



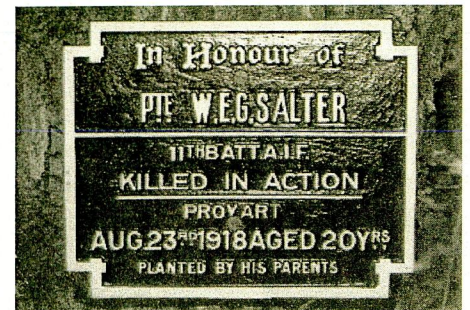
Kings Park Guide and Friend, Ann Newman admires the first tinges of winter colour on the lone oak of May Drive. Photos: Neil Coy

## The lone royal oak

**O**F 400 royal oak trees planted along the original honour avenue of May Drive in 1919 only one remains standing today.

These English Oak (*Quercus robur*) were literally of royal descent. They were germinated from acorns gathered by the Royal Gardener from the oaks of Windsor Great Park and sent to Kings Park superintendent Mr Heath at the request of Her Majesty Queen Mary. As some of the original oaks "perished in their infancy" the numbers were made up by young trees propagated from an oak planted at Bishopcourt by Bishop Hale in the 1850s.

In remembrance of some of those who had served King and Country in World War One, 400 of the resultant seedlings were planted along May Drive. May Drive itself also has royal connotations, being named to honour



Memorial plaque attached to the lone oak.

Queen Mary when she opened the drive as Princess May, Duchess of Cornwall and York, in 1901.

On August 3, 1919, on a day of 'blinding rain showers', relatives and friends of those brave men who unselfishly sacrificed their lives planted the young trees at a timed signal. Memorial name plaques were also associated with each tree as a measure of respect for the deceased serviceman.

Most of the trees failed to thrive or unfortunately succumbed to the extremities of climate (or poor bore water, which was also blamed for the failures) and in 1941-42 almost all of the survivors were removed and replaced with *Eucalyptus botryoides*.

However, down through the intervening 74 years, 'Tree Number Two' has somehow survived and is one of the prized possessions of Kings Park and Botanic Garden. This now lonesome oak was planted by the parents of 20 year old Private W.E.G. Salter, of the 11th Battalion A.I.F., who was killed in action at Proyart on August 23, 1918.

The lone oak tale is but one of more than 1100 stories of courage and family tragedy memorialised by each tree plaque and recorded in the Record of the Fallen Serviceman's Memorial Trees, available for perusal in the Kings Park Board Administration Centre.

Neil Coy

## Draft bushland management plan due for release

**T**HE first comprehensive Draft Bushland Management Plan for Kings Park and Botanic Garden will be released for public comment over the coming months.

The Park's Bushland Management Plan Team Co-ordinator Mr Bob Dixon said the most pressing concern will be to preserve and restore native bushland within the Park, which makes up about two thirds of the total area of 400 hectares.

Akin to most other urban remnant bushlands the Park has no outside recruitment for its flora and fauna, apart from the bird population. Feral animals

such as cats and foxes also pose a threat to the Park's fauna and control of these pests needs to be upgraded. With its proximity to the University of Western Australia and its central position the Park is an important site for biological studies. Another species of scorpion was discovered recently on the scarp and studies by the W.A. Museum on native bees, wasps and reptiles are ongoing.

One of the most pressing problems is to control serious weed invasions. Trained volunteers will help in this very critical, labour intensive exercise thus assisting the implementation of the bushland regeneration program.

# Discovering bushlands lecture

**K**INGS PARK Director Dr Stephen Hopper was honoured when chosen to deliver the Annual Lecture for the Wildflower Society of Western Australia, in the Octagon Theatre on 21 April. The subject selected for this inaugural lecture was **Local Bushland: Discovery on Your Doorstep**.

In sharing his thoughts on local bushland and “the exciting opportunities it offers all of us for discovery” Dr Hopper recalled his childhood experiences of the seashore and estuaries of northern New South Wales and Brisbane and walking through the eucalypt forest of Mt Cootha, with its vibrant aromas and cacophony of bird and insect sounds.

