower. In EMAPi9,17-20 Sept., 9th International conference on the ecology and management of alien plant invasions, p 204
- Bunn, E., Turner, S.R., Dixon, K.W.. (2007). Solutions for recalcitrance to propagation with threatened plants in a Mediterranean ecosystem: profiles of *ex situ* conservation using *in vitro* and cryogenic methods applied to the Western Australian flora. XI International Mediterranean Ecosystems Conference Sep 2-5 2007, Perth, Western Australia.
- Clarke, S., Stevens, J., Ryan, M., Mitchell, M., Chivers, I and Dixon, K. (2007) Enhancing native perennial grass germination for sustainable pasture systems. 5th *Stipa National Native Grasses Conference on the Management of Native Grasses and Pastures, Australia*. University of Melbourne. 49-56.
- Cook, A., Turner, S. R. and Dixon, K. W. (2007). *Physical dormancy in Australian Sapindaceae*. 2nd *International Society for Seed Science Meeting on Seeds and the Environment*, Sep 9-13 2007, Perth, Western Australia.
- Dixon, B. (2007). Managing translocation sites for rare species to achieve better long term outcomes. In Proceedings Medicos X1, International Mediterranean Ecosystems Conference 3-5 Sept 2007 p75-76. Eds. Rockich, D., Wardall-Johnson, G., Yates, C., Stevens, J., Dixon, K., McLellan, R. and Moss, G.
- Easton, S.D. and Dixon, I.R. (2007). Effectiveness of 2,2-DPA in controlling *Babiana*, *Ixia* and *Allium* in native bushland. In EMAPi9,17-20 Sept. 9th International conference on the ecology and management of alien plant invasions, p 155.
- Fisher, J.L., Veneklaas, E.J., Loneragan, W.A., Dixon, K.W.. (2007). Fundamental ecological changes linked to frequent disturbance and invasion in a *Banksia* woodland community. XI International Mediterranean Ecosystems Conference Sep 2-5 2007, Perth, Western Australia.

- Merritt, D. J., Turner, S. R., Clarke, S. and Dixon, K. W. (2007). How do we efficiently define seed germination techniques in diverse floras? Some methods for resolving temperature and moisture cues for dormancy loss and the use of the smoke stimulant. *2nd International Society for Seed Science Meeting on Seeds and the Environment*, Sep 9-13 2007, Perth, Western Australia.
- Miller B.P., Enright NJ and Lamont BB (2007) Range contraction and conservation status of *Banksia hookeriana*, a fire-killed shrub of the Eneabba Sandplain. 32nd annual conference of the Ecological Society of Australia (ESA) November 2007 Perth WA
- Miller B.P., Enright NJ, Lamont BB, Perry GLW, Herath D, van den Berg C and Haughton Allen V (2007) Spatial pattern of seed dispersal in four, species-rich, fire-adapted shrublands near Eneabba, SW WA. MEDECOS Mediterranean Ecosystems Conference, Perth WA
- Ord, R., Rokich, D., Turner, S. and Plummer, J. 2007. Wind erosion and invertebrate activity on broadcast seed removal in *Banksia* woodland restoration, Western Australia. *XI International Mediterranean Ecosystems Conference* Sep 2-5 2007, Perth, Western Australia.
- Panaia M, Bunn E, McComb JA. (2007). Successful *in vitro* propagation (through somatic embryogenesis) of sedge species important for land rehabilitation is dependent on the correct identification of good quality, viable seed. *XI International Mediterranean Ecosystems Conference* Sep 2-5 2007, Perth, Western Australia.

Scientific publications can also be obtained from the Authority's website.

