

CHAPTER 8 - KINGS PARK VOLUNTEERS.

Introduction

One of the most important ways of highlighting the need to conserve the local Western Australian natural environment is to demonstrate the range and versatility of the native flora. This chapter discusses how the volunteers in Kings Park feature in that role.

Agrawal's framework of 'environmentality' is used to consider aspects of environmental beliefs and behaviours and the creation of environmental subjects. Furthermore, consideration of Putnam's acquisition of social capital in conjunction with volunteering work is considered as a vital part of the effective functioning of the Kings Park guides and Friends of Kings Park. I make the point that volunteer groups such as those in Kings Park are an integral part of the social structure of many democratic societies. To support this point discuss a number of academic articles that address the motivations behind conservation volunteering. An integral part of volunteering in the park is the need for volunteers to acquire some botanical knowledge pertinent to local native flora. I use examples from the Kings Park volunteer handbook to illustrate the priorities required for successful volunteer work in the park.

I also reflect on some of the questions raised at the official opening of the Botanic Garden in 1965 and how they have been addressed in the intervening years. I dwell on the development of gardens over time and their consideration as a form of social control and their purported role in advancing the welfare of the poor classes. Details of the native plants sales and revenue received over the period 2009-2014 are also described. This gives the reader an account of the work commitment and involvement of the volunteer group responsible for encouraging and demonstrating the potential use of native plants for home gardens. However, the governing committee is currently considering further marketing strategies.

A visitor information centre is referred to in the chapter as further evidence of the commitment by volunteers to the park and the influence they may have on the views of visitors and home gardeners in reference to the use of native flora for home gardens.

Fostering commitment to conservation

The Chief Executive Officer of the park stated recently:

With high visitation and constant pressure on services and facilities, and finding new sources of income always a challenge, increased and targeted volunteer engagement

is critical to assisting in the delivery of high-quality visitor services and core Botanic Garden activities. (Webb 2014, p. 37)

Volunteering can be seen as a form of Foucault's (1991, pp. 87-104) 'governmentality', which is described by Huxley (cited by Gabriel 2012, p. 135) as 'discipline over bodies' and 'self-formation through ethical care of the self.'

The primary role of volunteers in Kings Park is to foster commitment in the wider community to conservation of the natural environment. In particular the focus is on the unique biodiversity of the South Western region of Western Australia. Comparing experiences from other global sites there are some similarities and stark differences in the use of guides in parks. Taking as a contrasting example Sodikoff's (2012, pp. 44-45) reference to guiding in the Mananara-Nord Biosphere Reserve in Madagascar, we see the use of local, low paid, manual labourers as guides, whereas in Kings Park we see the use of unpaid (free labour) middle-class Australians as volunteer guides with a distinctly Anglo-Australian background and influence. Although guides at both sites, which are officially recognised as biodiversity hot spots, may differ in social and cultural status, the primary objective is the same: to show the value of nature. Visitors and tourists are in both cases dependent on the skills of the guide for information and guidance.

Emphasising the significance of the site of Kings Park within one of the world's biodiversity hot spots, and displaying examples of threatened species within the region, the park is transformed by the social relations of (free) labour into a tourist attraction and an essence of national identity. Natural spaces in the form of parks, large or small, national or urban, are vital in the literal sense, yet have become a preoccupation for segments of Western society. The parks, in both Madagascar and Perth, have become tourist attractions which establish the 'existence of nature's intrinsic value' (Sodikoff 2012, p. 187). The objective of both parties is to foster commitment to the conservation of the natural environment. Environmental programs advance the idea that natural species, both flora and fauna, have significant value to human existence. Therefore ecosystems are seen as 'morally considerable' and, as a result, have an inherent value which gives them certain rights, in particular the right to life (Sodikoff 2012, p. 187).

Agrawal (2005a, p. 162) argues that shifts in institutional regimes have encouraged a greater awareness in environmental concerns. Although referring to his work in the Kumaoni forests of Himalaya, the concept of environmentality has widespread application (Mawdsley 2009, p. 239). His model, centred on community-based participation in governance and management, is relevant to the situation in Kings Park

when applied to the role of volunteer guides, the Friends of Kings Park and other participants in the promotion of conservation awareness.

Agrawal's framework of 'environmentality' might be used to think about certain aspects of the changing environmental beliefs and behaviours and as to how environmental subjects are created by community participation. He raises the point 'when and for what reason do socially situated actors come to care about, act in relation to, and think about their actions in terms of something they identify as the environment' (Agrawal 2005b, p. 162). Developing his theoretical argument, the inference for policy is that certain forms of environmental enforcement are associated with greater commitment to environmental conservation, higher levels of local involvement, and the generation of environmental subjectivities. The larger point of the discussion is that participation in certain forms of environmental regulation and enforcement generates new conceptions of what constitutes the participants' interest. (Agrawal 2005b, pp. 177-178). However, Cepek (2011, p. 501) suggests that many analysts who use the governmentality model may underestimate the ability of people to form their own self-awareness of culturally based socioecological projects.

Social capital

Social capital as defined by Putnam, 'features of social life – networks, norms and trust – that enable participants to act together more effectively to pursue shared objectives' (Putnam 1995, pp. 664-665) is, in the case of volunteering in Kings Park - conservation of the local natural environment and including inculcating growing native plants. Irrespective of how it is defined, social capital is generally agreed to be a fundamental component of social functioning, aiding members of society to work collectively towards solving problems for the common good and being part of a democratic process (Putnam 2001, p. 5). Participation in community activities brings people in contact with one another, developing a sense of trust, an essential part of accumulating and developing social capital. With the limited financial role of government involvement in Kings Park, the volunteer force is an essential component of advancing the cause of conservation of the natural environment (Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority 2009/2010, p. 16). Participation not only brings benefits to the community but also benefits to the individual.

According to one of my informants, many volunteers in the past were mothers at a time when far fewer women were in the paid work force and many volunteers came

from families where a parent was also a volunteer, or had volunteer experience (Cooper 2015). Considering that Australia has an increasing aging population there is evidence that there is potential for increased commitment by the over 55 age group to be involved in volunteer work (Wilkinson & Bittman 2001, pp. 11-19). This in turn anticipates that volunteer hours appear likely to increase. According to Putnam's (2001, pp. 41-51) theory that volunteering increases social capital, then the prospect of a healthy Australian democracy in the future looks hopeful and the future supply of volunteers is likely to increase.

Nonetheless, the core of volunteering civility is that the promise of the positive experiences of companionship and mutual regard can be transformed into civic engagement. In this way volunteering can be seen as source of 'institutional renewal' building friendly alliances and a sense of *esprit de corps*, a bond of fraternity that is beyond the immediate circle of family and friends. This in turn brings sociability to the realm of public interaction. Wilkinson suggests that, 'by expanding our understanding of civility...volunteering shows democracy's human face' (2001, p. 19).

Volunteer groups

Following Putnam's definition (1995), therefore, volunteer groups are an integral part of the social fabric in many democratic societies and form an essential part of the operation of many community projects (Clary & Snyder 1999, p. 158; Cox 2004). Furthermore, as Guiney states, 'volunteers have potential to serve as inspirational role models and help conservation biologists promote a positive vision of people and nature through educational programs' (2009, p. 4). Of specific interest for this project are the volunteers who make up the Friends of Kings Park and the Kings Park Volunteer Guides.⁷⁷ These volunteers are prepared to dedicate a considerable amount of time and effort in caring for, nurturing and promoting the native flora of Western Australia, through the medium of Kings Park and Botanic Garden. As Western Australians have become more and more aware of the challenges facing them with regard to the preservation and conservation of the natural environment, an increasing interest has evolved in promoting the natural flora of Western Australia for domestic purposes.⁷⁸ This has resulted in the

⁷⁷ I classify them as conservation volunteers.

⁷⁸ 'In a world where words like sustainability are used in many contexts with widely varying meanings, we forget that the environmental community was once very choosy in its wording. Terms have specific meanings such that a single word can communicate a philosophy and accompanying ethics. Conservation and preservation are two such terms. The first denotes an effort to sustain a space or resource for

formation of groups of volunteers whose ultimate aim is to assist in the creation of a more environmentally sustainable society. Strongly influenced by the ethical guidelines of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (Appendices 2-8) and a rigorous training regime, the volunteers impose on themselves and internalise a discipline, thus forming a self through the ethical care that characterises their activities.

The question of what motivates these volunteers is a crucial one confronting programs such as those run by the Kings Park and Botanic Garden Authority. In their aim to improve and advance the quality of the local natural environment, a heavy reliance is placed on the contribution these volunteers make. The authorities need to understand what motivates a person to spend, in some instances, a great deal of time performing jobs that would often be considered tedious and boring, under trying and unpleasant conditions, especially in the hot summer months. For example, tasks given to volunteer gardeners often involve bending over weeding among low-lying prickly bushes or kneeling on the wet earth planting seedlings in remote, isolated areas of the park. In some instances, volunteers perform these tasks alone.

Nonetheless, Kings Park volunteers are generally placed in a group with other like-minded people and park staff, under the supervision of a leading hand or senior gardener. Staff members often express appreciation for the work done by volunteers. The sometimes difficult and trying working conditions often create a bonding effect between the two groups. To quote one volunteer, 'this is a great place to spend time doing some good with friends.' However, many volunteers might find working out in the garden in the hot summer months disagreeable. This is remedied by starting work in the cool hours of early morning, or deferring park activities altogether until the cooler months of autumn, winter and spring. In some instances, individual volunteers have regular roles that are performed without direction or supervision from staff. For example, some volunteers have a preferred area in which they like to work and continue weeding, removing dead flower heads, or planting seedlings in that area on arrival at the park on their allotted workday. Tools, gardening gloves and gardening equipment are readily available from a depot adjacent to the Botanic Garden area and distributed by staff. In another instance, some volunteers are allocated the task of keeping the signage and plant identification labels in good condition, a task that is done on a routine weekly

perpetual use. Preservation denotes a fortress-like approach to nature, walling off human influence in order to maintain pristine wilderness.' (Freitag 2011, p.1)

basis. For many years, members of the Highgate Returned Services League Sub-branch have accepted the responsibility for maintaining over 1100 plaques for the avenues of memorial trees in honour of the soldiers who gave their lives in various wars.