He described every kid as a “spontaneous learning machine with a special affection for the natural world...whether they live in an inner city high-rise or on a pastoral station, children find ways to explore and enjoy soil, air, plants and animals.”

This process of discovery, the joy of recognising something for the first time, is continued into our teens “as a testing ground for our rapidly developing adult bodies.” A similar appreciation allows some of us to maintain our involvement with nature throughout our adult lives.

In noting the conversion of the south-west Australian landscape, from bushland to predominantly agrarian and industrial in less than 170 years, Dr Hopper regretted the uncaring attitudes that had transformed the natural landscape to “make for a dismal future for much of our bushland.”

However, in likening our society to maturing young adults Dr Hopper sees hope because “our current culture has begun to appreciate the wisdom and value of conserving natural resources.” He then elaborated on “five bushland stories” to enhance the appreciation of those “who decide to venture into bushland... (to) deepen their understanding and appreciation of one of the world’s biological treasures, and our uniquely Western Australian heritage.”

The numerous local Banksia species and their pollinators extend back in time at least 50 million years to when

the Perth area was a tropical rain forest - Gondwanaland relics, still evident in much of the flora and fauna species of the region.

Another example of discovery related to the previously mysterious deaths of European pioneer’s cattle eating certain plants and dogs dying after consuming native pigeons that grazed on the poisonous pea flowers. Yet, native animals were tolerant of such poisons, having evolved over seemingly countless millenniums to co-habitat with such plants.

Our numerous and varied orchids have origins back in the rainforest era, adapting to harsher conditions as the climate changed. In fact, the Underground Orchid which has attracted so much attention internationally, resorted to going underground to survive as the climate dried out in areas well inland.

Other orchids have survived the rigours of time by adapting to particular insect pollinators that are now essential for propagating certain species.

Research in Kings Park has shown that many Kangaroo Paw flowers (one of Dr Hopper’s special interests) lose their pollen through nocturnal grazing by Katydid and grasshoppers. Understanding of their biology has led

to much hybridisation of Kangaroo Paws for the development of a lucrative export market.

When speaking of the great family of Eucalypts Dr Hopper likened the locally common Marri as “nature’s boarding house” supporting a whole range of fauna adapted to living from its flowers and fruit and finding shelter within its spreading branches.

This floral family is so diverse in the south-west that 100 new species of Eucalypts will be described from this region alone over the next few years. Some, which have adapted to salt pans and salt lakes, should prove invaluable in halting the degradation and perhaps restoring salt-prone areas of the inland wheatbelt.

In concluding his 60 minute address, Dr Hopper hoped the bushland stories he’d recounted would entice more people “to take another step from our manicured lawns into our bushland

...as a whole world of discovery awaits you ... it is incumbent upon us all ... to ensure that our children and theirs have the same opportunities for bushland discovery that we have had.”

Neil Coy



*Members of the Kings Park Board (left to right): Mr Tim McComish, Mr Rodney Evans, Mr Albert Tognolini (President), Mrs Rae Paynter, Mrs Bronwen Keighery, Mr Robert Hetherington. Absent is Mr Ken Wyatt. Photo: Neil Coy*

**T**HE Friends were duly launched by Premier Richard Court on the afternoon of April 5...overnight and morning rain even cleared for the occasion. The 200 or so people who attended were entertained by lively music by the group *McCool*, who performed on a temporary stage on the lawns just north of the Pioneer Women's Memorial Fountain.

Mr. Court declared his family's affection for Kings Park, as a place to frequent, especially during Spring. During his speech he stated "Although my Government is pro-development I favour the protection of significant wildflower areas and expect a renewed push toward the protection of endangered species ... Reserves such as Kings Park need to be preserved at all cost, as do other large parks in the metropolitan area." Mr. Court and his wife Jo planted a tree to mark this auspicious occasion in the history of the Park (see photo).