For People and Plants – Friends of Kings Park Magazine

- Broderick, M. (2007). The 2007 Wildflower Festival – New Name, New Look, *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 58, p 8.
- Bunn, E. (2007). The Eneabba Mallee – tissue culture research for conservation of an endangered species. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 58, p16-18.
- Bunn, E. and Dixon, B. (2007). Salvation for Bancroft's *Symonanthus* (*Symonanthus bancroftii* (F.Muell.) L. Haegi, Solanaceae), a rare plant from Western Australia. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 59, p28-29.
- Clarke, S. (2008). Using Native Grasses for Sustainable Pasture Systems: How Can We Improve Germination and Establishment? *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 60, p16-17.
- Dixon, B. (2008) Book Review – Western Weeds (second edition): A Guide to the Weeds of Western Australia. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 60, p25.
- Dixon, B. (2008). Science in Kings Park and Botanic Garden Underpins the Conservation of Western Australia's Unique Flora. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 61, p 7-9.
- Dixon, K. (2007). Seed Ecology II, Perth, Western Australia, September 2007, 'Seeds and the Environment'. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 59, p 24-25.
- Easton, S. (2008). Sugar Gums Not So Sweet. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 61, p 5-6.
- Golos, P and Rokich, D. (2007). Just Add Water. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 58, p19.

- Hufford, K. (2008). Biodiversity, Ecological Restoration and Triggerplants: a New Project Investigates Western Australian Stylidiaceae. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 61, p 12-13.
- Kennedy, J. (2007). Kings Park Festival blossomed into more than wildflowers. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 59, p 3-7.
- Keys, K. (2008). Babes to Blooms. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 61, p3-4.
- Mansell-Fletcher, J. (2007). Fauna Corner – First Aid for Perth’s Wildlife. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 58, p10–12.
- Mansell-Fletcher, J. (2008). Fauna Corner – Kings Park and Botanic Garden Pests, Part 1. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 61, p19-20.
- Merritt, D. (2008). Kings Park Science Fosters New Industry Partnerships. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 60, p12-13.
- Pin Tay, E. (2007). Goodeniaceae – Good for Nothing? *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 59, p 20-23.
- Pin Tay, E. (2007). M is for MYRTACEAE, Part 2, *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 58, p 4-7.
- Pin Tay, E. (2008). CASUARINACEAE – An Oak, a Pine or a Tamarisk? *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 60, p 4-7.
- Sinclair, E. (2008). A molecular Look at Bushland Restoration. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 60, p22-24.
- Thomas, J. (2007). Arboriculture in Kings Park and Botanic Garden. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 58, p 9.
- Thomas, J. (2007). Chronicles of a Storm. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 59, p 8-9.
- Thomas, J. (2008). Quality Trees for Kings Park and Botanic Garden’s Future. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 61, p 10-11.
- Walck, J. and Hidayati, S. (2007). Americans in Perth: exploring Australian seeds. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 59, p 26-27.
- Webb, M. (2007). Proposed new project – Environmental Discovery and Learning Experience. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 59, p 14.
- Webb, M. (2008). Book Review - The Old Country: Australian Landscapes, People and Plants by George Seddon. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 60, p11.
- Webb, M. (2008). Classic Gardens of China. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 60, p 8-10.

Information Publications and Brochures

All Information brochures are available from the Visitor Information Centre, the front reception at Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park and many are available on the Authority’s website. In addition, a range of botanical, gardening, historical, Indigenous, and children’s books are available for sale at *Aspects of Kings Park*.

- Aboriginal Life
- Birds of Bold Park
- Birds of Kings Park and Botanic Garden

- Bold Park Visitor Guide (includes map of Bold Park) (link to Bold Park section of website)
- Camel Lake Heritage Trail
- Discover Kings Park Education Service
- From Firestick to Fireworks
- Guided Walks
- Kings Park and Botanic Garden Visitor Map and Information Brochure
- Kings Park Bushland Nature Trail
- Kings Park for Kids (Kings Park Guides)
- Know Kings Park Series (Kings Park Guides)
- Lotterywest Federation Walkway
- Maps of Kings Park and Botanic Garden (link to the maps section)
- Science @ Kings Park and Botanic Garden
- Self-Guided Memorials Walk
- Social Functions in Kings Park and Botanic Garden
- Special Walks
- The Bali Memorial
- Weddings in Kings Park and Botanic Garden
- Western Australian Botanic Garden
- Wildflowers for Gardens (Master Gardeners)

Publications Available on Request

- Annual Reports 2000 – onwards
- Bold Park Management Plan 2006-2011
- Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Strategic Plan 2007-2012
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2007 - 2012
- Kings Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan 2004-2009
- Science Directorate Strategic Plan 2006-2011

Authority Publications Available to Purchase from *Aspects of Kings Park*



The colourful Kings Park and Botanic Garden souvenir book is available from *Aspects of Kings Park*.

- 2009 Friends of Kings Park Calendar
- Australian Seeds
- Avenues of Honour For People and Plants (Friends of Kings Park Magazine)
- Kings Park and Botanic Garden: Western Australia
- Memorials and Memories
- Perth Plants: a field guide to the bushland and coastal flora of Kings Park and Bold Park, Perth, Western Australia.

Appendix 5 – Scientific Research Grants

Industry Grants

- 1 Rocla Quarry Products: Developing sustainable restoration of Banksia woodland communities disturbed through sand quarrying activities (2000-ongoing).
- 2 Portman Iron Ore Pty Ltd: An integrated research program focused on the on- and off-site conservation of the declared rare flora *Tetratheca paynterae* (2004-2007).
- 3 Shark Bay Resources: A program to research and develop integrated restoration of borrow pits for Shark Bay Resources Pty Ltd (2004-2007).
- 4 Westralia Airports Corporation: Deriving Research Benchmarks for Nationally Threatened Plant Species occurring on Westralia Airports Corporation Land (2004-2007).
- 5 Mt Gibson Iron Ore Pty Ltd: An integrated research program focussed on the on- and off-site conservation of the declared rare flora *Darwinia masonii* (2004-2008).
- 6 Australian Orchid Foundation: Seed storage optimisation for Australian orchids (2004-2009).
- 7 Fire and Emergency Services Authority: Impact of fire suppressing agents on native vegetation in Western Australia (2005-2008).
- 8 ACMER: Optimising collection, storage and germination of Australian native plant species (2005-2008).
- 9 Millennium Seedbank Project: Western Australian Seeds Program (2005-2009).
- 10 Millennium Seedbank Project: Seed conservation science for Western Australian orchids (2005-2009).
- 11 Roe 7 Alliance: Conservation biology of the grand spider orchid (*Caladenia huegelii*) (2005-2009).
- 12 Department of Environment and Conservation, Great Southern District: Rare Plant Translocations program for *Grevillea scapigera*
- 13 Department of Environment and Conservation, Yilgarn District, Wheatbelt Region Rare Plant Translocations program for *Symonanthus*
- 14 Public Transport Authority: funding for conservation of *Verticordia lindleyi* subsp. *lindleyi* continues.
- 15 AgWA: DNA barcoding of elite varieties of wax-flower (2006-2007).
- 16 Newcrest Operations: Weed Ecology and Management for Newcrest Operations, Telfer (2006-2009).
- 17 Australian Orchid Foundation: Role of pollinators and mycorrhiza in speciation of hammer orchids (*Drakaea*) – implications for conservation (2006-2009).
- 18 Rocla Quarry Products: Understanding the physiological reasons that underpin Banksia species establishment (2006 – 2011).
- 19 Department of Environment and Conservation: Conservation biology of *Drakaea elastica* and *Drakaea concolor* (2007).
- 20 Department of Environment and Conservation: Clonal propagation through tissue culture of the critically endangered *Dryandra montana* (Proteaceae) (2007-ongoing).
- 21 Worsley Alumina: *In vitro* culture lines of selected recalcitrant rush and sedge species to assist in production of plants for restoration (2007-ongoing).
- 22 Mt Gibson Iron Ore Pty Ltd: An integrated research program into practical outcomes for the *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation, restoration and translocation of the *Lepidosperma* sp. 'Mt Gibson' (2007).