Motivations to volunteer

A number of academic articles address motivations behind conservation volunteering (Clary & Snyder 1999; Ryan, Kaplan & Grese 2001; Snyder 1993; Wilson 2000; Fraser et al. 2009). Guiney (2009) in her doctoral thesis refers to Geist and Galatowitsch (1999, p. 972), who suggest that volunteers benefit from their interactions with the natural environment by developing a sense of place. Additionally, within a social context, a sense of community and civic identity is also experienced by volunteers (Bruyere & Rappe 2007, p. 504; Guiney 2009, p. 58). This, in turn, can 'provide individuals with increased confidence and resources that can lead to psychological empowerment' (Guiney 2009, p. 58). Therefore, 'as a result, conservation volunteers may be good examples of individuals in modern society who have developed and maintained a psychological connection to nature' (Geist & Galatowitsch 1999, pp. 972-973). Wilson (2000, p. 219) argues that the level of education is one of the most consistent predictors of volunteering in general. Although not actually identifying a specific level of education, he reasons that education 'boosts volunteering because it heightens awareness of problems, increases empathy and builds self-confidence' (Wilson 2000, p. 219). This is evident in the Kings Park volunteers who were contacted during the course of my research. For example, volunteer work in the park entails direct contact with the public, including not only local Perth residents, but also visitors from interstate and overseas. This, in turn, requires both high level literary and social skills. During the native plant sales numeracy skills are also required to calculate costs of purchases and discounts where appropriate.

Furthermore, a high level of botanic knowledge is required of some volunteers, in particular for the specialised group of Master Gardeners. These plant specialists, who are usually involved in assisting Kings Park staff to propagate and develop plants for the park, are also very active during the sales advising customers on plant choices, which are dependent on the varying soil types within the Perth metropolitan area. This task alone requires a high-level of local knowledge, articulateness and social skill as well as botanic knowledge. Apart from the routine work of the park and plant sales, these skills are also required at high-peak visitor times, during the spring and summer

periods. At the native plant sales, this skill level is very evident as conversation between volunteers and native plant enthusiasts focuses on nurturing and caring for the plants. The exchange is generally enthusiastic and intense, with each party comparing notes on respective successes and failures associated with growing local native species.

Volunteer Functions Inventory

Drawing on Durkheim’s functional theory about the reasons, purposes and motivations underlying human behaviour, Clary and Snyder identified six personal and social functions served by volunteers (1999, p. 157). Recognised as the Volunteer Functions Inventory (VFI), the inventory demonstrates that volunteering most typically identified ‘values’, ‘understanding’, and ‘enhancement’ as the most important functions and that ‘career’, ‘social’, and ‘protective’ functions are less significant, although there is some variation among groups. For example, within the group of volunteers in Kings Park, the career function would not signify to any extent because most of the subjects would be close to retiring or retired already. In the case of the subjects with whom I am associated, the social function ranks higher than that in the results found by Clary and Snyder.

It is within this framework of the Volunteer Function Inventory (Table 15) that I approached some of my volunteer colleagues at Kings Park and Botanic Garden. My own findings were similar to those of Clary and Snyder.

Table 15: Volunteer Functions Inventory

Function	Conceptual definition	Sample VFI item
Values	The individual volunteers in order to express or act on important values like humanitarianism.	I feel it is important to help others.
Understanding	The volunteer is seeking to learn more about the world or exercise skills that are often unused.	Volunteering lets me learn through direct, hands-on experience.
Enhancement	One can grow and develop psychologically through volunteer activities.	Volunteering makes me feel better about myself.
Career	The volunteer has the goal of gaining career-related experience through volunteering.	Volunteering can help me get my foot in the door at a place where I would like to work.
Social	Volunteering allows an individual to strengthen his or her social relationships.	People I know share an interest in community service.
Protective	The individual uses volunteering to reduce negative feelings, such as guilt, or to address personal problems.	Volunteering is a good escape from my own troubles.

(Clary & Snyder 1999, p. 157)

Kings Park Volunteer Handbook

The following priorities are as they appear in the Kings Park and Botanic Garden Volunteer Handbook (Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority 2013i).

Biodiversity conservation:

To conserve and enhance the native biological diversity of Kings Park and Botanic Garden and of Western Australia in general.

Example: The conservation garden opened in 2008 to display, promote and conduct further research into threatened flora and our understanding of threats to native plants.

Ecological restoration:

To reduce threats to native biodiversity, improve the health of bushland and maintain resilient ecological communities. This includes research to inform rehabilitation of disturbed ecosystems.

Example: The Kings Park nursery propagates an average of twelve rare and threatened species per year for transferring back into the wild.

Visitation and recreation:

To provide quality recreation and tourism services and facilities that are compatible with the long-term conservation values of the park.

Example: Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park is a world-class environmental education venue in the Botanic Garden Arboretum.

Interpretation and education:

To develop understand and appreciate the park's identity, biodiversity and cultural heritage through high quality displays, interpretation and environmental education.

Example: 5,000 school students take part in Kings Park education programs annually.

Cultural heritage:

To conserve, enhance and promote the indigenous, colonial and contemporary heritage of Kings Park and Botanic Garden (See Appendix 7).

Example: The Ceremonial Walk, completed in April 2010, enhances the dignity of the State War Memorial precinct and the many ceremonies held there.

Risk management:

Is to provide a safe experience for all visitors and to protect the long-term conservation and landscape value of the park.

Example: A number of Fraser Avenue ceremonial trees were removed and replaced following significant storm damage in 2007. Long-term planning for the future of these Lemon-scented gums (*Corymbia citriodora*) is underway.

Planning and community liaison:

To engage with the community, foster cooperation with adjacent landowners and fulfill requirements for planning and responsive management strategies.

Example: The Authority website and Facebook pages have significantly improved community liaison and access to reliable and current information.

It is apparent from the priorities of the management plan that the role of guides is very much oriented towards a conservation theme and that their purpose is to support and promote that theme and to foster commitment towards an environmental consciousness. This is done in a practical way by leading three daily guided walks. These walks are varied throughout the year depending on the season and include botanical, ecological, historical, cultural and scientific aspects of Kings Park. Guides are also expected to staff the Visitor Information Centre and contribute where possible to park projects and research, for example, the Climate Watch project.

Official opening of the Botanic Garden

At the official opening of the Botanic Garden, on 4 October 1965, the Chairman of the Kings Park Board, Sir Thomas Meagher asked rhetorically:

For what exact reason or reasons is the Botanic Garden being established? Is it purely for embellishment of Kings Park? To provide a draw for tourists? Or to do something important towards the conservation of Western Australia's flora?

In answering himself, Meagher said,

We have given you a garden, but to our sorrow, we do not feel we have, as yet, contributed effectively to conservation. (Official opening of Botanic Garden, cons 5584, item C SROWA, Cited by Summers 2007, p. 313)

Twenty-seven years later in 1993, Professor Steven Hopper, the Director of Kings Park at the time, who was seriously concerned about the potential loss of the State's botanical heritage, wrote that the park's purpose was:

...to ensure that the natural and cultural heritage and recreational resources of Kings Park and the State's Botanic Garden are provided for the lasting benefit of the community, and to contribute to the conservation of Western Australia's and other plant life.

How these significant and growing responsibilities can be best achieved in recessionary times, with the shrinking government support base? Community involvement is essential in my view. It is especially important to appreciate the urgency of our tasks in helping conservation as wildlife diminishes throughout the State and elsewhere. Western Australia has 12000 species of native plants (with 30% still to be named) and more threatened species than elsewhere in Australia or most countries in the world. At the last count 306 species were declared on the State's schedule of Declared Rare Flora and another 1700 are too poorly known but probably under threat.

(For People and Plants no.1. Autumn 1993, p.1. Cited by Erickson 2009, pp. 215-216)

Following Sir Thomas Meagher's question and Professor Hopper's comments, this chapter will focus on the history and evolution of the Kings Park Volunteer Guides and the Friends of Kings Park. These volunteer groups, sourced from the general community, play an important role in promoting the park, its history, its significance to the people of Perth and the conservation of local native flora. To focus on these groups I refer to the first edition of the newsletter of the Friends Kings Park, titled *For People, and Plants*, published in August 1993 (Coy 1993). This edition featured an opening passage by the then state Premier, Richard Court.

In this inaugural newsletter, following Seddon's (1972) *Sense of place*, the Premier identified Kings Park and Botanic Garden as having a 'sense of place' for the citizens of Perth. In his message he focused on the necessity to preserve Kings Park and Botanic Garden and its natural and unique beauty, which provides a facility for the enjoyment and relaxation for the citizens of Perth and visitors alike. Drawing special attention to the people who volunteered to care for the heritage, which is provided by the park, he recognised the importance of volunteers who put time and effort into the service of the community by saying:

A characteristic of this great State of Western Australia is found in the willingness of many thousands of men, women and children who volunteer their time, efforts, and energy in voluntary service to the community. I especially commend all those who care for the wonderful heritage, which has been provided for us in Kings Park and its Botanic Garden. The dedication of the Friends of Kings Park is an incentive for us all and at the same time ensures the preservation of the intrinsic value of the Australian bush so close to the heart of the city. (Court 1993, p. 1)

In his contribution, the President of the Kings Park Board at the time, Mr. Albert Tognolini A.M., reinforced the significance of the place to Western Australians. He focused on the Kings Park Volunteer Guides. Established in 1984, the guides are a group of approximately 130 people of varying age and backgrounds with a common interest in promoting Kings Park and Botanic Garden. Mr. Tognolini emphasised the Board's belief that, due to current funding restrictions, the 'assistance and support of the community for the Park and Botanic Garden is essential' (Coy 1993, p. 1). He went on to express the gratitude of the Board for the formation of a working party (under the Chairmanship of Mr. Tom Alford), which was to establish an additional volunteer group, the 'Friends of Kings Park.'⁷⁹ The formation of the Friends of Kings Park, in 1993, nine years after the formation of the Kings Park Volunteer Guides, provided further opportunity for anyone interested to 'become more closely associated with the Park and Botanic Garden.' (Tognolini 1993, p. 1). He anticipated the support and assistance of these groups in helping the Board achieve their objectives, by promoting the park and local native flora.

A further contributor to the first edition of *For People, and Plants* was Professor Stephen Hopper, who was the Director of the Kings Park and Botanic Garden at that time. He also recognised the formation of the Friends of Kings Park as a significant player in ensuring the continued preservation of the 'natural and cultural heritage and recreational resources of Kings Park and the State's Botanic Garden', in light of diminishing government support.

Professor Hopper was appointed director of the park in 1992, and served in that role until his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Perth, in 1999. In October 2006, Professor Hopper was appointed as 14th Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, London. During his period of administration of Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Professor Hopper's primary focus was not only on the use of the park as a recreational facility for the residents of Perth and visitors to the park, but as an educational resource with particular emphasis on native plant conservation (Hopper 2012, interview 9/10/2012). The words 'recreation' and 'conservation' are both keywords reflected in the title of this thesis.

Following Professor Hopper's focus on the natural and cultural heritage and recreational resources of Kings Park and the State's Botanic Garden, the chairman of the newly formed Friends of Kings Park, Mr. Tom Alford stated, 'While all West

⁷⁹ Mr. Alford held the position of Chairman of the Friends of Kings Park for eleven years.

Australians are very proud of Kings Park, few realise it is unique. Nowhere else in the world is such a large tract of natural bushland situated in the heart of a major city' (Coy 1993, p. 2). Recognising that Kings Park has the potential to become one of the great parks of the world, he indicated that the park needs the support of all West Australians to achieve this goal. This goal was achieved in June 2014 by being recognised by the 'Trip Advisor travellers choice award' as the number one inner city park in Australia and ranked as number six inner city park in the world (Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority 2014c).

Friends of Kings Park

The key role of the Friends of Kings Park is to assist with the general care and maintenance of Kings Park and Botanic Garden. An additional role of the group is the propagation and promotion of native plants for use in domestic gardens. Native plant sales, organised by the Friends of Kings Park, are held in March, May, September and November of each year. These events are always well attended by garden enthusiasts from the Perth metropolitan area, and surrounding agricultural regions.

Membership to the Friends of Kings Park is by subscription, ranging from \$50 a year to \$230 for five years for an individual membership. Rates vary for joint membership, seniors, students and interstate memberships. Benefits include a subscription to the quarterly Friends of Kings Park magazine, *For People and Plants*, detailing various activities for Friends, special offers, and news of upcoming events. Also included are invitations to special events, discounts at two of the three cafes within the park, and at 'Aspects' the Kings Park retail outlet, the Aboriginal art gallery, and on all plant purchases at the native plant sales.

Membership of Friends is open to all members of the community. There are in excess of 1100 members registered, including 112 staff. However, by far the largest sector of the group consists of Anglo-Australian women, from both the middle - and senior - age groups. Cerwonka, (2004) identifies a similar group of Anglo-Australian women in the East Melbourne Garden Club. They are identified as falling into a category that is often dismissed both socially and politically because they enjoy economic comfort, they are white, often seniors, some have never worked outside the domestic scene and are married to middle-class professional men. In short, they fit a profile that is rarely accorded any importance and is too privileged to interest social

theorists, despite their significant contribution to the social and cultural framework of society.

Following the theoretical framework of the concept of hegemony as developed by Gramsci (cited by Nader 1989, p. 324) the involvement of these women reflects the interest and values of a particular class; that is, in this case the Australian middle class (Connell & Irving 1992, pp. 88, 464-465; Kuhn 2005, p. 5). They reflect high levels of home ownership, they have received a higher education, they or their husband/partner work in white-collar occupations, or have done prior to retirement and they self-identify as middle class (McGregor 2001, pp. 145-168). Head and Muir (2007, p. 8) classify the majority of urban Australians as falling into a broad middle class living in the coastal areas of the country. They have gardens that reflect values of stability, a submission to duty, a pride in home and country and 'a sense of connectedness' (Head & Muir 2007, pp. 70 - 71).

Timms (2006, p. 73) considers how the well designed simplicity of many gardens in the affluent suburbs characterises a particular 'social stratum', while the migrant class and older gardeners use the garden for production of vegetables and fruit, whereas gardens of the working class are seen as being used for car repairs and hobbies. Similarly Taylor (2005, p. 121), writing on class in the British garden media, finds that gardens of the middle-class symbolise power and capital by displaying order and control of nature in expensive and well manicured gardens. As I travelled around the various suburbs of Perth, a similar situation was apparent, indicating parallels in the social structure in Australian society and the associated symbolism of gardens relevant to the class structures, though more intensive analysis of this nexus is a topic to be considered for further research.

Gardens as a form of social control

Nevertheless, in the past we have seen domestic gardening not only as a means of production but as a form of social control. As the conditions of the working class in the nineteenth century improved, excessively long working hours were reduced, and more leisure time became available. The availability of more leisure time for the workers was cause for concern by the ruling classes. Often associated with the corrupting vice of idleness, a solution had to be found. Alarmed by working class disregard for the now available leisure time, it was necessary to develop "rational recreations" which fostered physical, mental, spiritual and familial values the middle class believed important'

(Constantine 1981, p. 390). Hence emerged the appeal and subsequent promotion of gardening as a recreational activity that was not only productive in terms of food for the household, but one that required physical effort, some intelligence, and above all, meaningful use of time. Writers of the period lauded gardening as a pastime, which was ‘elevated and intellectual’ or as ‘an antidote to lassitude, the martyrdom of indigestion, and the worries of everyday work’ (Farthing, cited by Constantine 1981, p. 389). Domestic home gardens of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were considered important for the moral welfare, and educational advancement of the poorer classes (Constantine 1981, p. 392).

Native plant sales at Kings Park

Turning to present-day gardening in the context of this thesis, the role of gardens in suburban everyday life has become an area not so much for food production, but more of a site for leisure, to cater for a botanical interest in plants, and to exhibit a conservation consciousness.⁸⁰ The native plant sales at Kings Park highlight the botanical and conservation interests of the public. At these sales, senior women members of the Friends of Kings Park group are dominant in the sales and administrative areas and a few younger women assist with the administrative work, or inspect customer’s bags at the exit gate. Males, mainly in the 45 to 60 years age group, make up the traditional male ‘heavy lifting – hard labour’ group, involved in setting up and taking down the stalls and marquees for the plant sales. These volunteers fall into the category of ‘middle class’, as defined by McGregor (2001, pp. 145-168) as previously discussed in Chapter 7.

Of the membership of the Friends of Kings Park, over 200 regularly volunteer their time and effort to assist in fundraising, propagating plants, planting, weeding, restoration of degraded areas and research. This core group of volunteer gardeners is very active within the organisation, valuing it as an integral part of their lifestyle. That is a senior middle-class lifestyle relatively free of financial burden and work commitments, one that allows free time to be involved in activities such as this. The Friends of Kings Park also make up sub-groups, such as the Garden Carers, who assist park staff with the seasonal planting and weeding throughout the Botanic Garden, and the weekend bushland carers, whose primary role is the rehabilitation of areas that have

⁸⁰ Nowadays vegetables can be purchased at local stores and supermarkets.

been subject to alien invasive species, many of which are herbaceous or woody weeds encroaching on local reintroduced plants. In addition, a group requiring a high degree of skill are the growing carers team (Friends of Kings Park 2011). This team is responsible for assisting with plant propagation and receive specialised ‘on the job’ training from qualified park staff. Selection is dependent on the participants’ aptitude for the task and their willingness to adhere to strict nursery hygiene rules. Further groups are the management committee; office carers, midweek bushland carers, herbarium carers, orchid carers and the sky show volunteers. The management committee consists of nine members plus two part-time staff. The 2009-2010 annual report advises:

Each group offers a valuable and unique service to the park, which in turn ensures that the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority can offer a service well in excess of that which is formally funded. Some administrative support is provided to the volunteers by the Authority, as well as providing training and information. Involvement in operations and planning is also sought by the Authority. In the 2009/2010 financial year, these groups contributed approximately 18,000 hours of service to Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park. This equates to ten people working full time. (Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority 2009/2010, p. 16)

There is now evidence that the hard work and dedication of the Kings Park and Botanic Garden staff and volunteers are slowly making inroads into the gardening practices of sections of the local gardening community. This is indicated by the ever-increasing demand for local plant species at the quarterly native plant sales. For the financial year 2010-2011, native plants to the value of \$147,501 were sold over four sales, which was a 40% increase over the previous year’s sales (Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority 2010/2011, p. 132, Appendix 1).

The figures to the end of 2014 suggest a leveling out of demand over the six years from 2009. The number of people attending the sales seeking native plants for gardens is governed by a number of factors, not least of which are the weather conditions on the day of sale and public awareness. Very hot conditions such as those experienced sometimes at the March and November sales see a rapid decline in the number of people patronising the sales after 10am. Likewise, wet and windy conditions sometimes experienced at the winter and spring sales have a similar effect. For example, inclement weather on the first day of the 2014 September Festival sale kept many customers away (11.4 mm of rain were recorded on Saturday the 27th, with a further 3.8 and 3.4 mm on each of the subsequent two sale days). Also, according to a member of the Friends of Kings Park management committee, due to issues with plant production, there were fewer plants for sale than previous years, for example: plants available in 2014: 14,748; 2013: 19,371; 2012: 18,693. Nonetheless, the figures clearly show an increasing trend in

revenue over the period (see Table 16). Although this trend is apparent over a relatively short time a more accurate assessment would need to be made over a longer period (ten years) before any definitive conclusion could be made.

To further encourage interest and continue an upward trend in native plant use for domestic gardens, further refinements to marketing strategies are planned. This could mean seeking advice and consultation with a marketing specialist, which in turn would mean a capital outlay. The Growing Friends of Kings Park subcommittee is also working on other strategies, which include the specific release of new plant cultivars developed by Kings Park staff or alternatively producing plants from a particular genus or group of plants. For example, for their March 2015 sale they will be selling 11 species of Conebushes (*Petrophile.sp*). An associated article placed on the Friends of Kings Park website and press releases will market this lead item. Other strategies being considered involve greater use of social media platforms (As per discussion with Dr Scalzo).⁸¹

Table 16: Plant sale revenue 2009-2014

Friends of Kings Park						
Plant Sale Income (\$A)						
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
March	21216	20223	32506	27557	30523	31473
May	19541	23846	30130	34232	26432	28364
September ⁸²	48175	68626	69273	79672	78180	66630
November	13178	12951	15592	13392	18149	16587
Total	102110	125646	147501	154853	153284	143054

One of the limiting factors in the past has been that local species have not responded well to the, at times over-enthusiastic, care and maintenance that have been used on exotic species, which currently form the majority of domestic gardens. Hence, the demand is for ‘easy to grow’ plants which are native to Perth and the surrounding suburbs. Plant breeders at the Kings Park and Botanic Garden are focusing considerable research upon this area in response to the demand.

⁸¹ Dr Tony Scalzo - a long time member of Friends of Kings Park and native plant sale organiser.

⁸² These figures are from the three-day plant sale held during the Wildflower Festival.

Kings Park Volunteer Guides

Training courses for guides for Kings Park and Botanic Garden are held every two or three years, depending on the rate of attrition. Over a fourteen-week training period, experienced guides, education officers and scientists give the selected volunteers lectures on the social and scientific aspects of the park. Although botanic knowledge is not a prerequisite, it is an advantage. The intake for the 2013 group consisted of 20 women and five men. For management and training purposes an optimum number of guides in the park is 130 or thereabouts. Being a Kings Park guide is a considerable commitment, and the training program is demanding. Training is focused on the multiple roles of the park and highlights the socio-environmental policies of the park and its current priorities. After serving their first year in the field, recently trained guides are assessed 'on the job', by senior, more experienced guides. The assessment is followed by a review of the walk, and advice on how to further enhance the experience of visitors.

The primary role of the guides is to show groups of visitors around the park and Botanic Garden, catering for more than seven thousand walkers a year. A number of scheduled guided walks are available during the course of a day, for example, the Botanic Garden walk, which takes visitors through the 17-hectare area of the botanic garden. On this walk guides identify various native plants and explain the features and adaptation mechanisms used by the plant to survive and flourish in an environment that has nutrient deficient soils, limited rainfall and high summer temperatures. Divided into the various climatic and geomorphic regions of the State, visitors can see plants that are peculiar to a specific region. A particular feature of this guided walk is the section displaying rare and endangered species; many can be adapted to home gardens. Also popular is the Banksia garden, featuring 76 different species, of which 62 are endemic to Western Australia.

During the spring months of September to October, Wildflower and Wilderness walks are popular, often with as many as forty participants. Large groups are usually divided between two guides. Taking in the natural bushland of the park and following a raised pathway, visitors are guided through areas of bush featuring Kangaroo Paws (*Anigozanthos sp.*), and various native shrubs and flowers growing in their natural environment. Sheoak (*Casuarina sp.*), Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*), and Banksia (*Banksia sp.*) trees dominate the area. A variety of native orchids are often observed on this walk.

Other walks include a Past and Present walk, which features the commemorative aspect of the park, the cenotaph, and various memorials to Western Australian service personnel who lost their lives in wars fought overseas. One memorial is dedicated to sixteen Western Australians who lost their lives by an act of terrorism while on holiday in Bali on the 12th October 2002. Visitors are told about the history of the park and its significance to the people of Western Australia from the earliest colonial days to the present. ‘Water views and Wilderness’, a guided walk taken along the edge of the scarp on the eastern side of the park, features views of the city, the Swan and Canning rivers, the Darling Range and the old Swan Brewery. Guides give a commentary on the various plant species, many of them endemic to Western Australia. Over the period from August 2013 to July 2015, I escorted 180 visitors around the various areas of the park.

Of particular interest is the way species have adapted to the impoverished soil and harsh climatic conditions. For example, plant parts, in particular the leaves are shaped to minimise exposure to hot sunshine. Many have a grey covering on the branches and are light coloured to reflect heat. As visitors follow the paved walkway they pass through areas of the Botanic Garden and areas of natural riverside bushland. In January 2009 this area was subject to a devastating bushfire. The recovery of the native flora, over a period of four to five years, to an almost fully re-established natural bushland demonstrates to visitors the resilience of native species.

Visitor Information Centre

Kings Park guides are responsible for staffing the Visitor Information Centre every day of the year with the exception of Christmas Day. The centre is located at the southern end of Fraser Avenue, the main entrance to the park and adjacent to visitor facilities. Popular with visitors seeking advice on the features of the park, the centre caters for over of fifty thousand queries a year. During the spring month of September extra guided walks through the Botanic Garden and the natural bushland are scheduled to cater for increased influx of visitors during the peak flowering season and the subsequent increasing interest in the native floral displays. A number of pre-booked guided walks for specific groups and foreign language walks are also scheduled. Foreign language walks introduced in September 2014 are in Japanese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Portuguese and French; bilingual horticultural staff conduct these walks.

Table 17: Visitor Information Centre statistics

Month	Visitor inquiries	Guided walkers	Volunteer hours	Donations
May 2013	3482	459	647	\$221.75
June 2013	3036	403	638	\$151.05
July 2013	3425	277	662	\$211.95
August 2013	3899	390	651	\$279.25
*September 2013	5883	1807	848	\$390.00
October 2013	5532	790	671	\$283.50
November 2013	4320	676	586	\$220.55
December 2013	3958	454	568	\$190.10
January 2014	3773	429	573	\$221.90
February 2014	3768	408	539	\$256.70
March 2014	4539	444	753	\$343.40
April 2014	4614	501	614	\$302.30
Total	50229	7038	7750	\$3072.45

*September is the height of the wildflower season

The committed

A question that arises is whether or not the volunteers who make up the various volunteer groups of Kings Park are ‘committed’ to the cause of using local native plants in preference to imported exotics, and to the cause of environmental conservation. Although it may initially appear to be self-evident that a person involved in performing volunteer work in Kings Park and Botanic Garden is a keen gardener and a devotee of the cause of promoting local native flora, there may be a number of other reasons why a person would volunteer for such a role (Clary & Snyder 1999). For example, the convenience of the site location could influence the choice of volunteer work, as some subjects may not have transport readily available. As previously explained, most of the volunteers are of a specific demographic, for example, seniors, or retirees. It is likely there are other reasons that would influence a ‘subject’ to volunteer for a role. Although having a garden interest may have some influence, and recognising that interest would involve a familiar discourse with other volunteers and therefore provide a comforting factor, I am yet to be convinced the subjects are all fully converted to the cause of using local native species instead of exotics. As one volunteer stated, ‘I still like to grow roses.’ This comment signifies a strong allegiance to the traditional British garden theme. Another told me that she ‘never has any success with growing native plants’ but she was a great admirer of them and loves to promote them.

Following Head and Muir (2007, p. 56) I am identifying a ‘convert’ as a person who would have at least 80% of their available domestic garden space planted with native species. Social and cultural practices of previous generations are often carried on in a new environment to secure a feeling of continuity and comfort (Trigger & Head

2010, p. 235). Among the volunteers there are varying degrees of commitment to growing native species. A compromise of some exotics for the sake of European settler society tradition, and some native flora for the sake of water use reduction and perhaps some nationalistic fervour for the new country was the acceptable model by the majority of volunteers interviewed, as discussed in Chapter 7. However, some volunteers expressed frustration at their lack of success with native flora in their home gardens.

Influential factors

A significant focus of my research is based on whether or not the Friends of Kings Park and associated groups have any influence on people outside the Kings Park community in regard to environmental conservation, including growing native plants in their own gardens. Although the native plants exhibited at the Botanic Garden and the native plant sales could be seen to be influential in encouraging people to grow native species in their home gardens by example, it is possible that the influence of volunteers could also be a significant factor. This raises a number of issues associated with 'leading by example.' Do the neighbours of Kings Park volunteers take notice of what is grown by them? Does growing local native plants feature in conversation between volunteers and neighbours?

In response to these questions one interviewee, Jon said:

Yes, they come and talk to me in my garden. I have really had my ego boosted; one of my neighbours brought his camera and took a photo of one of my Kangaroo Paws. I spotted him out of the window, and I said to my wife, 'it's made my day.' Yes the neighbours do. They do like the look of it, it's not always looking good. They come over and ask me when the next plant sale is on. [Jon, 70 year old Kings Park Volunteer Guide.]

Another interviewee Geo, when asked the same question, stated:

Yes, some of them. I am not sure about whether it is following our example, but the people across the road; they built their house about three or four years ago. And although they have roses at the back, the front is absolutely magnificent. [An inspection showed the front to be all native plants] We talk about our successes and failures quite a bit and the same with people on this side [Geo pointed to the east side]. They are the people who went to the council and said they wanted to remove the peppermint tree and plant native shrubs. I said to them [the council] several times, what you need to do is promote the benefits of making those sorts of changes of the streetscape and so on, and the benefits to the community as the reason for pulling out the tree. Don't just say you want to remove it because it is unsafe and in a bad way, but in removing diseased trees it will remove the likelihood of affecting other trees in the area. In these streets many of the trees are peppermints. So if yours is diseased, it is probably going to spread its disease to others.

The other thing is, what's in the back of our minds is the benefits of removing all the grass on the verges, is that we are promoting sustainability. People passing by would say, oh, that's a good way of reducing water consumption and people come and look at the native plants.

We do have discussions with people in the immediate vicinity about what works and what doesn't work and what they could try. [Geo, 60 year old gardener]

The communication between native plant enthusiasts and neighbours is not always evident. For example, another interviewee, Peta, when asked about neighbours following her example of growing native plants, said:

No er... we don't see much of the ones on that side, [Peta pointed to the house on the western side] they both work and no, I don't think so. The ones this side, now they haven't really got a garden...So, no, I don't think they are very interested. I don't think anyone around here is particularly interested in native plants. I've not seen any, you know as I walk around. It's a shame really, they should be.⁸³ [Peta, 70 year old gardener]

Conclusion: Volunteers

As a form of Foucauldian 'governmentality' as described by Huxley, volunteering in Kings Park is a means to foster a commitment to conserve the natural environment and show nature as a commodity with intrinsic value. Environmental programs emphasise the concept that natural species have value and therefore have the right to existence. In a volunteering environment, social capital as identified by Putnam, is accrued through participants acting together to achieve a shared objective. In the case of Kings Park volunteers, they are furthering the conservation of the South Western Australian biodiversity flora and promoting the use of native flora for domestic use. It is a case of participating in an activity that brings people together for a common cause. With moderate government support the role of volunteers is increasingly important in fulfilling the conservation aims of the park. It is a positive experience that can be transformed as a civic engagement that develops as a bonding exercise well beyond immediate family and in turn can be seen as the human face of democracy.

Volunteers for various institutions are a vital component of the social fabric of many societies. The work of volunteers is done for many and varied reasons, as shown in the volunteer functions inventory; much of it is crucial to the continuance of the chosen organisations. In the case of the volunteers of Kings Park, both Friends and

⁸³ This particular suburb has large housing blocks with adequate areas for gardens, but most follow the traditional English style garden planted with exotics around the traditional square of lawn.

Guides, their role in promoting the park and focusing on the native flora of the state is well recognised by the park authority and the visitors.

The basic function of volunteering for work in the Park can be very demanding. It involves training, time commitment and social and communication skills, as I have described in this chapter. Although there is a very strong commitment to the park and the native flora of the State, the preference for a cosmopolitan style home garden among the volunteers, that is, one with both exotics and native plants, is still very evident.

The majority of people interviewed had a positive approach to using native plants in their garden and showed some influence on neighbours regarding growing them.

CHAPTER 9 – CONCLUSION: INFLUENCE OF AN URBAN PARK

There are a range of political and governmental techniques for producing urban space as a means of modifying group and individual behaviour, as previously mentioned at the beginning of this work, (pages 5-9) and referred to by Fletcher, as well as Holland and Rawles (Fletcher 2010; Holland & Rawles 1996). This thesis is written within the theoretical framework of Agrawal's environmentalism, which is an extension of Foucault's governmentality pertinent to conservation of the natural environment. I do, however, recognise that biodiversity conservation practices are an area not yet fully explored, though they have been described as interventions that are aimed at caring for and nourishing, both human and other forms of life (Fletcher 2010). Nonetheless, there are other conservation considerations to be taken into account, such as the biological value, the ecocentric, cultural and aesthetic, and the recreational and educational values that I have detailed in this thesis.

Within the specified context of this thesis I have explored the activities of an urban park as an example of a human-centred exercise in bio-political conservation policy. It is ways of government influence to instil in people an environmental ethic, which will self-regulate their behaviour in ways conducive to conservation of the natural environment. In other words 'environmentalism' is aimed at creating 'environmental subjects' – people who care about the environment. Education and volunteer work are used, in this work, as examples of tools used to invoke an attitude, which is one of environmental care.

This particular study is focused on Kings Park and Botanic Garden, located in Perth, Western Australia, and how that park promotes and shapes a conservation ethic. Urban parks and botanic gardens are a growing field of academic study. In an era of environmental consciousness, the role that urban parks and gardens can play in educating the public in the significance of conservation of the natural environment is becoming increasingly important. Drawing on Foucault's work on 'governmentality' and Agrawal's variation on the theme 'environmentalism', urban open space, in this case Kings Park, can be seen as effecting a governmental technique in producing an urban space for the regulation and modification of human behaviour. It is a space of governance, in this case, in the cause of conservation of the natural environment. Considerable attention in this thesis is given to the didactic and research component of the park in this endeavour, and whether or not the promotion of conservation of native

flora has an effect on the choice of native flora, as an addition to or an alternative to exotics, in home gardens.

The major influence on the early evolution of urban parks and gardens in Perth since settlement is the origin of the colonial community from the United Kingdom. Therefore, the desired park and garden model was based on a style that was not in keeping with the climatic conditions in Western Australia. Of particular significance to this study is the transition of the park from a colonial style leisure facility to one now recognised as not only a world-class park from a visitor/tourist perspective, but also one carrying respect from the international botanical and scientific research community. I have argued that Kings Park is no longer just a symbol of civility and civicness, a place for recreation and quiet contemplation, but a significant player in conservation of the natural environment.

The uniqueness of the park makes it an interesting case for socio-environmental research in that it is located in one of the remotest cities in the world and has undergone a transition from a colonial leisure park at its earliest conception, formally gazetted in 1872, as a park for public use. The area was previously the homeland and hunting ground for the local Wadjuk Aboriginal people. The park is now ranked as the number one urban park in Australia, and sixth place⁸⁴ in urban parks of the world. Recognised not only for its aesthetic appeal, but also for the role it plays in environmental conservation, the park focuses in particular on the unique flora of the State of Western Australia. Situated in what is known as a 'Mediterranean' climate, the city of Perth is subject to mild winters and, increasingly, long and very hot, dry summers, with temperatures often ranging for extended periods between 35-42 degrees Celsius. Rainfall is generally restricted to the winter months, with only occasional precipitation in the summer. Average rainfall for the metropolitan area on the Swan Coastal Plain ranges from 600 mm to 900 mm with up to 1200 mm in the Darling Range on the eastern perimeter of the city. Differing from most of the other Mediterranean climatic zones is the nutrient-impoverished soil of the area, which is mainly Phosphorus (P) deficient. Adding to the interest of the area is the vast quantity of native flora in the *kwongan*, 12,000 to 13,000 species, many of which are endemic to the area.

Urban parks and gardens throughout the ages have played a significant role in human communities, often used as symbols of civility and civicness, or as places of retreat and seclusion. In the industrial era they were used as green filters, or 'lungs' of

⁸⁴ 2014 TripAdvisor Traveller's Choice Awards.

cities, considered in some cases to minimise social disharmony, and improve the morality of the citizenry. At times development of parks followed the belief that the human hand could improve nature. In Foucault's terms these spaces are not so much Utopias but heterotopias, spaces where the influences of a society and a culture are reflected and inverted (Foucault, 1997 cited by Summers 2007, p. 318). In the past, Kings Park could well have been considered a heterotopia of plants used in traditional British gardens in a hostile environment (Summers 2007, p. 329), and additionally a heterotopia of British society.

Promoting the natural flora of the State as an alternative to displaying plants from other Mediterranean regions is one of the principal changes in the policy of the park with the development of the native botanic garden in 1965. This was done with the intention of educating the general public and the gardening community of Perth in the appreciation of native plants of the State and for their use in domestic gardens. This project has addressed the way in which the park promotes and shapes a conservation ethic within the local and wider community.

To address this question it was necessary for me to become 'embedded' in the Kings Park community, working as a volunteer in the park and Botanic Garden, taking membership in the Friends of Kings Park and working as a volunteer guide. This was in keeping with the anthropological method of 'participant observation' augmented by a survey and interviews. It was through this process that I became familiar with the policies and procedures of the park, and also with the views of visitors and volunteers of the park on the value of promoting the local flora for conservation, and its value in domestic gardens. Taking into account that the South Western Australia Floristic Region is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots the promotion of conservation of the native flora is of paramount importance.

Initially, the vision of the park was to emulate parks of the homeland, with lawns, shady trees and beds of exotic flowers, rose bushes and colourful annuals. However, in recognising the climatic differences and the depleted soil of the *kwongan*, that policy changed. Hence a 17-hectare Botanic Garden featuring Western Australian native flora was opened in 1965 with the intention of displaying the uniqueness of the flora of the State and the suitability of some of the specimens for domestic use in preference to exotics.

Following a detailed account of literature on the purpose and history of urban parks and gardens Chapter 3 - Kings Park & Botanic Garden – the setting, focuses specifically

on Kings Park and Botanic Garden to put the thesis in context, and to follow the multiple purposes of the park, primarily: Commemoration, Recreation, Education and Conservation (CREC). Up until the middle of the twentieth century the park authorities gave little serious consideration to the wide opportunities available for such a unique area to promote the vast range of native flora within the state and within the park area in particular. Although the foresight of the early civic leaders in preserving the park for public use must be applauded, the native bushland area was not fully recognised at the time of early settlement for its potential value as a nature conservation site for future generations. For example, logging of old mature Jarrah trees (*Eucalyptus marginata*) for commercial purposes devastated the natural stand of this species and reduced numbers to such an extent that only a few smaller specimens remain in the park. Outlines of the old ‘saw pits’ can still be seen in parts of the park. In the past, residents of neighbouring suburbs used areas of the park as a dumping ground for household and garden rubbish. This resulted in the spread of invasive species of plants, which are now well established and require constant control work from staff and volunteers.

Interpretation of the findings

In addressing the main research question, the empirical findings of this project show there are a number of ways as to ‘how an urban park promotes and shapes a conservation ethic,’ not least of which is the actual location of the park. This is in itself a means of promoting the natural environment. Being located adjacent to the central business district of Perth provides easy access for everyone. In short, it brings nature into the city, a site of urban environmentality controlled by an instrument of government, the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority. Kings Park is, as are many other urban parks of the mid to late nineteenth century, an urban space using governmental techniques, that would influence and modify human behaviour (Gabriel 2011, p. 126). A set of comprehensive terms and conditions provide an ethical framework for the use of the park (Appendix 8).

On entering the park local users and visitors are immediately guided into an avenue of Lemon Scented Gums (*Corymbia citriodora*);⁸⁵ although not native to the State, they represent the magnificence of native Australian trees. An immediate awareness of nature is introduced to the visitor. On either side of the avenue well ordered grassed areas display a variety of native trees and plants; an example of ‘tamed nature.’

⁸⁵ The trees were planted before the policy of using only Western Australian trees was introduced.

Following further into the park into the main visitor precinct, the diversity of local native flora becomes evident. Examples of species suitable for home gardens are prominent on a raised 'mound' in the central visitor area. Sited in a location providing easy access for visitors with limited mobility, or time restrictions, the area demonstrates the versatility of native flora by giving a display of colour for most of the year, peaking during the spring and early summer months. Located a few metres from the demonstration mound is the entrance to the Botanic Garden where daily guided walks take the visitors on a mini-tour of the various regions of Western Australia and their endemic flora. Within the central precinct is the Visitor Information Centre, staffed by volunteers, where information on the park, its history and floral displays is readily available.

The results of the survey I conducted at the Kings Park native plant sales show there is considerable interest in using local native plant species in home gardens as a suitable alternative or an addition to imported exotic plants. However, it became apparent that a complete 'native garden' is not the primary aim of those home gardeners included in the survey, but that a cosmopolitan style, hybrid garden is favoured. This entails planting native species to complement gardens already established with exotics. Of the 203 people surveyed, 30 had a 100% native garden, while the remainder varied from those having a few 'experimental' native plants to people who were gradually replacing exotic plants with native species as or when the opportunity arose. Of those people surveyed, 78% said that they had been influenced in their choice of native plants for home garden use by the examples shown in the botanic garden, plant sales and promotion programs of the park. This illustrates the dynamics of environmentality, that is, the influence of an arm of government on a cohort of gardeners with regard to the conservation of the natural environment in their use of local native flora of Western Australia as an alternative or an addition to exotics in their home gardens.

The survey also showed that in the selected cohort, women were the primary instigators in choosing and using native plant species for home gardens. Of those surveyed at the plant sales, 69% (Table 3) were female. Respondents were selected as they came out of the plant sale and no predetermined criteria were used. The majority of respondents were Anglo-Australian (62.56%) born in Australia with other respondents coming from various countries around the world; all were currently domiciled in Perth.

Volunteers

Raising the profile of native flora and the need to conserve it is one of the key roles of volunteers of the park. Although the park employs 160 staff, there are over fifteen hundred volunteers, of which five hundred are regularly involved in the park. Much of the success of the park is due to these volunteers who perform a wide range of duties. Ranging from staffing the Visitor Information Centre, taking free guided walks, working in the garden, providing gardening advice, supporting the plant breeding programs and organising native plant sales four times a year.

Education

Education is the most effective way of promoting and shaping a conservation ethic. In recent years a considerable commitment of resources, both human and financial, has gone into the development of facilities that enhance the learning process of children from early school age to tertiary level. The building of an education centre staffed by qualified teachers and a series of learning programs which complement the State school curriculum has proven to be increasingly popular and has confronted the 'pedagogic challenge' referred to in Chapter 5 - A didactic resource. Additionally as an attachment to the education centre is the 'Naturescape' area, designed to provide today's school age children the opportunity to become familiar with the local natural environment, and explore the bush as children of past generations have done. This facility has also proven popular as a means of combating the contemporary childhood malady of 'nature deficit disorder', so aptly describe by Richard Louv (2005).

Native plant sales

One of the most significant activities in influencing the promotion of a conservation ethic by using local native plants as suitable for home gardens are the native plant sales. Organised by the Friends of Kings Park, these plant sales are held four times a year, in March, May, September and November. Over the period of my fieldwork a survey (Appendix 1) of the customers of the sales was conducted, focusing on the reasons they were purchasing native plants, and to ascertain if the park influenced their choice of native plants in preference to exotics. The results (Table 14) showed that the policies and examples of the park had an influence in determining the choice of plants of 78% of the participants in the survey, although as predicted, all of those surveyed (100%) believed that the park should be involved in promoting conservation of the natural environment.

Water conservation

Water conservation is a serious concern of Western Australia, as I identified in Chapter 6. One of the well-recognised means of reducing water consumption is to grow plant species that require only minimal watering. Therefore, one of the main selling points for native species is that they are ‘water wise.’ However, although many of the people surveyed had bought native plants in the past with the intention of conserving water, 47% (Table 13) said that they either had not conserved water, or were not sure that they had actually conserved water by using native species as garden plants. Further observations and interviews revealed that although one of the many reasons for purchasing native plants was to reduce water consumption, very often the native specimens were planted alongside exotics, with an automatic reticulation system set and timed to cater for the needs of the exotics. This meant that the native plants received the same amount of water as the exotics, which was surplus to requirement. The gardeners who had a separate area for native plants or who had a garden planted with all native plants (15% of those surveyed) said that they had reduced their domestic water consumption.

Although a ‘water wise’ message has dominated the home garden scene in Perth for a number of years the water-saving qualities of native species was only one of a number of reasons people chose them. When asked which plant species were preferred most respondents indicated that they simply wanted ‘something that will grow in this climate’, or words to that effect. Comments of this nature indicate an appreciation of the difficulties that can be experienced in home gardens on the Swan coastal plain. Not only are gardeners confronted with very low rainfall and extreme temperatures in the summer months but they also have to cope with very low nutrient sandy soils, which ‘typically have a low water-holding capacity and tend to be water-repellent’ (Lambers et al. 2014a, p. 129).

Predicted water restrictions will impose greater emphasis on the need to review not only home gardening practices, but also the gardening practices of the numerous local government authorities within the Perth metropolitan region.

Limitations of the study

The scope of this study was limited to a cohort of customers of the Friends of Kings Park native plants sales, volunteers and visitors to the park; this project does not take into account the wider community and the possibility of contradictory opinions. In other

words, taking into account the limited resources available, it was not realistic to survey or interview every gardener or to view every garden in the metropolitan region of Perth. However, information gathered by this project can be used as a stepping-stone for further research. However, the results of the interviews and surveys must be considered to fall within the scope of a predominantly qualitative approach, given the limited number of variables and the relatively small number of participants. This, in turn, renders the surveys limitation to descriptive statistics rather than the more elaborate statistical tests of a quantitative approach.

Suggestions for further research

The results of this study have several implications for further research focusing on specific topics:

(a) Assessment of the use of native flora, particularly their use in domestic gardens on a larger scale. This would mean extending the theme of the thesis, 'promoting a conservation ethic' to include both the old and new suburbs of Perth, to ascertain the public consciousness of environmental conservation and the conservation of local native flora.

(b) Research into Kings Park and Botanic Garden as a site for social cohesion. Taking into account the population growth and the diversity of the population of Perth in recent years, a study into their behavioral patterns when using the park would assist management with future planning and facility requirements. A focus on large gatherings in the park and the impact these gatherings have on other users would develop a better understanding of the needs required to alleviate traffic and pedestrian congestion, and the prospect of social disharmony. Low (2005, pp. 60-67) raises the point that in some parks there are instances of social tensions due to the diversity of users.

(c) A comparative study with another Australian park, i.e. one on the eastern seaboard. Such research could determine the extent of the promotion of the native flora and provide comparative data on its effectiveness on the home gardens in a different state. This would be an interesting study because of the different flora, in particular in the sub-tropical and tropical States, and also because of the different soil profiles on the eastern side of the continent.

(d) A comparative study of the operation of environmentality in Singapore. Whether or not the greening of Singapore over the last few decades has had a 'flow on' effect to the domestic environment in the way of increased houseplant use and whether or not

conservation awareness has evolved raise interesting points and could lay the foundation for further comparative research.

(e) The effectiveness of the local government authority urban parks and reserves around the Perth region and the impact they have on promoting the use of native flora for domestic gardens. In other words do home gardeners follow the example set by the governing authority (environmentality)?

(f) The connection between gardens and social relations in terms of class, race, national identity and gender (Bhatti & Church 2001, p. 367). With the increase in numbers, and the difference in the social and cultural diversity of Perth's population, a study into the perception of 'home' and 'belonging' in an alien environment needs further review. This would include studying the current social structure in Western Australian society and the associated symbolism of gardens relevant to class.

(g) The difference (if any) between gardening attitudes of Aboriginal and descendants of Aboriginal people and those of non-Aboriginal gardeners, specifically with regard to the use of native flora versus exotics in home gardens.

Concerns for future population growth

During the course of the research for this project concern was expressed for the future of the park. It is not so much that the future of the park is under immediate threat, but there is concern for how the park and facilities would cope with an ever-increasing population.

One interviewee's concern for the ever increasing population in Perth was adequately expressed when he identified Kings Park as the only 'breathing space' many people have. In response to this concern, the Chief Executive Officer of the park stated that the number of visitors to Kings Park has stabilised over the last few years (personal communication 2012).

Jon, one of the interviewees, felt that due to the increase in population the park would lose its identity as a West Australian icon and way of life. He went on to say:

Basically, Kings Park is a window on what I want my culture to be. It's expressing what Western Australia or my country should be. I look at it as more than just a few plants. You take Kings Park away and you have got a pretty empty city. That's where Dorothy Erickson hit the nail on the head. Any city can have tall buildings, Coles and Myers. My worry is that with the increase in population we might change direction. When you've got millions of people all wanting to use one park, it can get a bit crowded. [Jon, 70 year old Kings Park Guide.]

Currently, the increase in the population of the Perth metropolitan area is primarily due to the flow of people coming into the State because of the escalation of the resources activity in the northern regions of Western Australia. Because the activity is in the north, the majority of the workers in this sector are employed on a 'fly in fly out' basis, with homes in the metropolitan area of Perth. This in turn increases the demand for appropriate recreational facilities. Therefore, Kings Park and Botanic Garden being one of the hubs of social activity in Perth will no doubt be affected by the consequences.

The increase in park users over the last few decades will require planning for the future of the park in its role as a recreational and didactic facility furthering the cause for conservation of the natural environment and the use of native flora for home gardens.

Summary

As evident from the results of this project, urban green areas, such as Kings Park, will play an ever-increasing role in environmental conservation and the development of environmental subjects.

In this thesis I have argued the role that urban parks and gardens play in the promoting and shaping conservation of the natural environment is becoming increasingly important, in particular with regard to the conservation of rare and endangered species. The Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority through the medium of Kings Park and Botanic Garden has contributed to this by focusing on the conservation of native flora of Western Australia, which includes one of the world's 25 recognised biodiversity hot spots, the South West of Western Australia. By applying considerable resources; financial, scientific and didactic, as well as a strong program of volunteer recruitment, the park has become recognised as a key player in conservation work by the international community, yet at the same time recognised as a prime tourist attraction.

The strong emphasis on conservation includes promoting native flora for domestic use. My research findings show that, although the emphasis on the conservation and growing of native flora of Western Australia for domestic and civic use is one of the prime objectives of the Botanic Parks and Gardens Authority, there is still a strong element of 'horticultural cringe' in the gardening fraternity of Perth - that is, the view that Australian flora are somehow inferior to that of other countries. However, even though the interest in native flora for domestic garden use is slowly gaining momentum

due to better cultivars, more accurate and tested information available to users and proactive volunteer groups in Kings Park, the preference for the majority of my informants, is for a cosmopolitan type garden based on British gardening principles. This has resulted in a garden with a mixture of exotic plants and native plants, many with a traditional lawn area surrounded by well-defined borders to keep nature under control, and suggesting a well-ordered lifestyle for the residents. This satisfies the desire for an attachment to something culturally familiar, in an alien environment, and to be on 'home' ground. This attachment applied both to the Australian-born informants and also to those who had migrated to the country.

All participants in the survey and those interviewed stated that the Kings Park Authority should promote the cause of conservation of the natural environment. This statement recognised the role of the park as something other than a place of commemoration or leisure.

There was acknowledgment that the policy of the park had a strong influence on the choice of plants for domestic purposes. Seventy eight percent of those surveyed stated that the promotion of native flora by Kings Park for domestic purposes directly influenced their choice of plants. The remaining 22% were either following their curiosity or simply just 'trying things out.' The future use of native flora by home gardeners will be dependent on a number of factors, including an understanding of plant requirements on the impoverished soil of the Swan Coastal Plain, the ready availability of suitable species, generational influence and the future availability of water for domestic use.

The active promotion of native plants for domestic use by the volunteer force in Kings Park is reliant on the continued interest by those willing to commit their time and effort to the cause, in most cases retirees. As the age structure of the population changes there is potential for an increase in people available for volunteer work - people are living longer and have more time in retirement. As Putnam theorises, as volunteering increases social capital, then the prospect of a future supply of volunteers is likely to increase.

The role of Kings Park in promoting and shaping a conservation ethic has been discussed at length in this thesis. I reiterate Edmonds point, mentioned previously in Chapter 2, that 'in almost all "areas" of sustainability, we know scientifically and technically what we need to do and how to do it' (Edmonds 2010, p. 143) we just need to do it.

However my research has shown that there already is a concerted effort by the cohort included in this project to ‘do it’, that is, to utilise the local flora in an effort to sustain and promote the local natural environment. This is supported by the figures obtained in my research (e.g. Table 12), which show that 107 of the 203 surveyed had between 51% and 100% of their gardens planted with native species, while the remainder had areas ranging from less than 25% to 50% populated with native flora. All of those interviewed in their home gardens showed me examples of native species growing in the garden that they had purchased from the Kings Park native plant sales, although many were keen to maintain a space of exotics in their gardens as well. All members of the cohort showed a keen interest in conservation, although many had mixed results with native plants they were keen to persevere. Their enthusiasm and continuing efforts to grow native plants, albeit often together with the exotic plants that still evoke memories of their homelands, exemplify the extent to which Kings Park has fostered a conservation ethic, demonstrating the transformation of the park from a site of leisure and commemoration to a governmental instrument that, while still preserving those functions, operates to create new subjects who manifest attitudes of environmental awareness and care.⁸⁶

⁸⁶ While I was on duty at native plant sales after I had concluded my fieldwork many of the respondents returned to the sales and discussed their continuing efforts to grow native flora.

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<http://www.bgpa.wa.gov.au>

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

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Botanic Gardens Conservation International

<http://www.bgci.org/>

Convention on Biological Diversity

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<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Survey Form



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Achieving International Excellence

Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
The University of Western Australia
M255, 35 Stirling Hwy, Crawley, WA 6009.
FAX64881062
PH64882851
Email lyonr01@student.uwa.edu.au
www.anthropology.arts.uwa.edu.au
Chief investigator/supervisor:
Asst/Prod Gregory Acciaioli
Assoc/Prof Katie Glaskin

Survey form for PhD project: Richard Lyon

Influence of Kings Park Botanic Garden on native plants for domestic use in Western Australia.

Participant details:

Male ___ Female ___ Age Group: 20-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61+

Country of origin/Ethnic group _____ Suburb _____

Residency type:

Flat ___ Home unit ___ Town House ___ Suburban house ___ Other ___

Questionnaire:

Does contact with the Botanic Garden at Kings Park influence your use of native plants in your home? Yes ___ No ___

If "Yes" to what extent: Pot plants ___ Borders ___ Front Garden ___ Back Garden ___ Both ___

What percentage of your established garden is allocated to native plants?
25% ___ 50% ___ 75% ___ 100% ___

Do you regularly attend 'Friends of Kings Park' native plant sales? Yes ___ No ___

If 'Yes' how often? Annually ___ Bi-annually ___ Quarterly ___ Sometimes ___

Do you prefer certain types of plants? Yes ___ No ___

If 'Yes' give details. Species _____ Variety _____

Has the use of native plants reduced your water consumption?

Yes ___ No ___ Not Sure ___

Do you believe Kings Park has a role in promoting environmental conservation? Yes ___ No ___

Would you be willing to be contacted, at some future date, to discuss your garden? Yes ___ No ___

CONTACT DETAILS: NAME & PHONE OR EMAIL.

Comments _____

Appendix 2: Collections and promotion of Western Australian flora.



POLICY: COLLECTIONS AND PROMOTION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN AND OTHER FLORA.

OBJECTIVES

- Conserve, develop, manage, display, and undertake research into, collections of Western Australian and other flora.
- Promote the use of flora for the purposes of horticulture, conservation and education.

GUIDELINES

- Enhance and promote the conservation, horticulture, interest and understanding of Western Australian and other flora through research, education, interpretation and display.
- Enhance the display and interpretation features of the Western Australian Botanic Garden in order to raise its profile.
- Display, protect and interpret the rare and endangered species collection.
- Become a centre for botanical and horticultural research in Western Australian flora.
- Continue implementation and appropriate revision of the 1996 Botanic Garden Master Plan and the 2001 Plant Collections and Display Policy.
- Enhance the visitor experience by creating displays and features with access for all.
- Develop and maintain best practice management and maintenance programs.

Appendix 3: Inspiring conservation of biological diversity.



POLICY: INSPIRING CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.

OBJECTIVE

- Enhance and promote the understanding and conservation of biological diversity of the designated land and of biological diversity generally.

GUIDELINES

- Develop active public participation in the protection and re-establishment of threatened flora and provide interpretation and educational opportunities to advance community understanding of biodiversity conservation.
- Facilitate the survival of rare and endangered flora through seed and vegetative collection for storage and cultivation, tissue culture, genetic finger printing, cryostorage and other conservation techniques.
- Research and develop techniques for plant re-introductions and survival in the wild, particularly of Western Australian endangered species.
- Seek and promote initiatives for collaboration in the collection and re-establishment of rare and endangered flora.

Appendix 4: Recreation and tourism.



POLICY: RECREATION AND TOURISM

OBJECTIVE

- Provide, improve and promote quality recreational and tourism services and facilities on the designated land.

GUIDELINES

- Develop and provide safe recreation and tourism activities and initiatives for all users consistent with the vision and mission of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA).
- Promote the natural qualities of recreation settings and facilitate nature based-based recreation consistent with the vision and mission of the BGPA.
- Provide and promote a range of information, interpretation and educational opportunities for the maximum diversity of visitor interests.
- Deliver an efficient and effective organisation while encouraging and maintaining mutually beneficial partnerships.
- Develop and maintain recreation and tourism opportunities that complement other Western Australian attractions and facilities.

Appendix 5: Conservation of landscape and amenity of designated land



POLICY: CONSERVATION OF LANDSCAPE AND AMENITY OF DESIGNATED LAND

OBJECTIVE

- Conserve and enhance the natural environment, landscape features and amenity of the designated land.

GUIDELINES

- Provide a range of visitor opportunities consistent with the vision and mission of the BGPA that reflect the parkland and Western Australian Botanic Garden as unique and premier venues.
- Enhance visitor enjoyment of the developed areas including plants, gardens, lawns, trees and playgrounds while ensuring no negative impact on adjacent bushland.
- Ensure sound conservation management practices, including the optimum use of existing facilities and infrastructure.
- Develop agreements with neighbours of Kings Park and Botanic Garden to appropriately manage shared boundaries.
- Implement the Kings Park and Botanic Garden Landscape Guidelines and review every five years.

Appendix 6: Conservation of native biological diversity on designated land



POLICY: CONSERVATION OF NATIVE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ON DESIGNATED LAND

OBJECTIVE

- Conserve and enhance any of the native biological diversity of the designated land

GUIDELINES

- Maintain the bushland's status as a premier conservation area.
- Reduce threats to native biodiversity such as fire, weeds, feral animals, disease and other disturbing factors.
- Develop ecological restoration knowledge and best practice through research and transfer this knowledge and practice to other land managers and the community.
- Implement adaptive management to improve bushland condition and progressively restore areas of disturbed bushland.
- Protect and maintain viable populations of local native plant and fungal species, including vulnerable and keystone species.
- Develop active public participation in bushland programs and provide interpretation and environmental education opportunities to enhance community understanding and appreciation of the bushland and its management.
- Plan and implement management activities to complement the visual qualities of the bushland landscape.
- Develop and implement a fire management plan and review annually.

Appendix 7: Cultural heritage



POLICY: CULTURAL HERITAGE

OBJECTIVE

- Conserve, enhance and promote the Aboriginal, colonial and contemporary cultural heritage of the designated land.

GUIDELINES

- Conserve, enhance and promote cultural heritage in consultation with the community and in accordance with relevant conservation plans.
- Develop and promote education and interpretation programs on contemporary, colonial and Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Encourage initiatives that provide a greater community appreciation, awareness and understanding of contemporary, colonial and Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Deliver an efficient and effective organisation while encouraging and maintaining mutually beneficial partnerships.

Appendix 8: Terms and Conditions



Kings Park and Botanic Garden

Kings Park and Botanic Garden is an A class reserve managed under the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority [Act and Regulations](#). The environment must be maintained for all visitors to enjoy before, during and after your event. Kings Park can be exceptionally busy and adhering to our conditions ensures that all visitors, whether attending your event or not, can enjoy their visit to the park.

BGPA Regulations

- All visitors must obey any lawful directions of the Chief Executive Officer or his delegate and abide by the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Regulations 1999*.
- Organisers are required to ensure that attendees and contractors abide by these Terms and Conditions and any other signage or direction of the Authority. Any breach may result in [infringements](#) issued to individuals and/or the function organiser.
- Organisers will be required to pay for any damages arising from a function.
- The Authority is to be indemnified against any claim or action arising from a function.
- The Authority reserves the right to cancel a booking at any time, such as in [extreme weather conditions](#). Payments will be refunded in full.

Kings Park Terms and Conditions

The following terms and conditions apply to all group bookings in Kings Park and Botanic Garden. They must be agreed to before submitting your booking application and distributed to all guests and hired services. Contact the [Bookings Officer](#) for further information or clarification.

Venue and Availability

- Hire venues are appropriate to specific event and function types. The [Hire Venues section](#) details appropriate function types and capacities for each venue.
- Function bookings are entered into a bookings system and a sign is placed at the venue to reserve the space. Exclusive use cannot be granted for any grassed areas and no areas can be cordoned off.
- A site meeting may be necessary for large functions, professionally catered functions, sporting events, or for functions requiring additional infrastructure. The Bookings Officer will advise if a site meeting is required which will incur an additional fee (please refer to the Fees and Charges section of your application form).
- Special consideration and planning is required for [medium-sized events](#) (functions or events for groups larger than 250 attendees).
- Bookings are taken for venue hire only. Chairs, tables or other items are not provided or available for hire from the Authority.
- Function bookings can only be made for functions between 9.00 am and 6.00 pm.

Fitness training and sporting event booking times are negotiable.

- Bookings may only be taken up to one year in advance.
- Venue restrictions may apply to accommodate major events, special occasions or scheduled works. The Bookings Officer will advise of any restrictions that apply at the time of booking. These include:
 - All venues within Fraser Avenue and the Botanic Garden are unavailable in September due to the annual Kings Park Festival.
 - Restrictions on venue availability apply from 1 November to 30 April each year during the summer events season.
 - Fraser Avenue venues are restricted on the 24 and 25 April for ANZAC Day services.
 - Bookings are not taken for Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Australia Day or Mother's Day.
 - The Lotterywest Federation Walkway and the State War Memorial precinct cannot be booked.

Access, Vehicles and Parking

- Refer to [Transport Options](#) for further information on terms and conditions relating to vehicles and parking.
- Venue access by large vehicles requires site meeting approval. The removal of park structures and ground marking is prohibited at all times.

Kings Park Bushland

- Planned events on bushland tracks are limited to walking or running activities, with the route developed in conjunction with and approved by BGPA.
- For conservation reasons and due to the sensitive nature of bushland, visitors must remain on designated pathways and grassed areas at all times. Please do not bring into or remove from Kings Park any soil matter or flowers/plants.
- Tracks or pathways under restoration are strictly out of bounds – no barriers, bollards or fencing should be removed.
- Areas where work is in progress should be avoided and participants must keep to the approved route.
- The number of Sporting events on bushland tracks is limited to 10 per year.
- Events of greater than 100 people may require staggered starting times to prevent crowding on pathways and deterioration of surrounding vegetation. This may also require modification of race start point and direction of flow to spread the field.
- A limit of 250 participants per event may be approved by the BPGA for events using tracks and paths in the bushland precinct.
- Prior to an event, organisers must conduct a briefing with participants to outline the conservation significance of Kings Park and Botanic Garden. Please advise participants to keep to the middle of tracks and allow a maximum of two persons abreast for safety reasons and to avoid damage to gardens and bushland. Entry into the bushland (off tracks and paths) is not permitted.
- Organisers must ensure that all warning signs and instructions from the Authority are adhered to.
- All users of bushland tracks must be courteous to other park users, such as giving way to oncoming traffic.
- Route markers are to be self-supporting and removed at the end of the race. No markers are to be attached to vegetation. Use of flour, powders or dyes as markers are not permitted.

- The positioning of marshals may be required to prevent cutting of corners within the bushland. This requirement is to be determined in consultation with a BGPA representative in development of the route.
- All infrastructures, including drink stations, is to be approved by the BGPA and located in designated parkland areas.
- Closure of the bushland occurs during days of Extreme or higher Fire Danger Rating, declared Total Fire Ban or if there is an active bushfire in Kings Park. It is recommended that events are not conducted on days when severe weather warnings are active for the Perth area.

Furniture and Infrastructure

- To protect the park and its infrastructure, nothing can be staked into the ground, nailed, hung or attached to any structure or tree. Any equipment must have prior written approval from BGPA, be freestanding and placed in your booked area only without causing damage to vegetation or turf.
- Tables and chairs are permitted however they must be delivered to the venue by hand or by small hand trolley. Cars or delivery vehicles are not permitted to drive onto grassed areas or stop in No Stopping Zones.
- Shade cloths, tents, gazebos and market umbrellas are not permitted regardless of weather conditions.
- Free-standing marquees are restricted to specific areas. Marquees are not available for hire from the Authority. Venue hire fees apply and a site meeting is required for final approval.
- Obstruction of pathways is not permitted, including equipment, which may cross over a path.
- The use of fitness equipment is subject to prior written approval from the Authority. Gym apparatus such as bench press, rowing machines, stepper, weight bar, large tyres and ropes and other heavy elements are not permitted.
- The use of memorials, trees and other park infrastructure (e.g. benches and picnic tables) for fitness training is inappropriate and prohibited.

Power and Electrical/Gas Equipment

- A 15-amp power outlet is available at some sites; please check the output of your electrical equipment beforehand.
- All electrical equipment must be in good working order, tagged and comply with relevant Australian Standards.
- Generators are not permitted without written permission.
- RCDs must protect all electrical outlets and equipment.

Decorations and Signage

- Wedding bouquets and freestanding flower arrangements are permitted.
- At the time of booking, permission must be sought to erect a freestanding sign of no larger than A3 to be placed within your booked area. Signage is only to be used to identify your booked area. No signage is to be erected outside your booked area, such as for directional or promotional purposes. No signage is to be attached to structures or trees.
- Decorations must not be hung from, or attached to, any structures, trees or signs.
- The following popular decorative features are not permitted:
 - Live topiary trees, live plant matter, and soil.
 - Candles, lanterns and other open flames.
 - Releasing of helium balloons, butterflies or doves.

- Throwing of confetti rose petals and rice.
- Marking the ground or turf with any substance is prohibited.

Music, Games and Activities

- Loud noise including whistles, shouting or amplified music is strictly prohibited.
- Non-powered musical instruments, battery powered amplifiers and digital music players may be operated quietly with prior written approval from BGPA.
- Giant games, ball games, laser games and other sporting activities are restricted to designated areas and require prior approval.
- Bouncy castles, bucking bulls, animal farms, trackless trains and bubble machines are not permitted.

Rubbish, Ice and Hot Water Disposal

- Please leave our beautiful parkland the way you found it. All rubbish from your event must be removed or placed inside rubbish bins. Leaving the rubbish next to a rubbish bin is classed as littering and will incur a fine. If the bins are full, please take your rubbish with you.
- Ice from eskies must be emptied onto mulched areas. Ice is not to be emptied onto the lawn as it causes damage to the grass. The same conditions apply to hot water disposal.

Alcohol

- Event organisers must obtain a written permit from the Authority if alcohol is to be consumed. This is required regardless of whether it is supplied by the organiser or if guests bring their own.
- Large, catered and/or corporate functions may require additional licenses from the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor. It is the organiser's responsibility to obtain the relevant licence/s prior to the event.
- The alcohol permit is only valid for the approved event and maximum number of guests.
- All service and supply of alcohol must comply with Western Australian laws, including the Liquor Licensing Act 1988, the Health Act 1911, the Botanic Gardens and Park Authority Act 1988 and BGPA regulations.
- Alcohol consumption must remain within the venue area. It must not be consumed in children's playgrounds, on roads or thoroughfares.
- Alcohol consumption is restricted to no more than 2 standard drinks per adult in the first hour followed by 1 standard drink per hour thereafter.
- Alcohol service and consumption must not impact other park users or the venue.
- No alcohol-related games or contests allowed.
- Food and low-alcohol drink alternatives must be provided.
- A copy of the organiser's Public Liability and Worker's Compensation insurance cover is required for corporate functions only.
- Security guards, first aid, and additional toilet and rubbish facilities may be required for events greater than 100 persons.
- The Authority promotes a glass and smoke free venue.

Caterers

- All functions held in the Fraser Avenue or Botanic Garden precincts are required to obtain a quote from [Fraser's Restaurant](#). You are not obliged to employ Fraser's

- Restaurant if you have received a more suitable quote from another caterer.
- The caterer is responsible for all catering staff and their understanding of the Authority's Terms and Conditions.
 - The cost of damage to trees, garden beds, turf, infrastructure or services caused by catering staff and vehicles will be charged to the organiser. It is the event organiser's responsibility to inform all hired services of the Terms and Conditions.
 - A copy of the caterer's current public liability insurance is to be submitted with the booking application form.
 - Caterers are required to adhere to Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines.
 - Caterers must stay within the approved function area. It is to be kept clean, tidy and safe at all times.

Barbecues and pizza ovens

- Barbecues are free and available to all park users and cannot be reserved. The booking of a venue does not include exclusive use of a barbecue. Electric barbecues are available in Synergy Parkland, Lotterywest Family Area, Saw Avenue Picnic Area and the Pines Picnic Area on Fraser Avenue.
- The use of portable barbecues, pizza ovens, spit roasts and bain-maries will only be considered when operated by a professional catering company in selected areas for functions of 80 people or more. The caterer is solely responsible for the supervision, spillage and transfer of these items.
- Picnics and self-catered options are welcome.
- Please do not feed the wildlife.

Supervision

- Organisers are required to ensure that attendees and contractors abide by these Terms and Conditions and any other signage or direction of the Authority.
- Children must be appropriately supervised at all times.
- Any children under 12 years of age taking part in an organised event within Kings Park eg. sporting event, are not permitted in Kings Park bushland areas and require adult supervision with an adult to child ratio of 1:4.
- Individuals 12 - 18 years involved in organised events in Kings Park require adult supervision with an adult to youth ratio of 1:10.

Infringements

The Authority is required to issue infringements for breaches to the Regulations and penalties may apply. If you have received an infringement from the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, please refer to the [Infringements section](#) for more information.

Appendix 9: A letter from a grateful grandparent

To whom it may concern:

Well what surprises we had, Nana, Gramps and three grandchildren, rocked up at the Rio Tinto Naturescape Park not really knowing what to expect.

The first surprise was the reaction on the father and grandfather's faces. Their eyes seemed to be locked in visions of times long past, as they lead their offspring into the water, up the streams and over the log bridges. Greeting other adult men with smiles and comments such as, "this was my childhood" or "I grew up in a place like this." Another father was seen carrying a tree branch about four metres long and was heard to be muttering something like "I'll show you how to build a cubby."

The second surprise was the ponds and streams were not surrounded by 1.8 metre fencing, with self-closing gates and huge warning signs. I beheld children laughing, giggling, eyes full of wonder and expectation as they ran in and out of the water. One child wadding up stream slipped, deserving a score of 5.5 for his artistic flight impression, and a full 10 for landing, as he managed to stay upright. With an astonished look on his face and excitement in his voice he called to his mother, "the green rocks are slippery." I could scarcely refrain myself from yelling back, "well done lad, you will not learn that from iamaboringlifelesskid.com.au!"

The third surprise was that the children were encouraged to climb more than 1.2 metres high without the proverbial 5-metre thick rubber fall area to ensure a no consequence harmless landing. All to satisfy some obscure Australian Standard that meets the requirement code of practice, "How to change Adventurous Children into Safe Dreary Adults."

The fourth surprise is that I never saw any children stricken with a dreaded malaise that appears to affect too many of the children in the Western World. The bored look, the wish I was somewhere else attitude, tiredness and apathy; all symptoms of Adventure Deficit Disorder – a major childhood plague of our day.

I must admit we laid a blanket on the dirt floor by the cubbies, and without washing our hands we had our packed lunch. (Don't let the parents know – we won't be allowed the children again). We all survived. None of us had botulism, cholera, or legionnaire's disease. In fact, lunch tasted great!

The biggest surprise of all is how you managed to circumvent the planning department, with their dreaded public liability insurers and their risk management departments, not to mention the Occupational Safety and Health Nazis.

Thank you for providing a way of allowing my grandchildren for a few short hours to enjoy the privileged childhood many of us grew up with, to wallow in the adventure of nature. The only way we could get our grandchildren to leave was to make a promise to bring them back soon.

(The Chief Executive Officer of Kings Park presented this letter at the Friends of Kings Park 20th anniversary dinner on the 24th September 2013.)