*Premier Richard Court and Mrs Court share the planting of a young Tuart (Eucalyptus gomphocephala) in the garden north-east of the Pioneer Womens' Memorial Fountain, to commemorate launching the Friends group.*

Photo: Neil Coy

**T**he first three committee meetings, which now precede the monthly General Meetings, covered very busy agendas that fare well for the future of the Friends. Dr Hopper gave a most informative talk on the features of the Park at the June general meeting and Dr Kingsley Dixon expanded on the exciting developments of recent times by the research and nursery team. Mr Bob Dixon will give a talk on seeds at the meeting on Thursday, 12 August.

**T**he Friends committee comprises Mr Tom Alford (as Chairman and Vice President); Mr Bruce Rhind (Secretary and coordinator for the Bush Regeneration group); Mr David Saggars (Treasurer and Funding interest group); Mr Neil Coy (Editor); Mrs Margaret Smyth (History interest group); Mr Brian Fitzgerald; Ms Carolyn Thomson; Ms Jill Midolo; Ms Penny Priest (Research interest group); Mr Zbyszek Kwiecinski (Honour Avenue committee); Dr Stephen Hopper (Director of Kings Park and Botanic Garden); Mrs Ann Newman (Guides Representative).

**F**ifty-three people attended the Foundation Meeting of the Friends on Wednesday night, May 5. Dr. Hopper elaborated on his vision for the group and quoted several examples of similar groups in the Eastern States and the USA. Kings Park Board president Albert Tognalini, who chaired the meeting, said he expected the Friends to be at least as valuable as the Kings Park Guides had been over the past 10 years. He thanked the Friends' Formation Working Party for their part in launching the group and drafting the constitution.

**T**he Kings Park Board has kindly allocated the Friends part of the former Education Centre as our headquarters for public and display purposes - this is situated near the top of the scarp 250 m north of the State War Memorial (please note that meetings will still be held in the Board's Administration Centre). Our recently appointed volunteer membership Secretary Mrs Audrey Dixon will work from the centre several days a week. Members of the Friends will also be at the centre on weekend afternoons to inform the public of our activities and hopefully recruit new Friends.

**P**enny Priest, our Research interest group leader has a list of jobs for volunteers in horticulture. These include seed collecting, labelling etc.

**A** fund-raising raffle is now in circulation and will be drawn on October 5, the concluding day of the Kings Park Wildflower Festival. Any Friends interested in selling tickets should contact Honorary Secretary Bruce Rhind: 227 5751.

## THE FLORA OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA TOUR - IN PERTH



*The unique beauty of Kings Park and Botanic Gardens and a visit to an exciting Export Wildflower Drying Shed*



*Three-hour tour*

*Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings*



*Starting 9.30 a.m. from the Coach Rank, Wellington Street (opposite Queen Street)*

*Pickups elsewhere in Perth central on request when booking*



*Tour cost: \$35 per person, \$33 Aus. concessions \$30 for children under 14 years of age*

*For every seat booked, "Perth and Beyond" will donate \$1.00 to the Friends of Kings Park for conservation and research.*



### "Perth and Beyond"

Bookings: Perth and Beyond: Pager 483 2601  
Operated by Elite Tours: 364 8022; Fax 364 9737  
WA Tourism Commission: 483 1111;  
Fax 481 0190; Free call 008 993 333

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS TOUR FROM "PERTH AND BEYOND", PO BOX 705, CLAREMONT, WA 6010. PAGER: (09) 483 2601

## Coming events

Walks	Day	Starting point	Available
Botanic Walk (about 2 hrs)	Mon 10 am	Karri Log, Fraser Ave*	April 1 - Oct 31
Botanic Garden and Bushwalk (about 2 hrs)	Tues 10 am	Karri Log, Fraser Ave*	April 1 - Oct 31
Botanic Garden (about 1 1/2 hrs)	Thurs 10 am	Karri Log, Fraser Ave*	April 1 - Oct 31
Nature Trail - Wildflowers (about 1 1/2 hrs)	Wed 2 pm & Sun 2 pm	Pines Car Park, Lovekin Drive	July 1 - Oct 31
Bushwalk (about 2 1/2 hrs)	Fri 10 am	Cnr Saw Ave & May Dve	April 1 - Oct 31
Summer Walk (about 1 hr)	Sun 11 am	Karri Log, Fraser Ave*	Nov 1 - Mar 31