- 23 Holdsworth Wildlife Endowment: Conservation biology of Australian hammer orchids (2007-2009).
- 24 Mt Gibson Iron Ore Pty Ltd: An integrated research program focused on the on- and off-site conservation of the declared rare flora *Darwinia masonii* and *Lepidosperma* sp. Mt Gibson (2007-2010).
- 25 Newcrest Operations: Ecosystem Restoration Principles for Newcrest Operations, Telfer (2007-2010).
- 26 Main Roads: Glossy Leaved Hammer Orchid conservation (2008-20120).
- 27 BHP Billiton. A major new five year project with BHP Billiton Iron Ore has commenced. This seed science and seed management project will develop a "Seed Atlas for the Pilbara" that provides practical guidelines for the collection, processing, storage, germination and use of seeds in restoration for dominant and priority species in the Pilbara region.
- 28 Gindalbie Metals Ltd. A research program for resolution of the taxonomic status and genetic variation in *Lepidosperma* sp. 'Blue Hills' and close relatives (February-May 2008).
- 29 GME Resources. A research plan for deriving research benchmarks for conservation of the rare species *Cratystylis centralis*. Depending on the initial research outcomes, it is possible this project may be extended. (2008-2009 initially)
- 30 Alcoa of Australia: A national program for leading practice in seed conservation science (2006-2011).
- 31 Cockburn Cement Limited, Department of Industry and Resources and UWA have agreed to further grant funding to allow the expansion of current research on *Posidonia australis*, to assess population genetic variation. (2008 initially)
- 32 Worsley Alumina: Effects of seed burial depth, seed size and soil-related factors on seedling emergence at Boddington Bauxite Mine (2008).

Nationally Competitive Grants

1. Rapid genetic delineation of provenance for effective restoration of urban bushland remnants. ARC Linkage grant (2003-2007: total funds \$340,000).
2. Quantifying long-distance seed dispersal and its role in the metapopulation dynamics of plants with contrasting life histories. ARC Discovery grant (2005-2009: total funds \$670,000).
3. A molecular ecophysiological assessment of the importance of using local provenance seed in native plant community restoration. ARC Linkage grant (2006-2011: total funds \$780,000).
4. Reliable establishment of non-traditional perennial pasture species. CRC for Plant-Based Management of Dryland Salinity, Sustainable Grazing of Saline Lands, Meat and Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Initiative (2006-2009: total funds \$850,000).
5. A physiological and biochemical basis for seed storage for biodiversity conservation and restoration. ARC-Linkage (2005-2008: total funds \$353,000).
6. Optimising synthesis, developing delivery systems and resolving the ecological significance of the chemical in smoke that promotes seed germination. ARC-Discovery (2005-2008: total funds \$355,000).
7. Grass roots - native perennial grasses for sustainable pasture systems. RIRDC (2005-2008: total funds \$585,000).
8. Discovery of the physiological and molecular modes of action of butenolide in promoting seed germination and vigour in plants. ARC-Discovery (2006-2009: total funds \$470,000).

9. Improving establishment of commercial native plants suitable for agroforestry through improved understanding of germination biology, moisture management and weed control. Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (2007-2008: total funds \$416,000).
10. Enhancing native seed performance for minesite restoration and biodiversity conservation. ARC-Linkage (2007-2009: total funds \$261,000).
11. A novel method of broad-acre weed seedbank management using a naturally occurring germination stimulant. ARC-Linkage (2007-2009: total funds \$282,848).
12. *In vitro* propagation (through somatic embryogenesis) of rush and sedge species important for land rehabilitation. ARC Linkage. (2006–2008: approx. value: \$220,000).
13. The Science Directorate and collaborative partners have been successful with four applications for recently announced ARC grant bids, namely:
 - a. LP0882775: Investigation of the metabolism, molecular targets and environmental fate of the seed germination stimulant, butenolide (2008-2012: \$575,000). Administering organisation: UWA. Collaborative partners: Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Worsley Alumina Pty Ltd, Iluka Resources, Extension Hill/Mt Gibson Iron, Alcoa World Alumina
 - b. LP0882671: Assessing plant virus threats to indigenous Western Australian flora: implications for biodiversity, conservation, ecosystem reclamation and the wildflower industry (2008-2010: \$255,000). Administering organisation: Murdoch University. Collaborative partners: Department of Agriculture and Food WA, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Alcoa World Alumina Australia, Worsley Alumina Pty Ltd, Saturn Biotech Pty Ltd
 - c. LIEF bid with UWA for cryo preparation equipment at the Centre for Microscopy, Characterisation and Analysis.
 - d. ARC grant: Development of cryopreservation for high value provenance collections of recalcitrant species used in post mining restoration (2008-2011). Administering organisation: Curtin University of Technology. Collaborative partners: RMIT University, The University of Queensland, The University of Western Australia and Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority.

Appendix 6 – Research Scientists and Students

Research Scientists

Information regarding the Authority's Research Scientist can be found by going to the science section of the Authority's website.

Externally Funded Research Scientists

- Dr Janet Anthony is genetics lab manager, and is conducting research on genetic erosion in *Grevillea scapigera*.
- Dr Matt Barrett is working on an integrated conservation research program for the declared rare flora *Darwinia masonii* and *Lepidosperma* sp. *Mt Gibson*.
- Dr Penny Butcher is working on an integrated conservation research program for the declared rare flora *Tetralochea paynterae*.
- Dr Siti Hidayati is working on an ARC funded project investigating the physiology of seed germination and seed longevity.
- Dr Kristina Hufford is assessing the molecular ecophysiological consequences of the importance of using local provenance seed in bushland restoration.
- Dr Christopher Loo is managing the seed enhancement subprogram for a nationally collaborative project for the reliable establishment of non-traditional pasture species, with funding from Land Water and Wool, MLA, AWI, and the CRC Plant Based Management of Dryland Salinity.
- Dr David Merritt is the BGPA/Alcoa seed conservation scientist, and manages the seed biology programs of the Authority, with 50% funding from Alcoa World Alumina Australia.
- Dr Ben Miller is conducting population ecological research on the declared rare flora *Darwinia masonii* and *Lepidosperma* sp. *Mt Gibson*.
- Dr Liz Sinclair is involved in the genetic delineation of provenance for the rehabilitation of urban bushland remnants.
- Dr Ann Smithson is assessing the molecular ecophysiological consequences of the importance of using local provenance seed in bushland restoration.
- Dr Jason Stevens is the BGPA/Rocla restoration ecophysiologicalist, and manages the restoration ecophysiology programs of the Authority, with 50% funding from Rocla.
- Dr TianHua He is working on an ARC funded project assessing genetic variation and population dynamics of *Banksia hookeriana* and genetic provenance issues for Bold Park restoration.
- Dr Shane Turner is working on an ARC funded project looking at ways of enhancing seed performance for minesite restoration and biodiversity conservation.
- Dr Jeff Walck is working on a project funded by the Millennium Seedbank, researching the ecophysiology of seed dormancy and germination.

Students

- Robert Alderman has commenced a one-year research project "Germinating agricultural (cropping) weeds using the smoke derived chemical Karrikinolide".
- Russell Barrett continues his PhD revising the taxonomy of *Lepidosperma* in association with molecular phylogenetic studies.
- Stephen Benigno has commenced his PhD investigating the effects of soil compaction and water stress on *Banksia* woodland restoration.
- Helen Bowers commenced her PhD project investigating seed dormancy and germination in Australian Rutaceae.

- Donna Bradbury continues her PhD on a population genomics assessment of population genetic structure in Tuart.
- Mark Bundock commenced a PhD to investigate the effects of commonly used herbicides and adjuvants on native vegetation in Western Australia.
- Denny Chan Chin has commenced a PhD project developing seed conservation methods for threatened and endemic tree species of Mauritius.
- Samantha Clarke continues a PhD project to develop establishment techniques for native perennial grasses for sustainable pasture systems.
- Lucy Commander continues a PhD program to research and develop integrated restoration of borrow pits in the Shark Bay World Heritage area.
- Eleftheria Dalmaris continues her PhD on Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) decline, which includes a molecular phylogeographic assessment of genetic variation within and among populations.
- Jessica Daniels continues a PhD program on seed storage physiology and seed dormancy of orchid species.
- Alea Faber-Castell is undertaking her PhD into the conservation and biology of Australian duck orchids (*Paracaleana*).
- Kristy Fenner is undertaking an Honours project investigating seed dormancy mechanisms and germination of four problematic species required for minesite restoration.
- Michalie Foley continues her PhD project on the molecular ecology assessment of habitat fragmentation of *Banksia ilicifolia*.
- Peter Golos commenced a PhD investigating “Ecosystem Restoration Principles for Newcrest Operations, Telfer”.
- Melissa Graham commenced an Honours program to assess the effects of seed burial depth, seed size and soil-related factors on seedling emergence at Boddington Bauxite Mine.
- Erin Griffiths has commenced her one-year research project “Using nursery management techniques to improve banksia and eucalypt establishment post mining”.
- Lydia Guja completed her Honours project investigating seed dispersal mechanisms and plant distribution within the metropolitan coastal zone.
- Lydia Guja has commenced her PhD project continues in this area, investigating the relationship between seed dispersal mechanisms, seed germination traits and plant distribution in the coastal zone.
- Beorn Harris has commenced his PhD researching biotechnology solutions for enhanced propagation of Western Australian *Ericaceae* for minesite restoration and horticultural and conservation applications.
- Natalie Krawczyk commenced an Honours program to research weed seed dispersal by birds, both native and introduced, in the Perth Metropolitan region.
- David Leach continues a PhD research program that will assess the impacts of fire-suppressing agents on native vegetation in Western Australia.
- Rubén Mallon (a PhD student from Spain) joined the conservation biotechnology research group for 12 weeks (May-Aug, 2007) to participate in research into cryogenic storage for rare plants. Mr Mallon is working on cryogenic storage of rare endemic species in Spain for his PhD thesis.
- Jemma Marris has commenced a one-year research project “Understanding root morphology and drought responses in two rare species found on banded ironstone formations”.

- Giuseppe Messina continues a PhD research program that focuses on investigating the conservation biology of two declared rare flora species occurring on Westralia Airports Corporation lands.
- Belinda Newman is completing her PhD into the use of orchids as indicators of ecosystem health.
- Rachael Ord completed an Honours program entitled “Assessing the effects of wind erosion and predation on broadcast seed removal in *Banksia* woodland restoration” with The University of Western Australia.
- Rachel Ord has commenced a PhD that will research the potential to rehabilitate the Gngangara Mound pine plantation to native *Banksia* woodlands
- Rachel Omodei has commenced her Honours Research project “Realised pollen dispersal in *Banksia attenuata* (Proteaceae) – a departure from typically nearest neighbour mating?”
- Ryan Phillips is undertaking his PhD into the biology and ecology of Western Australian hammer orchids (*Drakaea*) focusing on the relationships between pollinator and mycorrhizal specificity as drivers of speciation.
- Bryony Retter is undertaking her Honours research project investigating “Factors affecting pollination success and population decline of orchids in an urban landscape”.
- Julie-Ann Riseborough has commenced her Honours research project “Genetic characterisation of the germination response of *Arabidopsis thaliana* to karrikin, a germination stimulate isolated from smoke”.
- Sacha Ruoss commenced his PhD investigating ecological adaptations of banded ironstone endemics to develop rehabilitation methods.
- Catherine Ryan completed a part-time honours program in February 2006, studying *in vitro* propagation of recalcitrant monocotyledon species, mainly *Lomandra* spp. (and some species of native rushes and sedges) for use in rehabilitation of disturbed habitats.
- John Statton continues a PhD investigating “Effective ecological restoration of seagrass in Cockburn Sound”.
- Jessica Stingemore is undertaking a one-year research project “Using AFLP’s to delineate genetic provenance for *Persoonia longifolia*”.
- Nigel Swarts completed his PhD with distinction into the development and application of integrated conservation principles for the rare species *Caladenia heugelii*.
- Renee Tuckett continues a PhD program researching the seed biology and ecology of vernal pool species.
- Mark Wallace completed studies on clonality and phylogenetic relationships of locally endemic *Lepidosperma* species, for his honours degree.
- Lauren Wallman completed an Honours project researching seed broadcasting for minesite rehabilitation.
- Patcharawadee Wattanawikkit, a PhD student from Kasetsart University in Bangkok, Thailand, completed her studies with us on *in vitro* propagation, somatic embryogenesis encapsulation and cryogenic storage on rare and threatened species of slipper orchids (*Paphiopedilum* spp.) from Thailand.



BOTANIC GARDENS & PARKS AUTHORITY

Annual Report 2007/2008 Feedback Form

The Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority is interested in your feedback and comments on the 2007/2008 Annual Report. Your comments will help us to improve the report in the future and make it more informative for our readers.

What is your interest in Kings Park and Botanic Garden and/or Bold Park?

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Botanic Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

In general terms, how would you rate the Annual Report?

- Excellent Very Good Average Poor

Why do you give this rating? _____


How do you think the Annual Report might be improved? _____

Do you have any other comments? _____

Thank you for your feedback.

Please return this form to:

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