\*Opposite War Memorial

\*near Tennis Club, Kings Park Road

LIVE IT UP EXPO July 30, 31  
at Burswood Superdome August 1, 2  
Kings Park and Botanic Garden display

TOUR OF NURSERY Sunday  
(limited numbers) 1.30 pm August 15  
Contact Penny Priest - a/h: 382 1082

Kings Park Guides and Friends Social Evening Thursday  
Venue - Admin. Centre August 19  
6 - 8 pm

Friends of Kings Park Meeting and Talks 2nd Thursday  
Venue - Admin. Centre each month  
8.00 pm

### Opening Times

Ivey Watson Children's Playground and Cafe Ivey\* open daily from 9.00 am - 5.00 pm.

Display Glasshouses and Rare and Endangered Species Garden open daily from 10.00 am - 4.00 pm (except Tuesdays).

# Kings Park guides report

**S**INCE Eleanor Bennett introduced the Guides in Issue 1 of *For People and Plants* there have been several meetings between Friends and Guides to discuss areas of co-operation and concern. The second meeting, on June 4, was in response to a Discussion Paper circulated by Dr Hopper. Since then Mrs Ann Newman, who is both Friend and Guide, has been appointed the Guide's representative on the Friend's committee.

The first co-operative venture between Friends and Guides will be at the Live-It-Up Expo '93 at the Burswood Superdome where the public will be told about the Park and their opportunities to support it. Both groups will attend the Kings Park stall each day and evening from Friday 30 July to Monday 2 August.

On the evening of Thursday, 19 August, the Guides extend a welcome to the Friends to join them in a social get-together, between 6-8 pm in the Kings Park Board's Administration Centre.

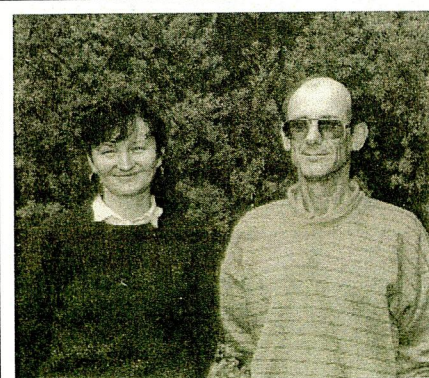
There is no better way for Friends to get to know the Guides, and vice versa than by joining the regular walks. The full array of guided winter/spring walks

are now underway (see accompanying list of current and coming events). Because of a dearth of rain early this winter the flowering and fungi seasons were slow to start but following several good rains in July the bushland walks will soon be at their most spectacular.

Friends with a heritage interest may like to know that the enormous pines between the admin. building and the main entrance are part of an avenue of a variety of pines running parallel to Fraser Avenue and were planted around the turn of the century. A leaflet *A Guide to Selected Trees of Fraser Avenue Lawns*, produced in 1983 through the WA Region of the Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation, is still in print and available from the Information Centre.

There is an opportunity for Friends to participate in guiding without the need to go through the Park-run Guides' training course (which may not be held for another year or so) by volunteering to join the Education Group for wildflower walks with school children. Please contact Judy Fisher on 385 9920 if you can help.

**Roger Hilton**  
Further Education Officer,  
Kings Park Guides



Three Kings Park staff members recently achieved important milestones in their careers by gaining further qualifications. Pictured are Sophie Juszkiewicz (TAFE Floriculture Certificate) and Bob Elkins (TAFE Horticulture Certificate). The absent holder of another horticulture qualification is Phil Elliot. Photo: Neil Coy

**Editor:** Neil Coy  
**Design:** Mundy Design  
**Printing:** Dix Print

PRODUCED ON BEHALF OF THE FRIENDS OF KINGS PARK.

*Friends of Kings Park may be contacted:*

Kings Park & Botanic Garden,  
West Perth WA 6005  
Telephone: (09) 321 2513  
Facsimile: (09) 322 5064

(Office hours only 8.30 am - 4.30 pm)

ISSN 1039-8856

Print Post Publication No. PP64393810020

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER