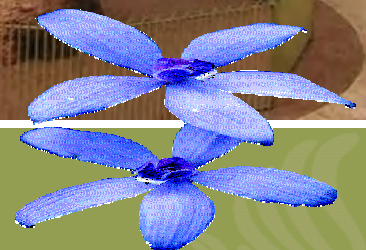




Annual Report

2008/2009




Explore • Discover • Experience • Educate • Conserve


Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority 2008/2009 Annual Report

In accordance with the State Government Guidelines, this Report has been produced in electronic format and can be viewed on the Authority's website www.bgpa.wa.gov.au. Alternative formats can be available upon request.

Enquiries regarding this Annual Report should be directed to:

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

Front Cover Montage: The epic journey of the 750 year old Boab tree from the Kimberley in northern Western Australia to its new home in Kings Park and Botanic Garden attracted world-wide interest was a major achievement for everyone involved in the project.
Photos: P Courtney, D Newcombe, J Thomas.

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Statement of Compliance

To The Minister

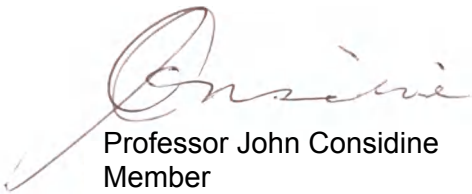
The Hon. Donna Faragher MLC
Minister for Environment; Youth

In accordance with Section 61 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, we hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority for the financial year ended 30 June 2009.

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



Richard Simpson
Chairman
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Board of Management
14 September 2009



Professor John Considine
Member
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Board of Management
14 September 2009

Chairman's Report



In 2008/2009, the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority continued to provide world class outcomes in all of its very diverse activities. In managing Bold Park and Kings Park and Botanic Garden, the Authority's team of dedicated staff and volunteers continued to deliver excellent visitor service as expressed by very high satisfaction ratings in surveys, and achieve outstanding outcomes in horticulture; parkland, bushland and botanic garden management; restoration science; plant genetics; seed biology; and biodiversity conservation generally.

The Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk project is underway and should be completed in early 2010. It is arguably the most significant infrastructure project undertaken by the Authority since the establishment of the Botanic Garden in 1965. The cessation of Fraser Avenue near the State War Memorial, the diversion of through traffic on a new road adjacent to the Mt Eliza reservoir, new lighting and roundabouts, a major upgrade to Forrest carpark, dedicated bus set down and parking areas, and new visitor facilities will deliver an enhanced ceremonial precinct and improve traffic management and pedestrian safety in this central visitor hub. The project had to be re-scoped from the original design to meet available funds, and will deliver nearly all the outcomes of that design, except for the main pedestrian spine through a re-aligned main carpark that will be done at a later time when additional funding is available.

This year the Board finalised the Kings Park and Botanic Management Plan 2009-2014. This plan will guide the management of the park over the next five years and will ensure high quality outcomes and services are delivered to the local, national and international community.

The Board was pleased to partner with the children's charity, Variety WA, to refurbish the popular Saw Avenue Picnic Area. The naturalistic theme has been complemented by challenging play equipment for children of all abilities, and features wonderful artwork of plants and insects of Kings Park carved in local timber by artist Nic Compton.

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

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

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

The support of the Hon. Donna Faragher MLC Minister for Environment; Youth has been an essential and much appreciated factor in the success of the Authority in the past year.

This has been an excellent year and I am pleased at the outcomes the Authority has delivered.

Richard Simpson
Chairman

CEO's Report



Partnerships are a significant feature in all the Authority's activities. In fact, it is difficult to think of one area of activity that does not rely on partnerships with volunteers, corporate organisations, universities, government departments, funding bodies, service organisations, other botanic gardens, and leaseholders to achieve the world class outcomes that the Authority is renowned for. To these individuals, companies and organisations, a sincere thank you for your support over the past 12 months that means the management of Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park continues to enjoy strong support from government and the community.

Kings Park and Botanic Garden continued to experience high visitation with an estimated 6.5 million visitors over the past 12 months, an increase of 12% over the previous year. This level of visitation means that the park remains Western Australia's number one tourist and visitor destination, and makes it one of the most visited botanic gardens and parks in the world. Its remarkable history has been detailed in a new Authority publication 'A Joy Forever – The story of Kings Park and Botanic Garden'. Launched in February 2009 by the Minister for Environment; Youth, the Hon. Donna Faragher MLC, and written by Dorothy Erickson, the book recounts the park's Indigenous history and the early days of establishment, to today.

Seven achievements highlight the scope of activities undertaken by the Authority in 2008/2009. First was the relocation of a 750 year old, 36 tonne boab tree from the Kimberley region in Western Australia, transported 3,200kms by road to the Botanic Garden in Kings Park. This adventure gained world-wide attention and displayed partnerships in action, with over 17 companies, agencies, and community and Indigenous groups directly involved in its relocation. It is also a tribute to the talented Authority staff who were involved in every aspect of the activity, from the first approach to relocate the boab to the transplanting at its final resting place at the Two Rivers Lookout in the State's Botanic Garden.

A second significant achievement was the completion of the rock fall catchment fence along the Mt Eliza scarp in partnership with Main Roads Western Australia and the City of Perth, and the re-opening of all designated paths on the scarp. The installation of a series of fences along Mounts Bay Road and the scarp to protect motorists and pedestrians from rock falls began nearly 10 years ago and progressed each year as new areas for protection were identified and funding allocated. Ongoing geotechnical review and a risk management plan have ensured that the likelihood of a major rock fall event is minimised. When a rock fall event does occur, the fence has proved capable to date of not allowing the rock to reach the Mounts Bay roadway or any of the walk tracks along the scarp.

A third major achievement was the successful Kings Park Festival held in September. In its 45th year, the Festival had more than 600,000 visitors across Kings Park and Botanic Garden, highlighting the wonder and beauty of Western Australia's wildflowers seen through amazing displays, public workshops and educational activities. With the support of corporate partners and volunteers, the festival achieved a very high level of public endorsement.

Another major achievement has been the control of weeds and the related restoration programs in Kings Park bushland and Bold Park. Invasive weeds are a major impediment to effective bushland conservation and restoration with local native plants, especially in urban environments. A targeted spraying activity, supported by a scientifically based research program, is ensuring that herbicides are used only when there is no effective or efficient alternative. As an example, spraying with a grass specific herbicide has seen the incidence

of the exotic weed veld grass significantly decline since the program started. Veld grass is also a major component of the fuel load in the bushland, so its control is an important activity in reducing the incidence and severity of fire events.

Despite these measures, an arsonist's fire in January 2009 resulted in 40ha of bushland burnt in the southern section of the park, including a significant and highly visible area on the scarp. Restoration work is underway and it is expected to take some time for plant cover to be re-established. The assistance of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority, Department of Environment and Conservation and the WA Police Service during this major fire event was very much appreciated by the Authority.

The science program had many highlights possibly best represented by its securing of a third Golden Gecko award, this time with Rocla Quarry Products for a banksia woodland restoration project. This is the first time that any organisation has won this prestigious award for environmental excellence on three occasions and further confirms the high quality of the varied and diverse research outcomes of this very active group of internationally renowned scientists.

Another highlight was the decision by the Board to establish a natural play area in Kings Park for children, to reconnect children to natural landscapes, and to provide more opportunities to deliver formal and informal environmental education programs. This project was reviewed widely by the community and received very strong support. In conjunction with partners Rio Tinto, Lotterywest, the Water Corporation, and the Friends of Kings Park, Premier Colin Barnett MLA, Minister for Environment; Youth Donna Faragher MLC, and Rio Tinto Executive Director Sam Walsh launched the *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park* project on 3 April 2009. Planning for this exciting new initiative in the Botanic Garden Arboretum is well advanced and is scheduled for opening early 2011.

Finally, a major milestone was reached with the Board's approval of the 2009-2014 Kings Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan in June 2009, following a period of public consultation and extensive feedback from stakeholders. The new plan identifies the Authority's initiatives and objectives for the ongoing management of Kings Park and Botanic Garden over the next five years and into the future.

There are many other achievements detailed in this Annual Report that feature the scope of activities undertaken by the Authority in Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Bold Park, in other areas of Western Australia, and nationally and internationally. I commend the report to you.

I would like to acknowledge the input and support of the Chairman and the Board of Management, the Department of Treasury and Finance, and the Office of the Auditor General who ensure that the Authority is well managed and delivers within available funds on its key service outcomes in Customer Service and Cultural Heritage, and in Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research. I also express my appreciation to the Hon. Donna Faragher MLC, Minister for Environment; Youth and her Ministerial team for their support.

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

Mark Webb
Chief Executive Officer

Executive Summary

Highlights 2008/2009

The Authority continues to deliver its core functions and services by enhancing and promoting recreational and tourist resources and facilities in Kings Park and Botanic Garden; enhancing and promoting awareness and understanding of Kings Park, Bold Park and the State's Botanic Garden through customer awareness and education forums; and conserving, promoting and developing cultural heritage including Indigenous, colonial and contemporary heritage.

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

The Authority's many activities are detailed in the **Report on Operations** section of this Annual Report. A summary of the key achievements this year for each service delivery area is outlined below:

Service 1: Customer Service and Cultural Heritage

- The 3,200km journey of the 750 year old giant boab, Gija Jumulu, from the Kimberley to its new home at Two Rivers Lookout was a significant achievement for the Authority and industry partners. The large scale operation saw this 14 metre high, 36 tonne boab transported by road for six days to be replanted in the Botanic Garden on 20 July 2008. The success of this transplant may not be fully known for some years however the boab sprouted new leaves in January 2009 followed by flowers in April 2009, the first time any of the Kings Park boab trees have flowered.
- The *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park* was officially announced in April 2009. The vision for this exciting new project is to inspire positive environmental action through discovery learning and connection with nature. In conjunction with key partners, Rio Tinto, Lotterywest with the Friends of Kings Park, and the Water Corporation, the Authority is working to make this vision a reality, delivering an inspiring environmental discovery and learning experience for all Western Australians.
- A partnership with Variety WA Inc saw the redevelopment of the Saw Avenue Picnic Area. The refurbishments have particularly catered for accessibility to visitors of all abilities, including new paths, toilet facilities and an adventure play environment. New picnic and barbeque facilities have been installed as well as a community shelter called the Variety Pavilion.
- The installation of high capacity rock-catch fencing on the Mount Eliza Escarpment between the Mount Medical Centre and the Kokoda Steps was completed. This was the last section of the high capacity fencing to be installed to enhance public safety in the area and enabled the re-opening of pedestrian paths that had been closed as a risk management strategy prior to the works.
- Improvements to the irrigation system in Kings Park and Botanic Garden continued with further upgrades to filtration systems, electrical controls and interconnection between internal irrigation ponds and bores. These improvements are important to ensure a reliable water supply for maintenance of the high quality parklands and the scientific and heritage plant collections in Kings Park, while contributing to continuous improvement in water-use efficiencies. Ongoing improvements to the water management systems have resulted in water use efficiencies with the park's total groundwater usage remaining below the licence allocation.
- The Board endorsed the Kings Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan 2009-2014 which outlines management objectives for the next five years and complements key

operational plans completed or reviewed this year including the Kings Park and Botanic Garden Parkland Master Plan 2008-2018 which identifies long-term plans for the 20 parkland precincts; the Authority's Energy Management Plan was finalised, demonstrating its commitment to responsible energy management; a Conservation Plan for the historic Subiaco Lodge was finalised, to guide future preservation of the oldest building in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

- The revised format of the annual Kings Park Festival proved to be successful again this year with over 600,000 visitors to Kings Park and Botanic Garden during the month of September. Along with the spectacular wildflower displays visitors were able to enjoy a series of events, workshops, talks, guided walks and exhibitions. The revised format reduces the Festival footprint creating a more sustainable event with increased planting in permanent display beds and reducing the impact on the Botanic Garden.
- The Discover Kings Park Education Service has become increasingly popular with two new programs added this year. The annual Quiz on Legs attracted approximately 1,600 school children taking part in a series of activities to mark National Threatened Species Day. In addition, The Great Aussie Garden theatre show was invited to perform during the Margaret River Festival. This was the first regional school incursion provided by the education team and proved to be very successful.
- In 2008/2009 visitation to Kings Park and Botanic Garden was estimated to be 6,490,000 visitors, an increase of 12% on 2007/2008. Total annual visitation to Bold Park is estimated at 120,000, a 13% increase on the previous year. Increasing visitation, particularly in Kings Park and Botanic Garden, means further demand on the Authority's resources to maintain the high standard of visitor amenities. Even with this remarkable increase in visitation in both parks, the 2008/2009 visitor surveys indicated the percentage of overall visitor satisfaction for Kings Park and Botanic Garden was 99% and 100% for Bold Park.

Service 2: Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research

- One year on, the Conservation Garden has become well established and has increased the number of threatened plant species on display. Informative signage and an audio tour, available from the Authority's website, help to communicate the important conservation messages about the State's Declared Rare Flora.
- The nursery continues to provide quality plant production. This year the nursery produced more than 50,000 plants to support ecological restoration activities in Kings Park and Bold Park bushlands and planting in the Botanic Garden and other areas of Kings Park and Botanic Garden. In addition, the nursery has provided over 2,000 plants of 20 threatened plant species for the Department of Environment and Conservation's species recovery plans to enhance the survival of these species.
- Ecological restoration and weed control activities continued in Bold Park and Kings Park bushlands. Many of the programmed activities in Kings Park bushland were impacted by a fire on 16 January 2009 that burnt approximate 40ha, with a higher priority placed on research and monitoring activities in the fire site. A fungi survey conducted in Bold Park resulted in the collection of 128 species including 45 new species. One species in particular was studied in detail and was found to be a previously undescribed species new to science.
- Phase Two of the Millenium Seedbank Project (MSBP) entered its final year in 2008/2009. For the Western Australian Seed Technology Centre this meant targeting specific species not previously banked to maximise the species in the collection and to meet the Authority's contractual commitments.
- For the Seed Science team, a particular highlight of the MSB venture has been the outcomes of a research project that has for the first time characterised the seed storage physiology and germination requirements of Western Australian aquatics and

vernal pools and gnamma habitats. This project is contributing significantly to the conservation of these poorly studied species.

- An external review of the Conservation Genetics program in 2008 found that it was internationally recognised as a world-class program. The review identified that the growth of the conservation genetics program under the 10-year tenure of Dr Siegy Krauss has been outstanding. Key stakeholders acknowledged that research carried out was of a high standard and was appropriate to their needs and to those of the Authority.
- Over 70 species, representing 26 plant families, have been collected in the first year of a major project with BHP Billiton Iron Ore. The purpose of this project is to develop a Seed Atlas to provide practical guidelines for the collection, processing, storage, germination and use of seeds for conservation and rehabilitation of mine sites in the Pilbara region.
- The *Caladenia huegellii* project will come to completion at the end of 2009. This project has seen the successful introduction of artificially propagated plants of the nationally threatened grand spider orchid into its natural habitat. With propagation methodologies developed by the orchid research team, this species has flowered both in the glasshouse and in field sites.

Recognition of Excellence

The Authority's Finance team was recognised for its work in integrating whole of government procurement reforms winning the 'Maximising Opportunities from Procurement Reform' category in the Innovation in Procurement - Treasurer's Awards 2008. In particular the Authority has been successful in implementing the use of purchasing cards for day to day transactions, a key outcome of the reforms, and has been invited by the Department of Treasury and Finance to assist other agencies in their implementation.

Two long standing staff members received honours this year with trees recently discovered on the South Coast to be named after them. Luke Sweedman, Curator of the WA Seed Technology Centre helped discover, what will now be known as, *Eucalyptus sweedmaniana* in 2006 with Dr Stephen Hopper (formerly Authority CEO and now Director of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in the UK). Grady Brand, Curator of Botanic Gardens and Horticulture, who has been with the Authority for 31 years, will have a tree named *Eucalyptus brandiana*.

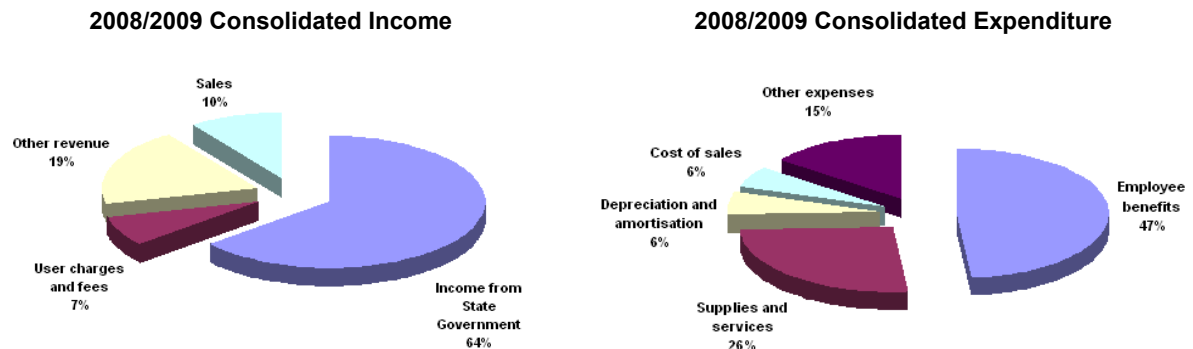
The Authority, with industry partners Rocla Quarry Products, was presented with a Golden Gecko Award for environmental excellence, stewardship and partnership. Now in its 13th year the project is focused on restoration principles applicable to *Banksia* woodlands. The highest environmental award in Western Australia, this is the third Golden Gecko for the Authority, recognising the world-class research and restoration activities being undertaken by the Science team.

Authority Arborist Jeremy Thomas was awarded a Churchill Fellowship this year. Commencing in June 2009, Jeremy will travel to the United Kingdom, Singapore and the United States of America to investigate the latest techniques in tree management and quantitative tree risk assessment.

Financial Performance

The Authority's operating income is 64% derived from State Government with 36% generated through sales, sponsorships, user fees, licences and leases.

The Authority's expenditure breakdown, as shown in the pie chart, consists of 47% for employee costs, 26% for supplies and services, 6% costs of sales, 6% for depreciation and amortisation and 15% in other expenses.



Objectives for 2009/2010

Many challenges face the Authority in the delivery of its core functions, particularly in the current economic climate, however the Authority will undertake the following major initiatives in 2009/2010:

- A deliberately lit fire on 16 January 2009 burnt approximately 40ha of bushland on the Mt Eliza Escarpment in Kings Park and Botanic Garden. Research and monitoring to address mapping, photo monitoring, soil stability and rockfall risk, and flora and fauna monitoring will continue to collect data for future analysis and establish monitoring plots for long term data collection.
- Works commenced this year as part of the Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk project will continue with completion of this initial stage expected in February 2010. Once completed, a pedestrian precinct will exist between the State War Memorial, *Aspects of Kings Park* and the Botanic Garden entry, with improved traffic flow, bus set down and parking arrangements in the main and Forrest car park areas. The major redevelopment of the main carpark originally planned has been deferred pending additional funding being available to complete the works.
- With the opening of the exciting new environmental learning and discovery experience *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park* anticipated for early 2011, the next two years will see more detailed design of the elements, experiential nodes and education building. In addition, site preparation will commence with some planting scheduled for August 2009.
- The Authority's Indigenous Reference Group, the Elders who speak for the land in Kings Park, have repeatedly expressed a desire for a statue to commemorate their on going relationship to this land. The Authority aims to seek funding for an Indigenous heritage statue to publicly recognise, honour and celebrate past and contemporary Nyoongar culture.
- Following community consultation, planning has commenced for a Place of Reflection in the Botanic Garden. The purpose of the proposal is for a location where people who have suffered loss can seek peace, healing, hope and renewal. The initial concept design includes refurbished toilet facilities, upgraded paths and a new shelter. Funding partners are currently being sought for this project.

- Reconfiguration and sealing of the carparks off Perry Lakes Drive in Bold Park will be undertaken in late 2009 to enhance the park entries, define parking bays and protect remnant Tuart and Marri trees within the existing layout.
- The Authority will host the 19th Conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) International in August 2009. This is only the third time in the Society's history that the conference will be held outside of the USA and the first time in the southern hemisphere. More than 700 delegates from 46 countries are anticipated and the conference field trips will provide opportunities for the Authority to showcase the restoration projects currently being undertaken in Kings Park and Bold Park bushlands and in other parts of Western Australia.
- The Authority will continue essential restoration research programs with industry partners for the benefit of Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold as well as the conservation of Western Australia's unique biodiversity.

Operational Structure

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

Enabling Legislation

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

Administered Legislation

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

Legislation Impacting on the Authority's Activities

While performing its functions under the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998*, the Authority complies with other relevant written laws as required.

Responsible Minister

The statutory responsibility for the Act is vested with the Minister for Environment; Youth.

Organisation Structure

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

Horticulture and Conservation Directorate

Directorate Objectives:

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

Business and Visitor Services Directorate

Directorate objectives:

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

Science Directorate

Directorate objectives:

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

Board of Management

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

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

The Board consists of eight Members:

- Chair
- Deputy Chair
- Six members

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

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

Mr Richard Simpson, Chairman

(5 out of possible 6)

Mr Simpson has over 20 years experience in providing investment banking advice to a range of corporate and government clients in Australia and internationally. He has worked in investment banks in London, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. Mr Simpson is currently Head of Corporate Finance and a Director of Hartleys Limited. He was Managing Director and Chairman of Hartley's from October 2003 to December 2008. Mr Simpson was formally re-appointed to the Board in March 2009 until 31 December 2012.

Mr Ross Willcock, Deputy Chair

(5 out of possible 6)

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

Professor John Considine

(5 out of possible 6)

Professor Considine is Emeritus Professor of Horticulture and Viticulture and Senior Research Fellow in the School of Plant Biology at The University of Western Australia. He is interested in the continued conservation and enhancement of Kings Park and Botanic Garden and other designated lands. Professor Considine was re-appointed to the Board in December 2006 until 31 December 2009.

Ms Clare Power

(5 out of possible 6)

Ms Power is a Director of the Perth Office of Middletons, a national legal firm. Ms Power has over 20 years experience in commercial law, particularly in tourism and event related areas. Ms Power was re-appointed to the Board in December 2006 for a period of three years to 31 December 2009.

Ms Corinne MacRae

(6 out of possible 6)

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

Mr Grant Robinson

(5 out of possible 6)

Mr Robinson is a partner with KPMG with a focus on audit and assurance services. He has experience with a broad range of industry sectors both listed and non-listed entities as well as Government organisations. Mr Robinson was appointed to the Board in December 2007 for a period of two years until 31 December 2009.

Dr Mandy Burrows

(5 out of possible 6)

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

Mrs Patricia Hart

(1 out of possible 1)

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

Professor Lyn Beazley

(1 out of possible 2)

Professor Lyn Beazley trained at the Universities of Oxford and Edinburgh before transferring to The University of Western Australia in 1976 and building a team researching recovery from neurotrauma. Professor Beazley was appointed Chief Scientist of Western Australia in 2006 and was reappointed in January 2009. She was awarded Officer of the Order of Australia in January 2009. Professor Beazley was appointed to the Board in March 2009 for a period of three years until 31 March 2012.

Board Members (Left to right):

Ross Willcock; Amanda Burrows;
Richard Simpson; Lyn Beazley; Corrine
MacRae; John Considine.

Absent: Grant Robinson; Clare Power



Senior Officers

Mark Webb BSc. Agric (Hons), Post Grad. Cert. Cross-Sector Partnerships Chief Executive Officer

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

Digby Grows B (Hort Sci) Hons Director Horticulture and Conservation

Digby Grows was appointed Director Horticulture and Conservation in November 2005 and is responsible for the expansion of the plant breeding and development program to include water efficient Western Australian woody plants, focusing on the local, national and international markets. He has also led the enhancement of the display beds in the Botanic Garden and Parklands precincts including the relocation of the Gija Jumulu (Boab) from the east Kimberley, the ongoing improvements to the bushland in both Kings Park and Bold Park and the upgrade of facilities to improve the visitor experience.

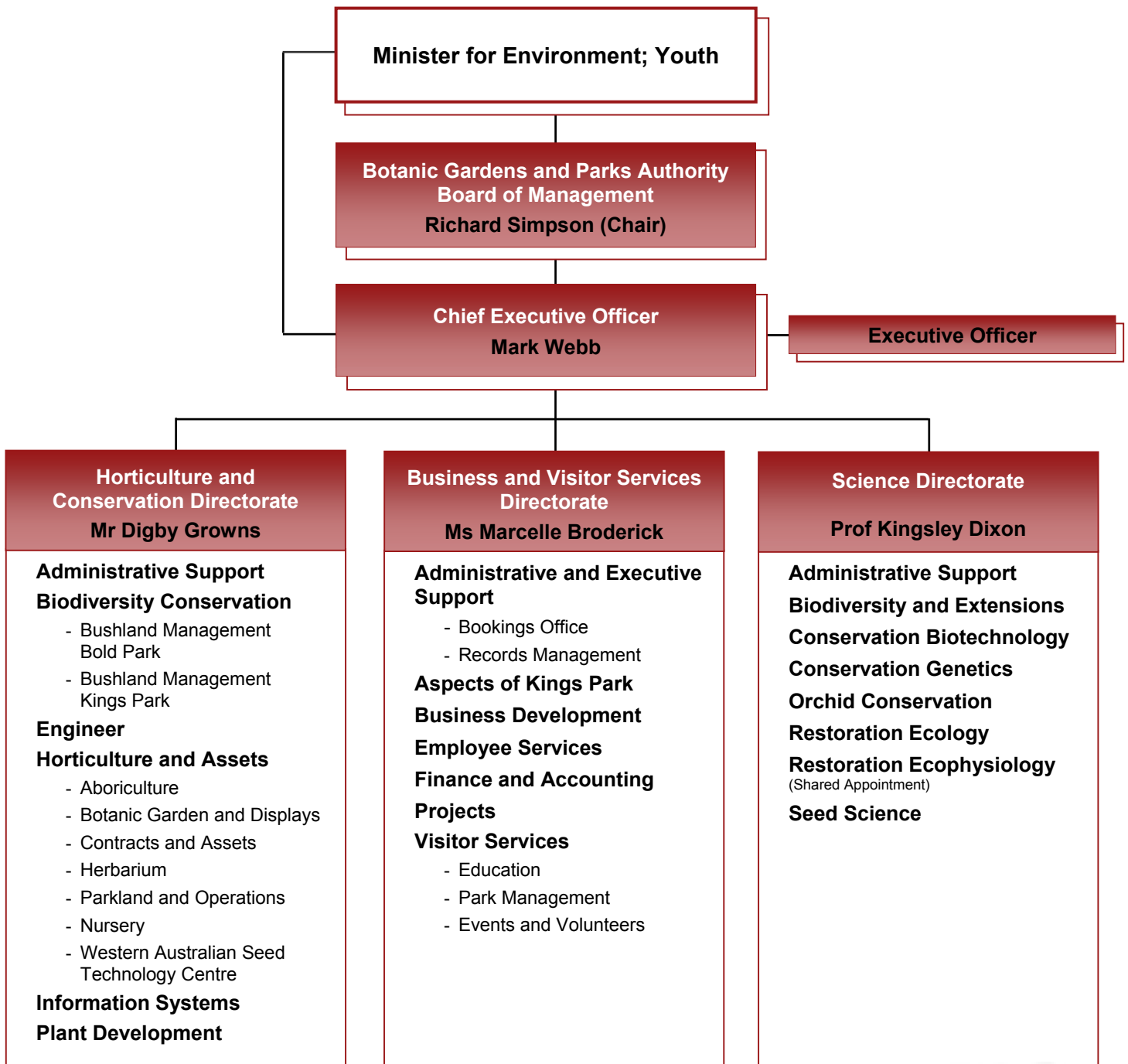
Marcelle Broderick BSw, MSW (Policy and Administration), Grad. Cert. Public Sector Management Director Business and Visitor Services

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

Professor Kingsley Dixon PhD Director Science

Kingsley Dixon has worked in public sector research for 25 years and is the head of the science programs with the Authority. Prof Dixon manages the core research outputs for the Authority through the Science Directorate. He holds a Permanent Visiting Professorship from The University of Western Australia and maintains a high profile research program in the conservation and restoration sciences. Prof Dixon holds a number of distinguished positions in learned and professional societies including board member of the Society for Ecological Restoration International; board member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission for reintroduction programs; and Fellow of the Linnean Society of London. Prof Dixon also holds an appointment of Adjunct Professor with the Department of Botany, Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand, in recognition of the research collaborations with the University.

Functional Structure at 30 June 2009



Partners, Supporters and Stakeholders

The Authority recognises that the support and contributions from its volunteers, the community, government and private organisations is essential in achieving the Authority's outcomes. The Authority is privileged to work with many groups that assist by providing resources towards Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park, major projects, events and research.

Volunteers

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

Each of these groups offers unique and invaluable services to the Authority. Their amazing efforts ensure that the Authority can offer outstanding services well in excess of those funded through the Authority itself. In supporting the volunteers, the Authority provides some administrative support, training and information, and actively seeks their involvement in operations and planning. Between them the volunteer groups have contributed a total of 21,770 hours of service to Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park this year equating to 12 people working full time.

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

Sponsors

A number of key sponsors have been partners in major projects and events undertaken this year:

- Gija Jumulu – Boab Relocation – The Gija people of the East Kimberley and the Nyoongar community of Perth; Team Savannah comprising Maunsell Aecom, BGC Contracting, Laing O'Rourke and Main Roads; The Arbor Centre; OZWEST Pty Ltd; Boom Logistics; WA Police; Western Power, Thiess Services; Horizon Power; The City of Subiaco; The Town of Cambridge.
- 2008 Kings Park Festival – Friends of Kings Park, Lotterywest, Tourism Western Australia, Water Corporation.
- Saw Avenue Playground – Variety WA.
- Synergy Parkland – Synergy.
- *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park* (opening in 2011) – Rio Tinto, Lotterywest, Water Corporation, Friends of Kings Park.



Supporters and Key Stakeholders

Volunteers and Associated Organisations

Birds Australia Inc
Friends of Bold Park Bushland Inc
Friends of Kings Park Inc
The Gija people of the East Kimberley
Honour Avenues Group
Kings Park Guides Inc
Kings Park Volunteer Master Gardeners.
The Nyoongar community of Perth
Returned Serviceman's League of Australia
(Western Australia Branch)
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Trustees
Wardens of the State War Memorial
Western Australian Museum
Wildflower Society of Western Australia

State and Local Government

Building Management and Works
City of Perth
City of Nedlands
City of Subiaco
Department of Agriculture and Food
Department of Commerce
Department of Environment and Conservation
Department of Planning
Department of State Development
Department of Transport
Department of Treasury and Finance
Department of Veterans' Affairs
Fire and Emergency Services Authority
Horizon Power
Main Roads Western Australia
Office of Public Sector Standards
Commissioner
Public Sector Commission
Public Transport Authority
Shire of Bruce Rock
Shire of Corrigin
Shire of Westonia
State Emergency Services
State Solicitors Office
Synergy
Tourism Western Australia
Town of Cambridge
Water Corporation
Western Australian Planning Commission
Western Australian Police
Western Power

Private Organisations

Alcoa World Alumina
Alinta Gas
AngloGold Ashanti Australia
Arbor Centre
Asia Iron Holdings Limited
Austem Pty Ltd
Australian Orchid Foundation
BHP Billiton Iron Ore
Boom Logisitcs
Catalpa Resources (Westonia Mines Ltd)
Cockburn Cement
Environmental Australia
Gindalbie Metals Limited
GME Resources Limited
Grange Resources Limited
Iluka Resources Limited
Mt Gibson Mining Limited
Newcrest Mining (Telfer)
OZWEST Pty Ltd
Rio Tinto
Rocla Quarry Products
Shark Bay Resources Pty Ltd
Team Savannah (Maunsell Aecom, BGC
Contracting, Laing O'Rourke and Main Roads)
Theiss Services
Trawalla Foundation
Variety WA
Westralia Airports Corporation
Worsley Alumina

Schools and Universities

Australian National University
Curtin University
French National School of Agronomy,
Toulouse
Kasetsart University, Thailand
Murdoch University
The University of Western Australia
Universite D'Auvergne, France
University of Gran Canaria, Spain
University of Noumea
University of Pavia, Italy
University of Santiago, Spain
University of Rostock, Germany

National History Institutions

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

Performance Management Framework

Outcome Based Management Framework

The Authority delivers its services and outcomes in relation to legislative functions and the designated lands and contributes to the goals and objectives of the State as a whole. The Authority has aligned its activities and outcomes with the relevant goal and strategic outcomes of the State, ensuring collaboration and co-ordination of service delivery.

Government Goal	Desired Outcomes	Services
Outcomes Based Service Delivery: Greater focus on achieving results in key service delivery areas for the benefit of all Western Australians.	Awareness and appreciation of recreation and tourist resources, and cultural heritage for visitors' enjoyment.	1. Customer Service and Cultural Heritage
	Conservation and enhancement of Western Australia's bushland and other flora.	2. Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research

The Authority's Strategic Plan identifies the Functions, Vision and Mission Statements, Core Business and Guiding Principles, which are the key elements in delivering its agency level government desired outcomes. A review of the Strategic Plan was undertaken in May 2009, to include reference to the State Government's 2009 strategic goals and consideration of feedback received during the 2009 public consultation process for the Kings Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan 2009-2014.

Following this review process, the Authority's Vision Statement and Guiding Principles were amended. The revised Strategic Plan 2009-2014 is available on the Authority's website.

Service 1: Customer Services and Cultural Heritage

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

This outcome is achieved through:

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

Our success is measured by:

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

Service 2: Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research

Agency Level Government Desired Outcome: Conservation and enhancement of Western Australia's bushland and other flora.

This outcome is achieved through:

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

Our success is measured by:

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

Changes to Outcome Based Management Framework

The Authority's Outcome Based Management Framework did not change during 2008/2009.

Management Plans

In accordance with Part 4 of the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998* the Authority develops and implements management plans for the lands for which it is responsible and these are reviewed every five years.

The Authority's management plans for Bold Park and Kings Park and Botanic Garden identify objectives; achievements and progress for the past five years; directions and strategies for management; and, priorities for the next five years.

The Authority continues to work towards achieving the priorities set in the Bold Park Management Plan 2006-2011 including:

- Continuing leading-edge research, monitoring and weed management, working to restore ecological communities and conserve biodiversity.
- Increasing the education focus, promoting the Western Australian Ecology Centre as a facility for education field research and the community.
- Encouraging strong community partnerships.

In 2008/2009 the Authority undertook a review of the Kings Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan 2004-2009, reviewing achievements of the priorities set in 2004 and consulted with key stakeholders on the future direction for the park. A draft plan was released for public comment for a two-month period in March and April 2009. Following the public submission period, the new Kings Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan 2009-2014 was developed identifying key priorities for Kings Park and Botanic Garden for the next five years including:

- Complete the Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk project.
- Plan and implement new facilities in the State Botanic Garden for its 50th anniversary.
- Create the Environmental Discovery and Learning Experience – *Rio Tinto Naturescape*.
- Conduct research and restoration in the area damaged by the January 2009 fire.
- Staged restoration of Subiaco Lodge.
- Continue research-based ecological restoration.

The Bold Park Management Plan 2006-2011 and the Kings Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan 2009-2011 are available on the Authority's website.

Shared Responsibilities with Other Agencies

The Authority did not share any responsibilities with other agencies in 2008/2009.

Agency Performance

Resource Agreement

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

Financial Targets: Actual Performance Compared to Budget Targets

	Target \$,000	Actual \$,000	Variance \$,000
Total cost of services	16,546	18,886	⁽¹⁾ 2,340
Net cost of services	12,834	11,781	(1,053)
Total equity	44,704	54,487	9,783
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(678)	6,190	⁽²⁾ 6,868
Approved full time equivalent (FTE) staff level	123	131	8

Notes:

- (1) The Total Cost of Services is higher than the target due, primarily, to annual award increases in wages and salaries, together with an increased provision for annual and long service leave.
- (2) The increase in cash held is due to delays in Capital Works projects and an increase in fee for service grants paid to the Authority.

Key Performance Indicators: Actual Performance Compared to Budget Targets

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

	Target	Actual	Variance
The level of visitor satisfaction with Kings Park and Botanic Garden facilities and the Western Australian Botanic Garden.	98%	99%	1%
The level of visitor satisfaction with Bold Park and facilities.	93%	100%	7%
The percentage change in the number of cultural events held at Kings Park and Botanic Garden compared to previous years.	1%	(3.75%)	(4.75%)
The percentage change in the number attending customer awareness and education forums held at Kings Park and Botanic Garden compared to previous years.	1%	4.4%	3.4%

Service 1: Customer Service and Cultural Heritage ⁽¹⁾

	Target	Actual	Variance
Average cost per visitor to Kings Park and Botanic Garden.	\$1.53	\$1.43	⁽²⁾ (\$0.10)
Average cost per attendee at cultural events held in Kings Park and Botanic Garden	\$0.15	\$0.15	-
Average cost per attendee at education forums held at Kings Park and Botanic Garden.	\$1.22	\$1.51	⁽³⁾ \$0.29
Response times for public information requests.	90% within 28 days	98% within 28 days	8%
Percentage change in number of visitors to Reabold Hill compared to previous years.	2%	13%	⁽⁴⁾ 11%

Notes:

- (1) The Authority has recently undertaken a comprehensive review of the methodology for the calculation of its Key Efficiency Indicators that require an allocation of costs between Service One and Service Two. Accordingly, an analysis of time and resources spent on delivering the outcomes for each service was undertaken and the results incorporated in a new model. The new model has been independently assessed and endorsed by the Authority's internal auditors for the calculation of published efficiency indicators. The model will be reviewed every three years to ensure the accuracy of the data. For comparative purposes, the actuals for 2007/2008 and the Target for 2008/2009 have been recast using the new model.
- (2) The number of people visiting Kings Park and Botanic Garden exceeded the target by 500,000.
- (3) The number of attendees at these forums was less than last year, primarily as a result of the amount of venues available for bookings was temporarily reduced due to the road works associated with the Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk project.
- (4) The increase in the number of visitors exceeded the estimated target which is likely due to increased community awareness of improved visitor facilities at Reabold Hill.

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

	Target	Actual	Variance
Percentage of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) species in living collections in Kings Park and Botanic Garden, compared to the known number of DRF species in Western Australia.	62%	62%	-
Percentage of accessions in living collections in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.	40%	37%	(3%)
Percentage of accessions lost in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.	5%	4%	(1%)
The presence of 15 nominated perennially evident native plant species, which are the most vulnerable taxa within each Kings Park and Bold Park bushland.	100%	100%	-
Number of common native plant species in Bold Park in areas with high levels of management compared to areas with low levels of management.	1.5	1.4	(0.1)
Weed cover in high intensity management areas compared to low intensity management areas in Bold Park.	0.65	0.38	(0.27)
Number of representative native plant taxa in Kings Park bushland.	324	324	-
Number of representative native plant taxa in Bold Park bushland.	310	310	-

Service 2: Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research ⁽¹⁾

	Target	Actual	Variance
Average cost of representative native plant taxa in Kings Park bushland.	\$3,403	\$2,770	(\$633)
Average cost of representative native plant taxa in Bold Park bushland.	\$4,250	\$4,020	(\$230)
Average cost per research grant project administered.	\$7,700	\$9,736	⁽²⁾ \$2,036
Percentage change in number of refereed scientific publications published per CF position compared to previous years.	0%	67%	⁽³⁾ 67%

Notes:

- (1) As indicated in Service 1 the Authority has recently undertaken a comprehensive review of the methodology for the calculation of its Key Efficiency Indicators that require an allocation of costs between Service One and Service Two. Accordingly, an analysis of time and resources spent on delivering the outcomes for each service was undertaken and the results incorporated in a new model. The new model has been independently assessed and endorsed by the Authority's internal auditors for the calculation of published efficiency indicators. The model will be reviewed every three years to ensure the accuracy of the data. For comparative purposes, the actuals for 2007/2008 and the Target for 2008/2009 have been recast using the new model.

- (2) The increase in the average cost of these projects is due primarily to increases in the cost of staff with the introduction of Specified Callings for scientific staff (including those employed on contract via fee for service funding), increases in the costs of specialised laboratory supplies and professional services to directly support these projects. These projects are funded entirely on a fee for service basis from industry.
- (3) The large fluctuation in refereed publications is a reflection of the stage and complexity of research projects in any given year. In 2008-09 the Authority produced 35 refereed publications, representing a significant increase in publications compared with the 21 in 2007/2008.

Report on Operations

Service 1: Customer Service and Cultural Heritage

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

Horticulture and Conservation

Kings Park and Botanic Garden Capital Works

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

The Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk project works were tendered in April and commenced on site in May 2009 following a review of the original scope of works to bring the project within the available budget. Most of the public safety elements of the original project have been addressed in the revised plans along with the provision of appropriate ceremonial dignity for the State War Memorial precinct, but substantial redevelopment of the main carpark has been deferred pending the provision of additional funding to complete the works. This project includes the creation of a pedestrian precinct between *Aspects of Kings Park*, the State War Memorial and the Botanic Garden entry, improved traffic flow and bus set down and parking arrangements, reconfiguration of the Forrest Carpark including new lighting extending along Lovekin Drive near the Botanic Garden and substantial new public amenities. Works are due for completion by February 2010.

The Environmental Discovery and Learning Experience planned for the six hectare Arboretum area in Kings Park was officially launched as the *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park* on 3 April 2009 by the Hon. Donna Faragher, Minister for Environment; Youth. Funding for this new, interactive environmental facility has been provided through an innovative multi-sector partnership to achieve its vision to provide an environment that inspires appreciation and conservation of the natural environment through discovery learning and connection with nature. Key components of the project will include an environmental education centre, a community gathering place, a wetland feature and opportunities for adventure play as well as safe, environmentally sensitive bush discovery. Consultants including a Landscape Architect and an Architect were engaged in late 2008 to progress the design of this unique new facility, which is expected to be completed by early 2011.

An innovative upgrade to the Saw Avenue Picnic Area was completed during the year and launched by the Minister for Environment; Youth, the Hon. Donna Faragher on Monday 1 June 2009. With funding support provided by Variety WA, this popular family area has been redeveloped to include new picnic and barbecue facilities, new paths to provide access for all, refurbished toilet facilities, a community shelter called the Variety Pavilion, original artworks and an extensive adventure play environment that caters for family members of all abilities. The redevelopment incorporates a unique collection of recycled timber picnic furniture and play elements based on a natural environment theme that includes giant sized insects and local native flora, hand made by local woodcarving artist, Nic Compton.

Botanic Gardens and Display

Undoubtedly the most significant visitor attraction added to the Botanic Garden during the year was the 750 year old giant Boab, Gija Jumulu, transplanted from a highway site near Warmun in the Kimberley region of Western Australia to the Two Rivers Lookout next to Forrest Carpark. Sent on its 3,200 km journey following a farewell smoking ceremony conducted by members of the Indigenous Gija community, the 36 tonne Boab was transported by road for six days to Kings Park. This 14 metre high tree with a trunk diameter of 2.5 metres was planted in its new home in the Botanic Garden on 20 July 2008. A welcome reception officiated by the former Minister for the Environment; Climate Change

and Peel, the Hon. David Templeman, included another smoking ceremony conducted by representatives from the local Nyoongar community.

The Boab was in its deciduous phase when it was transplanted and sprouted new leaves in January 2009, followed by flowers in April 2009. Close monitoring of soil moisture and roots has revealed very positive signs of new root growth but it may take up to five years to determine whether the transplant has been successful and whether the Boab will flourish in its new location.

Building upon the successful 2007 permanent display plantings in the Botanic Garden entry precinct for the revised Kings Park Festival format, new display plantings were extended to other high profile areas during 2008. The floral mound opposite *Aspects of Kings Park* was planted with a range of Western Australian native plants selected for their outstanding display potential and unique Western Australian identity. Over 1,000 new botanical labels were installed throughout the entry and other garden beds to assist visitors to identify the plants on display.

There was an increase in visitation to all recorded locations in the Botanic Garden compared with the previous year, reflecting the overall 12% increase in visitation to Kings Park as a whole (total 6.5 million). The Botanic Garden entry recorded 530,877 visitors, up by 16%; the Lotterywest Federation Walkway recorded 525,900, up by 6%; and the Water Garden recorded 288,700 visitors, an increase of 25% from the previous year. The highest months for visitation were September and October, related to the Kings Park Festival and the peak of permanent wildflower displays. December and April also recorded higher visitation than other months, probably due to the Christmas and Easter holiday periods.

Following extensive community consultation, initial planning commenced on a project to improve visitor facilities in the southern end of the Botanic Garden. The 'Place of Reflection' is intended as a location where people who have suffered loss can seek peace, healing, hope and renewal. The concept incorporates a new shelter to provide a protected space for a range of informal and formal gatherings, upgraded services and restroom facilities and universal access through the area. Further planning will be undertaken over the next year.

The Pioneer Women's Memorial bronze statue in the top lake of the Water Garden was restored to its former beauty by specialist conservation professionals in April 2009. Created in 1968 by Western Australian sculptor Margaret Priest, the statue of a pioneer woman holding an infant in her arms was carefully cleaned and coated with a protective wax to restore the statue's rich bronze colour and facilitate future maintenance of the artwork. Feature lights in the lake were refurbished at the same time.

The slip road near the entry to the Short Vista was reconfigured by Main Roads contractors as a set down area only for buses, limousines and private vehicles to enhance set down and traffic flow during events and improve the safety of the intersection of Forrest and Lovekin Drives. A minor reconfiguration of the Eucalypt Carpark formed part of these works, closing one access point and providing improved vehicle circulation within the carpark. Pedestrian links to the Botanic Garden were installed at the same time.

Arboriculture

The Arboriculture Team members played a key role in the transplant of the Boab tree to the Botanic Garden, with involvement in the pruning, excavation and loading works at the source location, liaison with other arboricultural experts engaged for their technical expertise and transplanting experience and assistance with the planting operation in Kings Park. In addition, they played a key role in the ongoing monitoring of the tree's health and establishment throughout the year.

Another significant tree transplant within Kings Park in May 2009 was the relocation of the last of the 80 year old *Corymbia ficifolia* trees on Fraser Avenue to a new site further north in the Fraser Avenue precinct. The tree had to be removed to enable improved intersection alignment as part of the Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk project. Given its cultural

significance as the last remaining avenue tree from the 1929 Centenary plantings, it was transplanted in preference to removal. It may be two years or more before the success of the transplant can be determined.

Other significant tree works associated with the Fraser Avenue project included the removal of a senescing stand of pine trees to the south and west of the reservoir and the removal of several self sown woody weed species from the same area. Tree protection measures have been put in place for the duration of the construction works, which are closely monitored by the Arbor Team members. Several thousand trees and shrubs will be planted back into the site after the conclusion of the construction period.

Monitoring and management of the iconic avenue of Lemon Scented Gums along Fraser Avenue continued as a risk management strategy, particularly following storm events. Extreme wind conditions in a storm in late May 2009 caused irreparable damage to two of the avenue trees, which subsequently had to be removed for public safety. Replacement specimens were planted in June 2009.

Significant pruning and thinning works were completed through the parkland along Kings Park Road from the Depot to the Royal Kings Park Tennis Club and Next Generation Kings Park facilities. This included the removal of poorly formed or senescing specimens and self sown woody weeds throughout the area, paving the way for new planting in the winter of 2009.

The program of advanced tree planting continued according to planting themes established in the Parkland Masterplan. This included the replacement of several Pinus species in the Fraser Avenue West precinct that had suffered storm damage the previous year; new plantings of native trees in the Saw Avenue Picnic Area following removal of poor or dying trees from the upgraded area; and the continued replacement of poor specimens within the Honour Avenues.

The system of tree incident reporting continued to be a successful communication tool and recording system for stem failures throughout both Kings Park and Bold Park, with 157 reports received during the period by the Arborist that required remedial pruning works. This represents an approximate 30% increase on the previous year's reports, which suggests the system has been adopted more broadly by staff for reporting tree incidents.

The Authority's Arborist was successful in his application for a Winston Churchill Fellowship to travel overseas for eight weeks, commencing in June 2009, to investigate the latest techniques in tree management and quantitative tree risk assessment in the United Kingdom, Singapore and the United States of America.

Parkland Operations and Turf

The inaugural Kings Park and Botanic Garden Parkland Masterplan 2008-2018 was endorsed by the Board of Management in December 2008, putting in place some long term planning for the 20 parkland precincts throughout the park and guiding thematic plans for each precinct. The plan identifies clear roles for each precinct, taking account of key attributes and limitations as well as the historic and cultural heritage values of each area. The Masterplan documents the intent and guiding principles for future decision-making in each precinct, to minimise the chance of incremental changes over time that could erode the historic character of the landscape.

Landscape works forming part of the Stage Three Synergy Parkland funding agreement with Synergy were completed in June 2009. The works included the installation of new picnic settings and paths providing access for all, bicycle racks, new seats, flagstone edging to garden beds and electric barbecue replacements. Planning for some additional mega-fauna artworks to be incorporated into the site and a marble mosaic artwork to be inlaid in an existing path was also completed.

The Parkland and Turf teams continued to implement maintenance plans with continuous improvement to horticultural and presentation standards. For the first time and consistent with the Parkland Masterplan, the exotic annual bedding plants in the garden beds surrounding the Wishing Well off Fraser Avenue were replaced with herbaceous Western Australian plants.

The bronze statue of John Forrest located at the junction of May and Lovekin Drives and Fraser Avenue was restored by conservation professionals during May 2009 which significantly improved its aesthetic appearance. As for the Pioneer Women's Memorial, these works will also facilitate future maintenance to the John Forrest statue.

A concept plan for the enhancement of May Circle was initiated in consultation with members of the Honour Avenues Group to establish this area as their regular Dedication Ceremony location. The proposed concept incorporates a hard stand area for ceremonial gatherings, improvements to access and road pavements and some planting. The Honour Avenues Group plans to seek funds from external sources to support the enhancement works.

In addition to progressive minor turf upgrades and repairs in various precincts following heavy use by visitors, new turf was established in the Saw Avenue area forming part of the capital upgrade to the precinct. New turf was also required in the Fraser Avenue West precinct following a program of tree replacements as well as areas near Main Roads intersection improvements on Fraser Avenue and Forrest Drive. The Authority continued to receive significant positive public feedback regarding the high standard of presentation of the park and particularly the turf.

The Operations Team provided much needed support for large events in the park throughout the events season and continued to provide assistance in the maintenance and development of Kings Park and Botanic Garden infrastructure, ensuring that facilities were maintained to a high standard. The progressive replacement of toilet cisterns to more water efficient models was well advanced as well as the replacement of taps throughout the Authority with water efficient reduced water flow types. These measures form part of the Authority's ongoing commitment to water use efficiency.

Prior to the Anzac Day ceremony, the Vietnam Memorial Pavilion at Synergy Parkland was refurbished and included roof repairs, minor timber repairs and painting. The pump system and fountain in the lake at Synergy Parkland was also upgraded.

Engineering

The Authority finalised its Energy Management Plan in January 2009, demonstrating its ongoing commitment to responsible energy management. The plan documents a total energy use target for the Authority over a five year period to 2012 and an action plan with activities and target dates for timely implementation of energy efficiency opportunities.

In September 2008 an audit was conducted of the Authority's compliance with regulations related to asbestos management, which indicated full compliance of documentation and practices. The Authority Asbestos Management Plan and Asbestos Register were subsequently revised to match the Government template for these documents. A Building Condition Audit was completed in February 2009 which identified maintenance priorities for all of the Authority's buildings. Items requiring immediate attention were addressed and lower priority items were flagged for future works programming and budgeting.

The Authority commissioned a Traffic Engineering Consultant in October 2008 to complete a study of traffic in Kings Park and Botanic Garden to identify issues and recommend treatment options in relation to traffic safety, traffic operation and access and parking, particularly during periods of high traffic volume. The final June 2009 report recommendations will be reviewed with regard to their feasibility and practicality and prioritised for implementation where feasible.

Roadworks to improve public safety and traffic flow were implemented by Main Roads contractors at selected intersections in Kings Park, following an extended design process into which the Authority provided input. A section of Fraser Avenue was widened at the intersection with Kings Park Road to create a much needed left turn lane for traffic exiting the park, which is expected to reduce traffic build up along Fraser Avenue after events and on busy weekend days. The intersection of Lovekin Drive with Poole Avenue was reconfigured to create a T-intersection in place of the former triangle system. This included the removal of the slip road from Lovekin to Poole Avenue, reinstatement of levels and mulching of surfaces, as well as the creation of a much safer traffic entry point to May and Lovekin Drives from Poole Avenue. Other works implemented as part of this program are described in the Botanic Garden section.

The groundwater bores, treatment ponds and pump stations performed well during the season with only minimal interruptions to the irrigation water supply. Ongoing improvements to water management systems in Kings Park and Botanic Garden have resulted in water use efficiencies with the total groundwater usage for irrigation and water feature maintenance remaining below the licence allocation. Usage totalled 575ML, which is 5ML below the licence allocation of 580ML.

A major upgrade and refurbishment of irrigation systems throughout Kings Park and Botanic Garden continued. Works completed include the installation of new filter systems for System One pumping station, and connection of the new bore at May Circle to System Two irrigation pond as well as System One. The improved filtration has resulted in significantly improved water quality delivered from System One.

A pressure boosting pump system was installed on the scheme water lines in the Botanic Gardens area. This has enhanced amenity for all visitors particularly at peak times and during events. The fourth and final stage of the Deep Sewerage project commenced with the award of a construction contract for new facilities between the Kiosk and the main carpark in Kings Park and Botanic Garden. In addition, the Crawley Lodge residence septic system was decommissioned and replaced with an Aerobic Treatment Unit incorporating recycling of grey water through garden irrigation.

Contracts and Asset Management

Funding through the asset replacement program enabled the continued replacement of ageing equipment and upgrades to essential infrastructure. Equipment replacements included a green waste chipper for the Arbor Team, front end loaders for the Nursery and the Botanic Garden, a mower and tipping trailer for the Turf Team, two electric vehicles for the Parkland and Botanic Garden Teams, an all terrain vehicle for the Operations Team, air conditioners for the Nursery glasshouses and the refurbishment of the Seed Centre's field collecting caravan.

Planning for future asset replacement was undertaken and documented and a review of the Portable and Attractive Asset Register was completed in accordance with the Authority's guidelines and Government Policy. High standards in the procurement of goods and services through formal processes continued with a total of four open tenders, three requests for proposals, and 24 formal written requests for quotation processes completed during the year across all three Directorates. The resulting contracts were closely managed to ensure appropriate contractor performance and an improved Contracts and Assets Register was made available to all staff via the Authority's intranet.

A Conservation Plan for Subiaco Lodge, the oldest building in Kings Park, located at the Saw Avenue entrance, was finalised by a Heritage Architect. This plan documents the physical development of the building over time and defines the elements that are of cultural heritage significance. It will guide the building's future conservation, adaptation, development and use consistent with the preservation of its significant cultural heritage elements. Recommended

maintenance works are planned to commence in 2009/2010 to commence the restoration of this historic residence which has deteriorated over time.

A formal review by Heritage Architects of the Kings Park Conservation Plan (2000) was commissioned in 2009 to document developments since the original plan including significant changes to gardens and plantings, to review the status of recommendations in the original plan, to provide recommendations for the next ten year period and to upgrade the original hand drawn maps and plans to digital format. It is anticipated this review will be completed by late 2009.

Information Services

The Information Services branch continued to provide high quality telephone and data communication services for Authority staff without significant disruption or down-time to network access. A security audit was completed and recommendations implemented to further enhance information system security throughout the Authority. This included a review of guidelines and practices associated with the use of Authority computer and network infrastructure and the installation of software management tools for monitoring internet use and controlling spam.

The appointment of a new Helpdesk Officer in February 2009 brought the Information Services branch back up to full staff levels, which, along with the introduction of an inventory system and a help desk management system, enabled improved management and monitoring of Authority assets and timely response to help desk requests in an efficient manner.

The rollout of upgrades to equipment and services continued throughout the year including improvements to the wireless network for ground floor Science personnel in the Biodiversity Conservation Centre, purchase of replacement personal computers, printers and a plotter, and the installation of smart boards and associated equipment in two of the Authority's main meeting rooms to replace the former data projector systems. In addition, a high volume storage device was commissioned to enable real time access to all of the Authority's electronic historical and archival data. Replacement of Information Services major infrastructure was deferred pending the outcome of an external review of existing services

Mt Eliza Escarpment and Kings Park Bushland

The completion of high capacity fence installation at the base of the Mt Eliza Escarpment between the Mount Hospital and the Kokoda Steps in December 2008 marked the end of an extensive landslide and rockfall risk management works program that has been ongoing for several years. Additional high capacity fencing was installed as part of these works at the site of a significant rockfall that occurred in June 2008 and design recommendations to boost the capacity of a section of 10kJ fencing were also implemented.

All paths along the base of the escarpment, including the City of Perth pedestrian overpass over Mounts Bay Road were reopened for public access on 19 March 2009 following the completion of the fencing and some minor path resurfacing works.

In recognition of the inherently unstable limestone slopes of the escarpment being subject to ongoing deterioration, the Authority prepared a risk management plan specifically for this area in consultation with RiskCover. The plan identifies and assesses the risks and documents specific controls that are in place to minimise the risk of a landslide or rockfall event in each of five management zones on the escarpment. These controls include ongoing biannual geotechnical inspections of the slopes, immediate monitoring following periods of heavy rainfall within a 24 hour period and associated amelioration works, scaling operations to remove loose boulders from the slope and established emergency response procedures.

A major bushfire on 16 January 2009 that burnt 40 hectares of Kings Park bushland caused the extended closure of the Crawley Path from Forrest Drive in Crawley through to the Broadwalk Vista due to extensive damage to the concrete slab surface of the path from

repeated heavy vehicle access. The damaged path material was removed and sent for recycling and a replacement path was designed, documented and tendered during June 2009, for works to commence during July 2009.

The damage to paths prompted a review of track surfaces throughout Kings Park bushland to establish guidelines for future path upgrades and provide a consistent approach throughout the bushland areas. Three different path surfaces were approved by the Authority linked to the specific access requirements and level of use of the paths.

Planning for the upgrade of the Nature Trail to a combination of raised boardwalk and cream concrete path was delayed due to reprioritisation of activities to focus on remediation works following the bushfire. Detailed design was progressed during May and June for documentation, tendering and construction during late 2009.

Trees along the entire network of bushland tracks were assessed for public safety and pruning works implemented to address the identified hazards. Immediately following the major fire, additional tree risk assessments were conducted throughout the burnt area in close proximity to roads and paths, as well as an inspection of risk management infrastructure related to rockfalls, with remedial works implemented where required.

Bold Park

Visitation to Bold Park continued to rise confirming the site as a popular destination for passive recreation in a bushland setting. There were 50,866 vehicles recorded as accessing Reabold Hill during the year, a 13% increase over the previous year. Visitation was generally consistent throughout the year with lower numbers recorded over the hotter summer months. A visitor survey conducted during May and June 2009 recorded 100% overall satisfaction with Bold Park with most visitors surveyed providing very positive feedback about the presentation of the park and the bushland experience. Feedback regarding new signs installed the previous year was mixed, with some visitors seeking more signs through the park and others showing a preference for not introducing additional signs.

The Tamala Room in the Western Australian Ecology Centre continued to be booked by external groups for environmental activities, meetings, workshops, launches and training courses. Although bookings were generally lower than for the previous year, it was popular for the delivery of Cross Cultural Awareness training due to its close proximity to the bushland giving flexibility for both indoor and outdoor components of the training. In December 2008, the Ecology Centre was transformed temporarily into a gallery displaying original artwork for a children's book about life in a tuart tree, following the launch of the book in the Tamala Room.

Authority staff conducted a number of activities with visiting groups including schools, providing guided walks, talks and other educational activities. These were complemented by activities led by volunteer groups in Bold Park for the Kings Park Festival in Spring.

Following the upgrade to walking tracks the previous year some additional drainage works were completed by staff to help direct run-off and reduce erosion. Design work resumed on the reconfiguration of the carparks along Perry Lakes Drive after being placed on hold so that track upgrades could occur. Work on the carparks will occur in late 2009. Liaison with the Town of Cambridge regarding the most appropriate solution to address the risk of rockfalls from the limestone cutting on Oceanic Drive continued, with the installation of a rock catch fence deferred to enable further consideration of the issues.

Business and Visitor Services

Visitor Liaison

The Authority's Park Management Officers (PMOs) play an essential role in all visitor liaisons, providing front line customer service to visitors in relation to their bookings or other

issues. The PMOs maintain daily contact with the Kings Park Guides through the Visitor Information Centre and regular interactions with all lease operators.

Part of the PMO role is to ensure visitors comply with the Authority's Regulations, to ensure the safety and enjoyment of the facilities for all visitors. This year 1,113 infringement notices were issued; 1,076 of which were for parking offences and 37 for other offences, including speeding.

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

The Visitor Information Centre in Kings Park and Botanic Garden, run by the volunteer Kings Park Guides, is open everyday from 9.00am to 4.00pm and is where many visitors access information on things to see and do in the park. All the Authority's maps and brochures are available from the Centre, information on a variety of native plants as well as the Guides' extensive knowledge of, not only Kings Park and Botanic Garden, but the general Perth and Fremantle areas.

Visitor Feedback and Complaints Handling

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

Other communications are received via the front reception at Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park, from the Kings Park Guides Visitor Information Centre and to the enquiries email direct or via the website. The Authority's Communications Handling Procedures in particular considers Complaints, Compliments and Comments/Suggestions made by visitors and other stakeholders to monitor, manage and improve the visitor experience. All communications are responded to directly as required and considered for improvement.

Communications are recorded on an internal Communications Form and are entered into the Authority's records management system and Communications Register. A total of 120 communications were recorded between first July 2008 and 30 June 2009. Of this 120, there were 69 complaints, 9 compliments and 40 suggestions. With the number of visitors to Kings Park and Botanic Garden estimated at 6.5 million for the same period, the complaints received represents less than 0.002% of all visitors.

Functions and Bookings

Kings Park and Botanic Garden remains a popular location for the many weddings, family, private and corporate functions. In 2008/09 the Authority processed 2,566 bookings for functions, with 273 of these for weddings, 547 social events, 523 special events, 85 corporate events, 60 community group events, 126 wedding photography permits; 154 film/photo shoots; 301 sporting events (walkathons, triathlons, cycle time trials and team-building events), 32 fitness training permits; 165 school education service bookings, 21 self-guided schools visits with educational packs; 174 school visits to the park, 49 special walks, 34 memorial services and 22 wreath laying ceremonies.

Over 97,234 people visited Kings Park and Botanic Garden as a result of these booked functions, 18,720 of these were education/school related visitors.

A new brochure on Sport and Fitness Training Guidelines was developed to inform fitness trainers who were running part of their businesses in the park about Authority Regulations and to offer guidelines for bringing in large groups. This has successfully assisted fitness groups to use appropriate areas and not engage in disrespectful activity in and around the State War Memorial and other memorials that were previously being used inappropriately.

The booking forms and processes were upgraded to improve communication and efficiency for function organisers. Fees and charges were revised during the year with the new approved fees to take effect from 1 July 2009.

Events

The summer series of concert and theatre performances and the outdoor cinema continue to be popular, this year attracting 88,109 visitors. The 2008 Kings Park Festival attracted an estimated 600,000 visitors and ANZAC Day, New Year's Eve, Valentines Day, Red Bull Air Race and the Australia Day Skyworks contributed a combined 97,500 visitors.

2008 Kings Park Festival

The 2008 Kings Park Festival successfully engaged with over 600,000 primarily Western Australian visitors through a variety of family days, educational and interpretive opportunities including workshops, demonstrations, live theatre and hands-on participation, to promote the vision and mission.

The financial support received from sponsors Friends of Kings Park, Lotterywest, Water Corporation and 720 ABC Perth; and supporters Tourism WA, Bikewest and Channel 7 was essential to the Festival's success in 2008.

The Kings Park Festival website, with associated e-newsletters, together with a wide ranging series of media releases and coverage in print and radio media ensured the community was well informed of the Festival and the special events and opportunities.

A total of 3,000 differing Western Australian plant species were on display throughout the 17 hectares of the Botanic Garden with the intense floral display period being extended from the previous five day period (prior to 2007), to three months.

Together with spectacular displays of Western Australian wildflowers throughout the park, visitors marvelled at the larger than life attractions in the Botanic Garden including the colourful Seed Odyssey art installation. This eye catching series of ten popular native seeds, each two metres high, captured the attention of visitors and highlighted the beautiful and sometimes bizarre packaging of these precious genetic storerooms.

The photographic exhibition 'Hard Rain' was of great interest to visitors to the Botanic Garden, many of whom contemplated the evocative scenes captured by UK photographer Mark Edwards. The images were set to the haunting words from the Bob Dylan song "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall" and portrayed environmental issues, particularly the effects of climate change.

A wide-ranging series of workshops and talks from garden specialists, scientists, crafts people and artists were on offer including Growing Your Own Bush Foods with Horticulturist Peter Coppin, Wild About Flowers Digital Photography with Dale Neill, Mosaic Art for Your Garden with Robyn Varpins and A Beginners Guide to Growing Native Plants from Seed with Dr David Merritt. Many guided wildflower and bird walks took in the delights of spring in both Bold Park and Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

The annual Great Quiz on Legs was attended by 1,600 primary school students. Students became Ambassadors for the Sustainability of our Planet and delighted in the Great Aussie Garden Theatre Show, native reptiles and raptors, Indigenous didgeridoo and dance and numerous fun and informative presentations throughout the Botanic Garden. The Authority is grateful to the Water Corporation for their support of this event.

The Visitor Information Centre recorded an additional 2,819 people for the month of September, an increase of 171% from 2007 and the number of people taking free guided walks and Special walks rose by 500%.

The overall experience of the Kings Park Festival was rated as 4.48 out of 5 by visitors who were surveyed. Visitor research conducted over each weekend of the Festival indicated that

the median age of visitors was roughly 45 years, with the majority of visitors (60%) being female.

Visitor feedback and staff and stakeholder debriefs concluded that the objectives set for the 2008 Festival were met, with:

- Increased exposure of Western Australian wildflowers and Kings Park and Botanic Garden to visitors giving it greater global appeal – higher profile for Perth Tourism – promoted as the largest annual Wildflower Festival in Australia.
- Greater community awareness of the constructive scientific work that is being achieved by the Authority both locally and internationally.
- A more sustainable impact on the Botanic Garden, keeping it accessible to the public at its prime time.
- the Botanic Garden available sooner for concerts.
- Spreading and sharing the impact of the event throughout the park.
- High levels of visitor satisfaction achieved based on 318 surveys and general feedback.
- A broadened demographic, with a range of ages attending the festival over the month of September.
- Increased visitation rates for the month of September which was estimated to be in excess of 600,000.

Overall, a more sustainable Festival was achieved by implementing strategies to reduce the environmental impact of the Festival footprint and keeping the Botanic Garden accessible to the general public throughout the month of September.

Concerts

Mellen Events presented two concerts featuring Simply Red who attracted the largest crowd with a combined 12,019 people attending in February 2009. Mellen Events also presented Delta Goodrem, Escape to the Park and Bjorn Again.

Sunset Events presented Jackson Browne with 4,137 people attending and the Perth International Arts Festival presented legendary jazz musicians Chick Corea and John McLaughlin with 2,885 fans attending.

The five Western Australian Symphony Orchestra Concerts in the Botanic Garden attracted 19,650 people in total. Classical Spectacular, Roberta Flack, Clown Melvin Tix and Human Nature (who performed two shows) entertained the WASO faithful.

Theatre

During January 2009 a trial season with Shakespeare WA presented the theatrical performance of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The performances attracted 6,225 people.

The tender process for Provision of Outdoor Theatre was undertaken in 2009 and the licence awarded to Shakespeare WA for an initial term of three years.

Prompt Corner presented 'Snugglepot and Cuddlepie' at the Saw Avenue Amphitheatre, attracting 2,288 children and adults through the January season.

Outdoor Cinema

Outdoor movies, presented by Moonlight Cinema in Synergy Parkland, attracted 29,110 people during its fifth season. Attendance for the outdoor cinema was up more than 50% on the 2007/2008 year.

The tender process for Outdoor Cinema was undertaken in 2009 with the licence again being awarded to Moonlight Cinema.

Other Events

Other community and Authority events included:

- The Red Bull Air Race held in Perth in November 2008 attracted 4,500 people to the park, slightly less than the 5,000 in 2007/2008.
- An estimated 16,000 people came to Kings Park and Botanic Garden to celebrate New Year's Eve.
- The annual Australia Day Skyworks event on the Swan River attracted approximately 35,000 people who watched from various vantage points in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.
- Record crowds attended the annual ANZAC Day Dawn Service attracting close to 40,000 people.
- A further 68 wreath-laying and memorial events were conducted in the park.
- The Gija Jumulu Welcome to Kings Park ceremony in July 2008 was well attended by sponsors, the Indigenous community, other invited guests, park visitors, staff and volunteers. The boab relocation event sparked a great deal of interest in the community, with many people attending the event to witness the tree arriving in the park and being craned into position in the Botanic Garden, adjacent to the Conservation Garden.
- The public announcement of *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park* in April 2009 was a significant event for the Authority in profiling this new initiative and acknowledging the successful joint partnerships in the project, namely Rio Tinto, Lotterywest, Water Corporation and Friends of Kings Park.
- The newly refurbished Saw Avenue Picnic Area was officially opened to the community on 1 June 2009 by the Minister of Environment; Youth the Hon. Donna Faragher MLC and Variety Chairman Ennio Tavani. The launch was a fantastic day with a barbeque lunch and musical performance by the Variety Youth Choir to celebrate the new nature based picnic area. The much loved family environment has been redeveloped to cater for children of all abilities, thanks to the generous support of Variety the Children's Charity of WA.

Interpretation and Information

Many interpretive signs throughout the park received facelifts in the last year and new signage was developed for the redeveloped Saw Avenue Picnic Area and for the Boab tree, to tell the story of its journey from the Kimberley to Kings Park. A brochure titled 'Gija Jumulu' was produced in response to public demand for information about the new boab tree.

Around 90,000 Kings Park Festival brochures were distributed throughout Western Australia for the Kings Park Festival.

New bookmarks were printed to promote the Kings Park Guides celebrating their 25 years of service and informing interested people in how to become a Guide.

Many of the current brochures have received updates as part of the reprinting process, such as the Visitor Map and Kings Park for Kids brochure and the Memorials self guided brochure,

The Authority's website was refined and expanded during 2008 with expanded access and functionality. The Authority introduced its new monthly e-newsletter which readers can subscribe to find out about events and Authority news and activities.

The services by an Indigenous Cultural Heritage Tour which has had a trial period, will be tendered late 2009 to provide the Authority with a suitable individual or company to deliver this product in the future.

New marketing material and project interpretation information was produced as part of the *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park* announcement.

A comprehensive review of the Authority's 1997 Thematic History was completed in 2008/2009 with the publication of 'A Joy Forever - The Story of Kings Park and Botanic Garden'. Written by Western Australian historian Dr Dorothy Erickson, with graphic design by Rosalie Okely and published by the Authority, the book details the history of Kings Park, from its early struggle to get established to its current status as the most visited tourist destination in Western Australia, an internationally-respected research facility and the State's symbol of the ultimate sacrifice many of its people made in time of war. The book also tells of the important place the Kings Park land has held in the history of the Nyoongar people of WA.

Education

The Authority delivers a range of educational opportunities to visitors and local communities through various methods including: free guided and special walks; self guided walks; the Visitor Information Centre staffed by the volunteer Kings Park Guides; Friends of Kings Park with both volunteering opportunities and plant sales; the Volunteer Master Gardeners Garden Advisory Service; volunteers and corporate groups who have opportunity for hands-on work with the Bushland, Botanic Garden and Science areas; external talks to gardening and community groups; a lunchtime lecture series; Science lectures at UWA; ecotours; interpretive signage; informative brochures; media articles and television; the annual Kings Park Festival; Connect With Kings Park adult education programs and the Discover Kings Park Education Service.

An excursion to Kings Park and Botanic Garden offers an excellent opportunity for students of all ages and abilities to further their understanding of environmental and related issues in a safe and stimulating outdoor setting. Curriculum-based Discover Kings Park programs have been developed by the Authority's Education Team to assist teachers and provide an enjoyable and valuable learning experience for students from pre-school to tertiary levels. All the education programs offer discovery learning and work with the learners' curiosity. They allow students to move, sense, explore, discuss and artistically relate to a stimulating environment providing opportunities for learning that are not available in schools. The Yorkas Nyinning building in the Botanic Garden was refurbished to create a larger indoor space and a disabled access toilet, to enable delivery of programs in the Botanic Garden on days with heavy rains. The majority of programs are delivered outdoors and the Education Team is looking forward to being able to effectively combine indoor and outdoor experiential learning when the new *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park* is opened in 2011.

Two new programs have been added to the program this year, The Mystery of the Disappearing Bush Treasures and Walk Back to the Future. The first program is designed for early childhood, Kindergarten to year two and immerses students in a sensory journey through the Botanic Garden where they can discover the natural world through sound, smell, touch and colour. The second program, for years five to ten, is a self-guided trail that takes them from the Gija Jumulu Boab to the State War Memorial on a cultural journey from the Nyoongar people and their Indigenous heritage to Governor John Stirling's era and onto John Forrest and the Anzacs. The classic story of Tawny and the Great Kings Park Fire has been updated for a new generation of children through the use of poetry and contemporary illustration. In addition to the use of the Tawny story in school programs, the book along with two new Kings Park Fritter Friends story books (What if? And Where do you live?) have been installed in large outdoor versions in the Ivy Watson Playground at the Lotterywest Family Area. All three books were written by visitor services staff and illustrated externally.

In March 2009, the Authority was requested by the Cape to Cape Catchment Group to perform The Great Aussie Garden Theatre Show in Margaret River to local schools and members of the public during the Margaret River Festival. This was the first regional school incursion to be offered by the Authority's education service and was very well received.

The Great Quiz on Legs was held for a second time in September 2008 to mark National Threatened Species Day. The day was a great success despite the odd rain shower. Approximately 1,600 students attended, a substantial increase from the previous year.

Participation in the Kings Park Festival Poster Exhibition increased in 2008 with entries from 15 schools ranging from kindergarten to high schools throughout the State. Thirty entries were chosen to be displayed in the Botanic Garden throughout September. Art teachers were very positive about the project and many of the schools visited to see their own work. Feedback from members of the public during the Festival was also very positive.

In the period 2008/2009 the Authority delivered 183 lessons (148 in 2007/2008) to approximately 7,096 students (5,867 in 2007/2008). An additional 116 (207 in 2007/2008) booked self-guided education visits to the park involved a further 6,099 participants (8,614 in 2007/08).

The Authority also formed a partnership with Scitech to deliver education based school holiday programs. This has benefited both parties with the ability to share resources, booking and advertising costs. During the 2008/2009 period eight programs were delivered over the July, January and April holidays. All the programs were fully booked with a total of 353 participants.

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

Aspects of Kings Park

Aspects of Kings Park is the Authority's flagship gallery and retail store with the highest quality contemporary Australian and Western Australian craft and design. It delivers a distinctive shopping experience integrating art and design, ecology, conservation and education, in the heart of one of Western Australia's most iconic locations. The focus is on works by local artists, with products reflecting Australia's natural environment and flora biodiversity. Its product range is innovative, colourful, intriguing and inspirational.

Aspects of Kings Park is owned and operated by the Authority. The team comprises a dedicated group of people, many of who have been with us since the store opened in 2005. Each person in this closely-knit team takes pride in understanding the inspiration of the individual artist and range of products available. The strong and loyal customer following is testimony to their friendly manner and product knowledge.

Aspects of Kings Park has developed a solid local client base, including corporate and bridal gifts, and is developing its service to cater to the many interstate and international visitors. It provides ongoing cross portfolio contributions to the tourism, art, resources and environmental sectors.

The Authority's audit processes review internal controls, procedural instructions, staff training and detailed financial and performance reports to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of processes.

All proceeds from the sale of goods at *Aspects of Kings Park* supports the Authority's commitment to the unique Western Australian environment.

Business Development

The Authority continued its business development program focused on developing sustainable fundraising strategies for the current and long term enhancement of Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park. The focus is on maintaining and enhancing existing relationships and seeking new partnerships to ensure effective strategic alliances.

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

were able to grant funds from Lotterywest towards the Authority's 2008 Kings Park Festival and *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park*.

The Authority is also very fortunate to have a number of other significant long term partners who work with the Authority in delivering high quality outcomes. The Water Corporation and the Authority have a highly productive partnership particularly with the Kings Park Festival adult education program that promotes mutual conservation messages important to both organisations. The Water Corporation will also be a founding partner of the *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park* project.

Synergy continues its sponsorship of Synergy Parkland investing further funds towards an upgrade of current visitor facilities. Both Synergy and Channel Seven Perth continued to support the Fraser Avenue Lights until earlier this year when the lights were turned off for maintenance and replacement.

The Authority welcomed new partnerships in 2008/2009 year. Variety WA's funding enabled visitor facilities at the western end of the Saw Avenue Picnic Area to be upgraded and made more accessible for both abled and disabled people.

Rio Tinto made a commitment to sponsor the new environmental discovery and learning project entitled *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park*. Alongside the Water Corporation and Lotterywest through the Friends of Kings Park, the Authority has formed a unique and effective five way partnership with Government, the corporate sector and the community, breathing life into this new project. *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park* is expected to be open in 2011.

Major Promotional, Public Relations or Marketing Activities

A comprehensive marketing and media strategy was successfully undertaken to increase community awareness and build local attendance of the 2008 Kings Park Festival, promoting and celebrating Western Australia's unique environment. The marketing campaign targeted a broad cross-section of Western Australian community to encourage participation. Results revealed strong attendance by young families, with over 600,000 people estimated to have attended the event over the month of September.

Limited paid media advertising engaged mainstream press including The West Australian Newspaper and The Sunday Times to communicate with the broad community, with local print publications targeted at reaching surrounding communities. A major promotional tool was the Festival's 40-page full colour DL publication, 65,000 copies were distributed via the Community Newspaper Group.

Radio was a critical medium to maintain momentum over a five week campaign, in particular, 94.5FM was engaged to motivate attendance leading into each of the major weekend activities. Channel Seven Perth supported the Kings Park Festival by producing a Community Service Announcement.

The Kings Park Festival website was brought under the banner of the overall Authority website to leverage the significant internet traffic that the Kings Park site achieves annually. The Festival's unique graphic communication and web address, www.kingsparkfestival.com.au, were maintained to continue to build the event's branding. Over the month of September the average number of unique visitors to the Kings Park site more than doubled to 16,748 unique visitors as a result of the Festival. The average number of pages visited per user also jumped from 4.92 to 5.36 pages.

The Authority continued to build the Festival's electronic database inviting the public to voluntarily subscribe to the regular weekly Festival newsletter. Membership to our database increased from 528 to 802 subscribers during September.

The media relations campaign succeeded in building event credibility and community awareness of the 2008 event. The campaign commenced early August and focused on

raising the profile of the event, building visitation, and creating and channelling media opportunities. In total 111 media hits were achieved with four on television; 82 in print; and 18 radio interviews and live mentions. Promotional partnerships with ABC 720 Radio, Bike West and Australia's South West regional tourism group all provided excellent opportunities to build media publicity

Formal research carried out during the event highlighted 51.4% of visitors attended the Festival to primarily see the wildflowers, with free family events and free entry also rating highly as key motivators for attendance. Overall visitor satisfaction with Festival services was rated at 4.48 out of 5. It was also pleasing to note that the traditional female dominated market that attends the Festival annually is shifting, with an increase in the ratio of male visitation from 23% to 36% to the 2008 event.

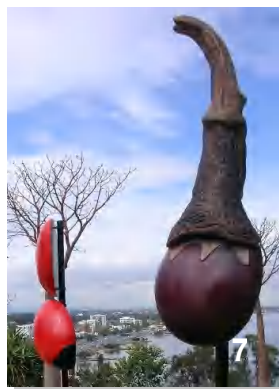
Financial Management

The Authority's Audit Committee, established under the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998*, assists the Authority to discharge its responsibilities in financial management, compliance and corporate governance. The Committee met on three occasions during the year.

In addition, the Authority works closely with internal auditors, 2020 Global, to continually improve internal processes and procedures to meet legislative, regulatory and management requirements.

Regular staff training sessions are held to increase staff competency in the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) and State Supply Commission policies and guidelines on procurement, including Common Use Arrangements, the use of purchasing cards, request and tender processes and the financial management of contracts and leases.

In recognition of this work, the Authority was the winner in the 'Maximising Opportunities from Procurement Reform' category in the Innovation in Procurement - Treasurer's Awards 2008.



Details of photographs are provided in **Appendix 7** of this Annual Report.

Service 2: Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research

Conservation and enhancement of Western Australian bushland and other flora.

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

Horticulture and Conservation

Kings Park and Botanic Garden

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

Western Australian Botanic Garden

Since the opening of the new Conservation Garden in June 2008, supplementary planting has increased the number of threatened species on display. Most of the young plants have established very well, adapting to the site conditions and growing rapidly, and promising to provide an excellent display in spring 2009 in this high profile site within the Botanic Garden. An audio tour of the Conservation Garden was created and made available for downloading from the Authority's website, to help interpret the garden as visitors move through it listening to the recorded information. The combination of the recorded information, the attractive displays and the informative signage throughout the garden help to communicate important conservation messages about the Western Australian flora to the community.

The Growing Friends of Kings Park were supported by the Authority through making propagation material available from the Conservation Garden plants to the Friends, as well as advice on how to grow them, for production and sale to the public. This further enhanced the spread of conservation messages into the community.

In addition to the Conservation Garden, over 9,000 Western Australian native plants were planted in several other themed beds, as part of an ongoing commitment to maintain high quality displays of a diverse range of native plants. The themed beds included the Grevillea and Hakea gardens, the Anigozanthos (Kangaroo Paw) garden and the extension of the Chamelaucium (wax flower) gardens. The planting of grafted plants in many beds within the Botanic Garden enabled the inclusion of many species that would otherwise not be sustainable in the gardens.

Authority staff continued to increase their skills and knowledge in maintaining the plant collections through the commencement of a series of in-house monthly horticultural training sessions, in which various staff share their specialist knowledge with other staff and students. In addition, the Botanic Garden was the primary site for plant identification training for horticultural trainees and other staff keen to improve their plant knowledge. Interest in the volunteer group of Botanic Garden Carers increased as this group continued to make a significant contribution to the maintenance of displays, particularly in the Botanic Garden Entry, the Banksia Garden and the Conservation Garden, with work overseen by Authority staff.

Kings Park Nursery

A shortage of staff at the start of the year and difficulties in recruitment due to the economic boom at the time presented a challenge for the nursery to continue to produce quality plants for use in conservation and display plantings within the Authority as well as plants for external conservation programs. Reallocation of available horticultural staff resources and

the engagement of short-term contract staff enabled targets to be met and collections to be maintained to a high standard.

The nursery continued to provide support for the ecological restoration programs in Kings Park and Bold Park bushlands through quality plant production, germination trials for all species of seed collected by the bushland teams through the previous collecting season, propagation of vulnerable species in low numbers in the wild in each bushland site and the application of pre-treatments to bushland seed lots prior to despatch to external nurseries for propagation. The nursery produced approximately 35,000 local native plants for 2009 restoration planting in Kings Park and Bold Park, including some species not previously grown for these programs.

Approximately 12,000 plants were produced for planting in the Botanic Garden and other developed areas of Kings Park and Botanic Garden and a further 600 trees were produced as advanced stock in specialised containers, designed to encourage better root development for improved performance in the landscape in the long term. Species grown were predominantly Western Australian but some introduced specimens were grown to support specific planting themes as documented in the Parkland Masterplan to retain cultural and historical links with the past.

In addition, the nursery produced 6,000 plants comprising a range of annual flowering plants in plugs and pots for planting throughout the gardens to enhance displays for the Kings Park Festival. The nursery also continued to support external conservation programs with the production of 2,096 plants of 20 species of threatened flora for the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). These plants are a vital component to DEC species recovery plans and are either translocated back into the wild or used to establish seed orchards to enhance the survival of the species.

Further reconfiguration of spaces within the nursery continued to enhance functionality and provide dedicated growing areas for the range of stakeholders requiring nursery facilities. These included science and research students, plant development, nursery collections, the production nursery and the Growing Friends of Kings Park. Of particular note was the upgrade of two existing glasshouses and the construction of a tunnel house dedicated to seedling production, as part of a strategy to provide separate facilities for the Friends of Kings Park from the main nursery production areas. The Friends of Kings Park provided significant funding for the upgrade and worked closely with nursery staff during these developments.

Herbarium, Western Australian Seed Technology Centre and Millennium Seed Bank Partnership

With the Millennium Seed Bank Project (MSBP) entering its final year in 2009, the primary focus for the Western Australian Seed Technology Centre (WASTC) operations during the year was to target species not previously banked to meet the requirements of the Authority's partnership agreement within this project. In addition, the collection, cleaning, testing and storing of seed to meet the needs of the Western Australian Botanic Garden continued to be an important component of the WASTC's activities.

Significant effort was directed towards more precise location of target species not already in the MSBP collections prior to setting out into the field, to maximise the number of target species collected for time spent in the field. The use of available herbarium data and accurate plotting of locations using GPS technology greatly enhanced success in the field. In addition, duplicate field trips were conducted first to tag the plants while in flower and collect identification material, followed by a second trip to collect the seed at a later date. Other techniques included the use of seed traps on some species to catch the fallen seed and retain it in mesh bags for later collection.

The focus for collecting was plants from the northern sand plains, from Perth through to Kalbarri with a total of 382 collections made during the year. 248 species were banked at the

MSBP in the United Kingdom in seven shipments, bringing the total collections for the MSBP partnership to 1,150 of the required 1,220 species from the WASTC. Greening Australia WA contributed 36 species collections during the year as part of their contract with the Authority to support this project, bringing their contribution to 150 species.

Following the development of training programs with MSBP staff in the United Kingdom in June 2008, Authority staff assisted with the delivery of training courses to MSBP partners in Kenya and Portugal to a total of 22 trainees. The Western Australian Botanic Garden housed an artistic sculptural display of seeds with accompanying conservation information for the Kings Park Festival in September 2008, with funding assistance from the MSBP. Following the Festival, the sculptures were relocated to the Biodiversity Conservation Centre for ongoing display.

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

The position of the Australian MSBP coordinator was extended to the end of July 2009, with funding support from all Australian partners in the project. Based in Kings Park and Botanic Garden, the coordinator continued to work with the Australian partners who form the Australian Seed Conservation and Research (AuSCaR) to develop a way forward for seed conservation beyond the current MSBP funding. AuSCaR provided a network of capacity building, training and collaborative research opportunities for Australian members as well as access to an international network of like organisations for information sharing.

Plant Development

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

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

Ball Horticultural Company has confirmed the release of the first commercial *Scaevola* variety developed by the Authority with first sales expected in 2010. A marketing and development plan for this licensed variety has been developed which includes a targeted release program for North America, Europe, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and possibly South Africa. Protection of the variety is well underway with a US Patent pending, an application for Plant Breeders Rights (PBR) in Canada made and PBR in Europe likely to occur in July/August 2009. The variety will be protected in other markets as required. Authority acknowledgement and promotion will be via both the Authority's logo and a statement of origin on all plant labels and promotional materials for this variety in all markets worldwide. Seventeen other *Scaevola* varieties remain in the advanced testing phase.

During the year, 39 hybrid *Scaevola* varieties were transferred to Ball Horticultural Company in the USA for inclusion in their international testing programs. These hybrids were produced through funding provided in a partnership agreement with Ball Horticultural Company to

breed new varieties and hybrids of *Scaevola* that finished in August 2007. Another 14 varieties selected under this program are being evaluated at Kings Park and Botanic Garden before possible transfer to trialling programs

The Australian company Ramm Botanicals, who are one of the worlds largest developers and producers of Kangaroo Paw varieties, will commercially release the BGPA Kangaroo Paw variety *Anigozanthos rufus* 'Kings Park Federation Flame' in Australia in 2010 and internationally in 2011. A new yellow form of this variety has also been included in this development program and is targeted for trialling with the intension of commercial release

Further breeding and development is underway in *Anigozanthos*. Over 850 potential putative hybrids lines have been produced for evaluation in 2010.

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

From 1 July 2008, over 27,900 crosses have been made, with over 163 selections and putative hybrids sent to the Austem Pty Ltd for evaluation.

Developmental work was also carried out on a range of other genera including *Boronia*, *Dampiera*, *Ficus*, *Goodenia* and *Hypocalymma*.

An innovative research activity on somatic fusion within the *Goodeniaceae* family, with funding through the Floriscience program, commenced in November 2008. The aim is to produce wide hybrids within this ornamental plant family. To date wall-less cells, called protoplasts, have been isolated with a view to conducting plant regeneration and fusion experiments.

Further innovation is underway through the development of *in vitro* fertilisation techniques in *Darwinia* by a visiting research scientist.

The genetic resources available for the development programs continued to increase through a targeted collection program in *Anigozanthos* and related genera, *Grevillea*, and the small myrtles in the 2008/09 collection season. Advanced mapping methodologies were also developed to assist in the location of species.

Horticultural Research

The first stage of a partnership with University of Western Australia researchers to investigate best practices in Kikuyu turf management was concluded in 2008 with results providing valuable information on methods to reduce nitrogen leaching from established turf and on minimising water use by Kikuyu turf by matching nitrogen applications with turf growth.

Some progress was made in a research project in the Botanic Garden to investigate the effect of stem injection treatments to Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) in arresting or reversing the symptoms of decline caused by the honey fungus, *Armillaria luteobubalina*. Canopy evaluations of trees in the trial were completed prior to chemical treatment. It is hoped that information from these trials will contribute valuable information that will help to improve tree vigour and decrease the risk of premature mortality. The trial is planned to span a further two years.

Fire Management

A major fire occurred in Kings Park bushland on 16 January 2009 in which approximately 40 hectares of bushland were burnt. This was the most significant fire in Kings Park since the large fire in 1996 and it required substantial resources from the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA), the Police, the Authority, and a range of other organisations including the State Emergency Services and other volunteers to bring the fire under control and provide support services in a well co-ordinated response. Due to extreme weather conditions of up to

42 degree temperatures and strong winds that changed direction on the day, it took almost 12 hours to contain and a further 28 hours before all but the Authority's fire resources were stood down. There were no casualties and infrastructure damage from the fire was minor, although one path of almost one kilometre through the bushland was irreparably damaged by repeated heavy vehicle use during the fire response and required replacement.

Authority staff conducted a wash-up briefing in-house and attended a Post Incident Analysis with FESA to review operational aspects of the fire response. This provided opportunity to learn from the experience and improve systems for the future. In addition, the fire prompted an immediate review of the Authority's fire management guidelines, which were reconfirmed by the Board of Management at its February meeting.

In addition to the major fire, there were nine other fires in Kings Park, two of which burnt four hectares and two hectares respectively. The total area burnt in Kings Park was 46.08 hectares with most fires occurring between December and February. All fires were believed to have been deliberately lit.

Authority staff assisted representatives from the Town of Cambridge, the Quarry Amphitheatre management and FESA in a review of the fire mitigation strategies for the Quarry, which has a common boundary with Bold Park. A commitment was made by the Authority to assist with fuel reduction in the surrounding area by initiating veld grass control in the area of Bold Park to the east of the Quarry Amphitheatre during 2009.

Bush Fire training for new staff was completed in December 2008 followed by training in incident management systems for those staff interested in becoming Fire Management Officers in January 2009. Medical and fitness assessments for Fire Officers also continued for new staff and in-house training in the form of a Fire Hydra was conducted over two sessions for all Fire Officers to provide practical, hands on experience in the use of fire response and safety equipment.

Minor upgrades to fire response equipment continued including replacement of the 400 litre slip-on tank for Mobile 1, the Park Management Officers' response vehicle.

Mt Eliza Escarpment and Kings Park Bushland

Following the major bush fire in January, considerable time and effort was dedicated to safety assessment and risk amelioration works as well as evaluation of the environmental impacts. These impacts included disturbance from fire vehicles operating off designated tracks, large expanses of the escarpment slopes becoming exposed due to burning of vegetation cover, burning of the site of the rare trapdoor spider on the escarpment and sites of seven vulnerable flora species, burning of several restoration sites on the escarpment and the unquantified impacts of the application of fire-fighting foam and river water in the fire response.

A review of work priorities was undertaken to ensure the impacts from the fire were well monitored and managed and to allow risk management actions to be implemented to prevent further impacts on the bushland. A research and monitoring plan was drafted to address mapping, photo monitoring, soil stability and rockfall risk, and flora and fauna monitoring. Implementation of the plan commenced almost immediately to collect data for future analysis and establish monitoring plots for long term data collection. Several strategies were put in place to protect the steep escarpment slopes from erosion prior to the onset of winter rains including the application of wetting agents to improve water penetration, placement of coir logs in former erosion gullies and to capture sand at the base of the slope and the use of mulch in water collection points to prevent erosion runs.

The ongoing monitoring program following the fire will provide useful information on the effects of various fire control techniques, regeneration success including vulnerable species, the success of past restoration programs on the escarpment and future restoration requirements for the adaptive management of the site into the future.

A comprehensive vegetation survey was conducted throughout the bushland in the spring of 2008, recording diversity, abundance and structure on a 100 metre grid point system. This followed a review of past monitoring systems and the establishment of a permanent monitoring system for current and future surveys that would generate the best and most suitable quality of data in the most time efficient manner for tracking the structure, composition and condition of the bushland over ten year intervals. Survey data was partially collated with analysis deferred due a higher priority being placed on research and monitoring activities following the fire in the bushland in January 2009.

The Authority commissioned a fungi survey in the Kings Park bushland to commence the documentation of a comprehensive inventory of fungi diversity in the park. Although some information was available from previous community based fungi activities, this was the first time a formal survey had been initiated. Survey work commenced in June 2009 in four sites representing four different vegetation communities, including the burnt area. A detailed report of the survey outcomes will be available in November 2009.

Restoration activities continued throughout the year including planting, weed control and seed collection. Approximately 42,000 plants were planted in the winter of 2008 in 42 different sites in accordance with the five-year restoration plan that was documented the previous year. Planting in the 2009 winter was delayed due to the late onset of rainfall and resulting dry soil conditions.

A total of 60 hectares was sprayed for veld grass control as well as three kilometres of track edges as a fire management strategy to reduce the incidence of highly flammable introduced grasses. Other weeds targeted for control included highly invasive species such as *Euphorbia terracina* (Geraldton Carnation), and bulbous species such as *Babiana*, *Ixia* and *Ferraria crispa* (Black Flag). Trials of two organic herbicides were implemented to test their effectiveness in weed control, reflecting the Authority's commitment to investigating best practice methods in the use of agricultural chemicals, particularly for weed control.

A good start was made to the seed collection program but this was reduced compared with the previous year as a result of the fire and associated activities. A total of 88 collections were made of 78 local native species, which were then cleaned and processed. Samples from all seed lots were x-rayed to determine the presence of healthy embryos, enabling seed viability information to be recorded at the time of storage. Details of the collections were entered on the Authority's horticultural data base for future reference.

Bold Park

During the latter half of 2008 despite significant staff turnover in key positions including the Environmental Manager, the Environmental Team Leader and a Field Operator, the remaining staff stepped up to the challenge and continued to progress bushland restoration and related programs during this period. By May 2009 all vacant positions had been successfully filled in time for the busy winter period of planting and weed control spraying.

The persistence of unseasonal warm, dry weather well into June delayed both the greenstock planting and weed control activities until the end of June 2009. In the winter of 2008, 27,000 local native plants were planted in restoration sites including the Eastern Gateway and Oceanic precincts. In addition, planting was undertaken in selected sites along track edges where track upgrades had been completed the previous year leaving exposed embankments that required stabilisation by jute matting and planting. Valuable assistance was provided by the Friends of Bold Park in two community planting days.

Weed control activities in the winter of 2008 focused on target species within restoration sites and the control of highly invasive species elsewhere on the site. A total of 48 hectares was sprayed for veld grass control and 35 hectares was sprayed for the control of pelargonium. The limited access for vehicles to most of the restoration sites in Bold Park required staff to implement weed control using backpack sprayers, which is both time consuming and physically demanding. The success of the restoration program is reliant on the combined

team efforts of the committed staff in the environmental team at Bold Park, which is much appreciated. Surveys were undertaken by Authority staff during the autumn of 2009 to determine densities of veld grass and pelargonium through the restoration precincts, which in turn will inform the weed control program for 2009.

The woody weed eradication program was also advanced with the ongoing removal of introduced tree and shrub species from the bushland that included introduced wattles, *Agave americana*, Victorian tea-tree, Japanese peppers and palms. Tagging of Wembley wax plants, Geraldton wax and hybrids between the two continued during October with removal of specimens known to be other than the Wembley wax undertaken during December 2008. Significant removals were completed in the area adjacent to Wollaston College where some very large specimens of Geraldton wax were removed.

A fungi survey conducted during the winter of 2008 by an external Mycologist, assisted by trained enthusiastic volunteers, resulted in the collection of 128 species including 45 new records for Bold Park. In addition, one species was studied in detail and found to be a previously undescribed species that is new to science, *Mycena* section *Sacchariferae*. The total number of fungi species recorded for Bold Park is now approximately 375. This number is not precise as many of the species collected over the past eight years have not yet been identified to species level. The fungi inventory for Bold Park is now one of the most comprehensive for any bushland area in Western Australia.

Priorities for seed collection included all species required for restoration programs, conservation collections for the vulnerable flora as well as those species that could be opportunistically collected. A total of 118 species were collected overall, including nine of the vulnerable species listed for Bold Park. Good collections were made of many species that had poor seed production the previous season, including *Acacia* species, banksias and hakeas. All collections were cleaned and processed and information entered into the Authority's horticultural data base. Samples of 100 seeds from each collection were set aside for future germination testing in the Kings Park nursery.

Plants of two species listed as vulnerable, *Conospermum triplinervium* and *Sphaerolobium linophyllum*, were planted in the gardens surrounding the Ecology Centre as a risk management strategy, with some *Conospermum* also planted in the field. Subsequent monitoring showed that the *Conospermum* have so far performed well with good survival, however the *Sphaerolobium* have had poor survival. All 15 listed vulnerable species were monitored and recorded as present with two species, *Ptilotus sericostachys* and *Daviesia decurrens*, collected for propagation from cuttings to enhance the numbers of these species for risk management.

Scientific Research and Development

International Conferences

The dissemination of research findings is a priority of the Authority, and the hosting of conferences and workshops provides the Authority with an avenue to encourage and pursue this activity. In 2008/2009 the Authority undertook planning and preparation for the Conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) International – the 19th World Conference on Ecological Restoration to be held in August 2009. The hosting of this conference by the Authority marks an important occasion in restoration ecology research for Western Australia with more than 700 delegates from 46 countries expected to attend.

Restoration Ecology

The Restoration Ecology Team continues to research reasons underpinning ecosystem decline and develop new and innovative enabling technologies for tackling urban bushland, post-mining and post-disturbance restoration of the State's bio-diverse ecosystems. While the focus of the team has generally centred on the *Banksia* woodland that is the heart of the Authority managed bushlands, externally funded projects contribute to restoration ecology

knowledge of the State's ecosystems from the Pilbara region, the Swan Coastal Plain to the south-west region and ultimately, build restoration research capability that directly benefits the designated lands of the Authority.

The January 2009 fire event that affected 40ha of the Kings Park bushland has provided significant scientific research opportunities. Vegetation monitoring plots recently established (as part of a comprehensive bushland survey), together with restoration plots (established annually as part of the on-going scarp restoration program) now provide the Authority with a rare opportunity to monitor and analyse plant regeneration after fire within an urban setting, and more interestingly, the resilience of the restoration sites. The unexpected application of fire fighting foam (to assist fire-fighting activities) provided the Authority with opportunistic research programs that will investigate its effect.

Relevant parts of this fire-related research program will complement the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) funded research program, which is demonstrating the potential for fire-suppressants (including fire fighting foams) to impart negative effects on native vegetation, namely on seed germination, seedling emergence, seedling establishment and plant survival of *Banksia* woodland species. The implications of the findings have the potential to be important in progressing bushfire control technology.

Along similar lines, research has demonstrated the potential for commonly-used herbicides to impact native species common in Kings Park and Bold Park. To date, the study has resolved that sandier soils (such as that found on the Swan Coastal Plain, including Authority managed lands) are more prone to herbicide effects when compared to other soil types. The findings may have implications on approaches to weed management within the Authority and elsewhere.

A key research partnership in its 13th year involves the Authority and industry partner, Rocla Quarry Products, collaborating on restoration principles applicable to *Banksia* woodlands. The partners were awarded the Golden Gecko award in 2008 - the highest environmental award in Western Australia - for environmental excellence, stewardship and partnership. The research program is also developing restoration principles for former pine plantations within the Gnangara area, which will help build community knowledge into *Banksia* woodland ecosystems, and ultimately provide indirect benefits to the designated lands of the Authority.

Conservation Genetics

The Conservation Genetics Team is applying molecular markers for research and practical outcomes in native plant conservation, ecological restoration, native plant breeding, systematics and phylogenetics. The laboratory is equipped with state-of-the-art automated DNA sequencers, enabling the rapid application of fluorescent-based DNA fingerprinting and DNA sequencing techniques.

An external review of the Conservation Genetics program was conducted in November 2008 by Prof Mark Chase (Chair), Dr Mike Fay and Assoc. Prof Luise Hermanutz. This review identified that the growth of the conservation genetics program under the 10-year tenure of Dr Krauss has been outstanding, and the program widely recognised internationally as one of world-class standing. External stakeholders that were interviewed identified that the research carried out was of a high standard and appropriate to their needs, and the topics covered appropriate to the needs of the Authority. Eight recommendations were made, which have been addressed by management and lab users. In response to one of these recommendations, a vision statement was generated – *innovative genetics research underpinning the conservation and restoration of Western Australia's unique biodiversity*.

Through the application of modern molecular techniques, the conservation genetics team seeks to achieve this vision by addressing the following key research areas: Conservation genetics; Restoration genetics; Taxonomy and phylogeny; Population genetic processes; Evolution and adaptation; Molecular forensics and identification; Mating and dispersal; and Landscape genetics. Specifically, these are the:

- assessment of genetic processes behind the diversification and evolution of our biodiversity.
- identification of levels and spatial structure of genetic variation within and among natural populations for conservation management, restoration, and post-mining rehabilitation.
- genetic delineation of local provenance seed collection zones for improved native plant community restoration outcomes.
- experimental assessment of local adaptation and the mixing of genetic provenances in a restoration context for improved native plant community restoration outcomes.
- application of population genomic and transcriptomic approaches to find genes that are adaptive in the natural environment, quantify their diversity, and to reveal their ecological and physiological function.
- assessment of genetic variation in the context of resilience to climate change and other threatening processes.
- taxonomic assessment and molecular phylogenetic research for an improved understanding of the diversity and natural relationships of native taxa.
- use of a DNA barcoding approach as a rapid species identification tool for conservation outcomes.
- understanding of realised mating patterns, pollen dispersal and the factors influencing reproductive success, in natural plant populations.
- detailed analysis of realised long-distance dispersal of seed for an assessment of migration capacity in the face of climate change and other threatening processes.
- application of DNA fingerprinting and DNA sequencing for more efficient native plant breeding for horticultural markets.
- application of DNA fingerprinting and DNA sequencing techniques for molecular ecological forensics and identification.
- monitoring of genetic fidelity and variation for the management of *ex-situ* and translocated conservation collections.
- integration of genetics research programs, wherever possible, with other BGPA Science disciplines, including restoration ecology, seed biology, ecophysiology, and conservation biotechnology.
- maximising knowledge yield applicable to the designated lands under control of the Authority.

Key techniques employed include Microsatellites; Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphism (AFLP); DNA sequencing; Expressed Sequence Tags (ESTs); microarrays; cytogenetics; reciprocal transplant experiments; glasshouse trials; pollination manipulation experiments.

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

A five-year ARC Discovery grant has extended research on the population dynamics and genetic variation of plants varying in fire response and dispersal capability. The project has shed new light on the role of disturbance and the increased occurrence of hybrids between Hooker's banksia (*Banksia hookeriana*) and *B. prionotes*; on the phylogeographic history of *B. hookeriana*, including range expansion and refugia associated with the last glacial maximum; on patterns of realised mating and levels of genetic variation in aerial seed banks

over many years of mating; on pollen dispersal within populations that shows a striking departure from typically leptokurtic pollen dispersal curves, highlighting the importance of birds as pollinators; and has identified a surprisingly high frequency of long distance seed dispersal in *B. hookeriana*, *B. attenuata*, *B. candolleana* and *Daviesia triflora*, which plays an important role in the metapopulation dynamics of these species.

With funds from a three-year ARC linkage grant, significant progress has been made towards a provenance atlas for native plant community restoration in urban bushland remnants in south Western Australia, with genetic provenance information for more than 50 local species now achieved. Species most recently assessed genetically include *Banksia menziesii*, *B. attenuata*, *Alexgeorgea nitens*, and *Daviesia divaricata*. This information helps identify local provenance seed collection zones, makes restoration activities more efficient and conserves biodiversity within species.

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

A major three-year research program on the conservation genetics of the priority listed narrowly endemic *Acacia karina* commenced. Key objectives include quantification and characterisation of spatial genetic structure and variation, assessment of population genetic processes such as mating and dispersal, and molecular resolution of the phylogeny of *A. karina* and related species. This research underpins the conservation and management of this threatened species that is to be impacted by mining.

A major research program on the conservation genetics and phylogenetic relationships of the declared rare flora *Darwinia masonii* and *Lepidosperma gibsonii* for on- and off-site conservation continued. Research highlights to date include: a comprehensive molecular phylogeny of the *Darwinia*, *Chamelaucium*, *Verticordia* group, with significant taxonomic implications; recognition that the number of species currently recognised in *Lepidosperma* is a gross underestimate; an understanding of patterns of spatial genetic variation and clonality within these species; and the identification of complex patterns of polyploidy within species groups.

Genetic barcoding of elite breeding accessions of *Grevillea* continues in collaboration with the plant breeding program in the Horticulture and Conservation directorate. These results underpin a more efficient native plant breeding program, through the rapid and accurate assessment of the success of artificial hybridisation.

With funds from a 4-year ARC Linkage grant, molecular markers have been applied to identify genetically unique conservation units and key population genetic processes in the orchid genera *Caladenia* and *Drakaea*. DNA sequence data have been generated to assess the phylogenetic relationships between species within these genera and their symbiotic fungi.

Genetic variation and spatial genetic structure continues to be assessed with microsatellites in the sea-grass *Posidonia australis* nationally, with a focus on Cockburn Sound. Genetic results are being interpreted to generate genetic guidelines for seed and propagule sourcing, underpinning improved seagrass restoration efforts.

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

DNA sequencing and DNA fingerprinting tools were applied for a rapid molecular forensic assessment of the identity of morphologically cryptic regenerating eucalypts in relation to the DRF *Eucalyptus articulata* on a mining lease east of Kalgoorlie. This project demonstrated the utility of a rapid DNA barcoding type approach for a conservation outcome.

Seed Science

The Seed Science Team continues to expand its research programs focused on seed biology, ecology and physiology to deliver more efficient seed-based conservation and restoration of Australian plants. Key research areas include seed storage physiology and longevity; germination and dormancy and the development and application of seed enhancement technologies for improved seedling emergence in restoration programs.

The Authority's research program under the Millennium Seed Bank Project, part of a major international collaborative research partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom continues into its fifth and final year. Research highlights this year include the completion of a three-year study resulting in the development of techniques to achieve high germination of species in the restoration priority plant *Hibbertia*. Another highlight is the maturation of a PhD research project under this collaboration that has for the first time characterised the seed storage physiology and germination requirements of Western Australian aquatics of vernal pools and gnamma habitats. This project is contributing significantly to the conservation of these poorly studied ecosystems.

The first year of a major project with BHP Billiton Iron Ore has been completed. Research under this project is supporting the production of a "Seed Atlas" to provide practical guidelines for the collection, processing, storage, germination and use of seeds in restoration following mining in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Over the past year more than 70 species, representing 26 plant families, have been collected for research into seed biology, germination and conservation techniques.

An ARC-funded project commenced in 2008 to develop karrikinolide, the germination-active chemical in smoke, as a broad-acre weed control agent. In collaboration with UWA's Western Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative Centre, this project is focused on resolving interactions between karrikinolide, seed dormancy status and the soil environment. Studies on eleven prominent agricultural weeds demonstrate that the germination response to karrikinolide is species and seed-lot specific and strongly influenced by seed hydration status. This provides important insights into factors influencing the optimal timing of karrikinolide application to the soil seed bank. In another related ARC-funded project that commenced in 2009 research into the metabolism and molecular targets of karrikinolide in seeds and the environmental fate of the molecule is being conducted to contribute to the knowledge required to translate the karrikinolide technology into on-ground conservation outcomes. Industry partners for this research include Alcoa, Worsley Alumina, Iluka Resources, Extension Hill and the Authority and UWA's ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology.

As part of the continuing relationship with Newcrest Mining Ltd, a new 2.5 year postdoctoral research project commenced in 2008 to investigate the seed biology of species required for restoration at Telfer Gold Mine in the Pilbara. This project will develop seed pre-treatments to alleviate dormancy and optimise seedling emergence from broadcast seed. The study will also investigate seed collection, quality and storage and seedling recruitment dynamics in undisturbed and disturbed areas of the mine.

A major new five-year research program has commenced in 2009 with Grange Resources to investigate the propagation biology (seed biology and biotechnology), restoration ecology, ex

situ storage of germplasm and *in situ* translocation and conservation of the Declared Rare Flora wetland species *Commersonia* sp. Mt Groper to secure the long term future of this critically endangered species.

Two projects funded by the Rural and Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) Joint Venture in Agroforestry Program have been completed and final reports submitted in 2009. The first project focused on seed dormancy alleviation and germination stimulation mechanisms in six perennial woody species (*Acacia*, *Eucalyptus* and *Melaleuca* spp.) for improved establishment in commercial systems. The research program achieved greater than 70% field emergence for all species and now provides a real opportunity to develop direct seeding opportunities across Australia. The second project researched methods for enhancing germination of a number of native perennial grasses. Cost-effective seed treatments were developed that produced significant improvements in germination across many species. This research has direct implications for the native grass industry, particularly for commercial collectors and suppliers and of native seeds.

Restoration Ecophysiology

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

Collaborative research continues in several key areas including:

Banksia woodland restoration - Understanding underlying mechanisms of poor establishment post sand extraction in two dominant *Banksia* species (*Banksia attenuata* and *B. menziesii*) and *Eucalyptus tottiana* at Rocla Quarry Products rehabilitation site. Field trials, complimented by controlled environment studies continue to investigate the ability of *Banksias* and *Eucalypts* to tolerate stresses such as seasonal drought and soil compaction. Soil amelioration techniques that may assist in alleviating these two major stresses in *Banksia* woodland restoration sites are also being investigated.

Banded Ironstone restoration - A major three-year research program on the ecophysiology of rare Banded Ironstone Formation (BIF) flora continues with the support from Mt. Gibson Iron Ore Pty Ltd and Asia Iron Ltd. This project will identify adaptations of shallow soil BIF endemic species (*Lepidosperma* sp, *Darwinia* sp), and common congeners, in the form of: i) physiological response to spatial and temporal variation in the environment; and ii) morphological variation enabling access to stored water in the environment. Field and glasshouse studies are focused on the plant's ability to tolerate drought, a stress common in the semi arid zone of Western Australia that will underpin plant survival in restoration sites.

Agricultural land restoration and sustainable production – improving perennial native species establishment for use in Australian agriculture. Two complimentary research streams have been established to identify germination/establishment barriers in (1) native grasses and (2) the subtropical grasses, legumes and herbaceous shrubs.

(1) “Grass Roots – native perennial grasses for sustainable pasture systems”, a research project focusing on improving germination vigour (understanding of seed physiology) in native grasses for use in production systems and land restoration has concluded. This project highlighted seed technologies that may improve germination vigour and field establishment across many native grass species. A subsequent three year collaborative project entitled “Broadscale implementation of native grass germination enhancement technologies” funded by Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation in collaboration with Native Seeds Pty Ltd, will ensure these seed based research findings are delivered to industry across Australia.

(2) A complimentary project “Reliable establishment of non-traditional perennial pasture species” continues to research how seed technologies can improve establishment success in a range of native and exotic species including subtropical grasses, legumes and herbaceous shrubs. Collaboration with the Department of Food and Agriculture Western Australia, Department of Primary Industries Victoria, Native Seeds Pty Ltd, Future Farm Industries CRC Limited, Charles Sturt University has ensured significant success in overcoming plant establishment barriers in many species.

Agroforestry production systems - A national project funded by Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (joint venture in agroforestry) focusing on improving the use of small seeded Australian native woody perennial shrubs for use in agroforestry has concluded. This grant involved collaborators, including the South Australian Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, Department of Primary Industries Victoria and The University of Western Australia with expertise in understanding seed germination physiology processes, niche optimization under field conditions and direct seeding technology. Significant improvements in seedling establishment of many small seeded species including *Eucalyptus* sp. and *Melaleuca* sp. were observed compared to current establishment options.

Conservation Biotechnology

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

An Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage funded project entitled ‘Development of cryopreservation for high value provenance collections of recalcitrant plant species used in post-mining restoration’ (LP0883460) has begun. This project is a collaboration involving Dr RL Mancera (Curtin University of Technology, Western Australia), A/Prof GJ Bryant (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology), Prof AE Mark (University of Queensland), Dr P Che (The University of Western Australia), Drs E Bunn and SR Turner (Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Western Australia) and industry partners ALCOA and Worsley Alumina. The project has attracted \$150K pa from ARC plus substantial backing (>\$70K pa) from the industry partners with expected completion mid 2012. One post-doctoral position proposed for Kings Park (supervised by principal investigator Dr Bunn and chief investigator Dr Turner) will be appointed for a period of two years beginning late-July/early-August 2009, with another to be appointed and based at Curtin University (supervised by chief investigator Dr Mancera) in early-mid 2010. This project stands to provide new insights into fundamental biophysical parameters of cryogenic storage with valuable benefits for both the Authority and the industry partners in developing peerless cryogenic storage technology to better serve plant conservation and restoration.

Other projects being undertaken in conservation biotechnology include the following on-going research initiatives:

1. *Ex situ* conservation of endangered plants

- Shoot material of the critically endangered *Commersonia adenothalia* (*Sterculiaceae*) collected in January 2008 near Morewa region was successfully initiated into culture, micropropagated and plants established in soil. This is the first step towards *ex situ* conservation and possible reintroduction of this endangered species.
- Establishment of *in vitro* material of *Dryandra montana* has been possible with successful shoot regeneration from *in vitro* germinated seed. It is hoped to repeat the success with shoot material from adult plants in the near future.

- Research is continuing into optimising micropropagation procedures with other endangered and priority plant species including *Philothea wonganensis*, *Drummondita ericoides* and *Hemigenia excilis*.

2. Cryogenic storage for conservation of endangered plant germplasm

- Cryogenic methods are continuing to be utilized to bring more of the *in vitro* plant collection into cryostorage as part of a long-term strategy to bring increased security to this valuable collection. It is part of the overall strategy to utilize novel methodology developed through the new ARC Linkage cryogenic study to enhance the efficiency, speed and reliability with which endangered plant material can be cryostored.

Orchid Conservation and Biology

The orchid research team comprises a post doctorate research scientist, three PhD students, two international masters students and three honours students. The group has been actively involved in a diverse assemblage of research areas towards the goal of orchid conservation. Research areas have focused on:

- mycorrhizal associations of rare and common spider orchids from a range of habitats over southwest Western Australia.
- pollination ecology and orchid rarity syndromes.
- seed germination strategies to overcome dormancy and to test the effects of long term storage in liquid nitrogen.
- impacts of habitat fragmentation on inbreeding depression in urban remnant bushland with comparison between rare and common species of a range of orchid genera.
- characteristics of orchids that make them highly successful (even weedy) in natural or disturbed habitats.

This research emphasis has facilitated strong collaborative links with local and international institutions, the most prominent being with the orchid research scientists at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom. In addition, a significant outcome from this research has been collaboration with industry stakeholders, community groups, volunteers and students from other education institutions, who are all dedicated to the research and recovery of Western Australia's native orchids.

Research from two major long-term orchid conservation projects has continued this year. Firstly, the *Drakaea elastica* research program, funded by Main Roads Western Australia focusing the population biology, conservation and recovery of the nationally rare glossy hammer orchid. This genus contains ten species, five of which are Declared Rare Flora and another is known only from herbarium records. This research, led by Ryan Phillips, has demonstrated the highly specialised nature of its two key ecological requirements; the wasp pollinator and mycorrhizal endophytes. It is hypothesised that this high specialisation may be driving rarity in a number of species within this genus. This study continues to be the first of its type, to integrate research of mycorrhiza and pollinators in the study of orchid speciation and conservation and will serve as a benchmark for orchid conservation research.

The *Caladenia huegelii* project, funded by Main Roads Roe 7 Alliance and Western Power, led by Dr Nigel Swarts, has continued this year with six months remaining. This project has seen the successful reintroduction of artificially propagated plants of the nationally threatened grand spider orchid into its natural habitat. Through optimised propagation methodologies developed by the orchid research team at Kings Park, this species has flowered in both the glasshouse and in field sites. Current research is focused on determining the pollinators for this species which are proving to be highly elusive and are likely to be extremely rare in the orchid's natural habitat.

The Millennium Seed Bank project has continued this year, undertaken by Nigel Swarts and Ryan Phillips with strong collaboration with community members from throughout southwest Western Australia. The project aims to collect and place into long term storage all of Western

Australia's terrestrial orchid seed and associated mycorrhizal endophytes. Presently, Kings Park has collected approximately 80% of all described native orchid seed and fungi and is working to increase that number to 100% by the end of the 2010 growing season.

Volunteer work by the Orchid Carers from the Friends of Kings Park has seen the successful artificial propagation of another 25 species of native terrestrial orchids through seed germination and laboratory methods. Housed in a newly renovated glasshouse, the volunteers are extremely dedicated to establishing a living collection of Western Australia's native orchids with particular focus on threatened taxa.

Biodiversity and Extensions

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

Extension activities in 2008/2009 included:

- Environmental weed control, glasshouse and field trials, using a wide range of pre and post emergent herbicides within the Authority, with other agencies and through the sponsorship of mining companies.
- Networking and collaborating with local and State Government agencies, in particular the Department of Environment and Conservation with the translocation of Declared Rare Flora, managing natural ecosystems and environmental weed control. Representing the Authority on several committees.
- Promoting the Authority through presentations to professional organisations, conferences, seminars and the general public
- Networking and serving on advisory groups with local organisations such as the Environmental Weeds Action Network Australian and Association of Bush Regenerators.
- Gardening advice to the general public, through the Volunteer Kings Park Master Gardeners program, in using moisture efficient and low nutrient native plants. This group also manages a large bush garden open to public viewing. All the plants in the garden have been raised in-house by the Volunteer Kings Park Master Gardeners, to illustrate how easy it is raise your own plants and to garden without additional water and fertilisers. The garden is now four years old. It is mulched to reduce moisture loss and to suppress weeds. Recruitment of natural seedlings is increasing each year, reducing the need for continually raising some short lived species. As the garden ages, due to high survival rates, several trees are removed each year to reduce competition and reduce shade. Due to last summer's drought and increased competition there was a reduction in the amount of smaller shrubs and herbaceous plants surviving.

Highlights for 2008/2009 in Biodiversity and Extensions include:

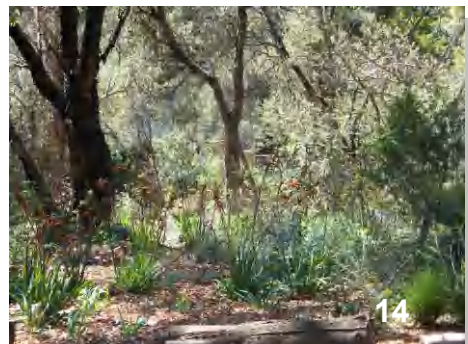
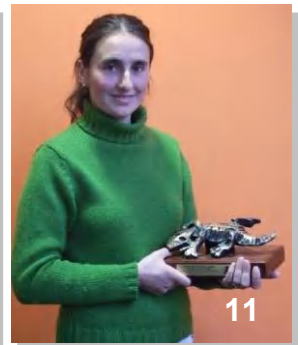
- Translocation of *Verticordia lindleyi* subsp. *lindleyi* funded by the Public Transport Authority and planted at Perth Airport on land managed by Westralia Airports Corporation. This project was progressing very well with more than the projected final number of plants surviving. Most plants had flowered and produced viable seed (45% viability rate). However winter rainfall combined with extra runoff from cleared sites resulted in all sites being flooded for several months. Unfortunately only a few plants survived, well below the expected outcome to restore a viable community about the same size as the donor population. Though the funding for this project has ceased, a further batch of plants raised from seed will be planted next winter in an attempt to build up plant numbers.
- The translocation of *Eremophila resinosa* funded by Westonia Mines Ltd (now Catalpa Resources) and supported by the Shire of Westonia. Both clonal tissue cultured plants and seed generated plants have high survival rates and are growing well producing large amounts of seed to build up the soil seedbank. Two natural recruits have now been

recorded on site indicating seedlings can recruit between disturbance events. A new translocation, two new sites funded by Catalpa Resources, was initiated in December and will produce up to 500 seedlings for planting in winter 2009. This program will also include more in-depth germination trials and investigate herbicides suitable for the control of the worst weeds on site whilst reducing off-target damage to indigenous species.

- Translocation of the critically endangered Corrigin *Grevillea* is progressing very well with natural recruitment now recorded on all three sites. Over 100 seedlings, the largest ever recruitment in winter and spring 2008, indicates the soil seed bank has large reserves of stored seed. Harvesting of the long term (50 year) soil burial trails, now in its fourth year but only harvested ever two years, indicates seed on the soil surface as well as seed buried at 5cm remains highly viable. The three translocation sites are now on a maintenance schedule, basically weed control and monitoring. As time progresses the tissue cultured and seedling plants raised in Kings Park and Botanic Garden and planted out on site are senescing leading to a sharp decline of plants on site but a large soil seed bank ready for a mass germination event following disturbance such as fire.
- Translocation of the critically endangered *Symonanthus bancroftii*, in co-operation with Department of Environment and Conservation (Merredin), Shire of Bruce Rock and volunteers is progressing. Seed collections were made again this Spring and new as well as old seed were used to investigate the best method to stimulate germination. Seedlings planted in winter 2008 on one site, in ground prepared by deep ripping, have responded well with exceptionally high survival rates compared to other plantings. They produced a few flowers in the first winter indicating there is a mixture of both male and female plants which should ensure future cross pollination. On one site smoke water trials were initiated to see if this will stimulate germination of seed in the soil seed bank in winter 2009.

More Information

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



Details of photographs are provided in **Appendix 7** this Annual Report.

Significant Issues and Trends

Current and Emerging Issues and Trends

Kings Park and Botanic Garden remains an important cultural and scientific institution for the State. A new five year management plan for Kings Park and Botanic Garden for 2009 - 2014 was developed following extensive community consultation to guide strategic decision making and achieve key outcomes. A key focus remains on the conservation and enhancement of bushland in Bold Park and Kings Park, with essential fire management and risk mitigation works continuing. The January 2009 fire in Kings Park burnt through over 40 hectares in the bushland including the Mt Eliza Escarpment, and has subsequently required additional management of the site for public safety and environmental outcomes.

The current Bold Park Management Plan 2006 - 2011 is on track to achieve implementation milestones. Environmental outcomes in Bold Park and Kings Park bushland also require ongoing ecological restoration, weed control, tree management and essential asset maintenance, including sealing and improving pedestrian paths and car parks.

Indigenous heritage remains an important issue for the Authority, with a continued desire expressed by the Board and Nyoongar Elders for a high profile commemorative statue and related stories to recognise and celebrate historical and contemporary Indigenous connections with the land in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

Externally funded research continues to complement ongoing core science programs in areas such as:

- the application of the germination-active chemical in smoke as a broad-acre weed control agent.
- studies into rare and endangered orchids and other Western Australian flora species.
- development of a seed atlas to guide conservation and rehabilitation in the Pilbara region.
- the development of a range of species and hybrids of *Grevillea* and small native plants to create a range of water efficient plant varieties suitable for use in home gardens and public landscapes.

The Authority has supported the United Kingdom based Millennium Seed Bank project to ensure the future sustainability of Western Australian and other flora under threat from climate change.

Traffic management and adequate parking continue to be a challenge on busy community event days in Kings Park. Issues arising from increasing visitation are being addressed by a review of traffic and parking management, and through the 2008/2009 refurbishment of alternative areas of the park such as Saw Avenue, to redistribute visitation and reduce the pressure on the more traditionally popular areas. In addition, construction works for the Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk project in Kings Park commenced in May 2009 and will be completed in 2010. The key outcomes will be improved traffic management, improved pedestrian access and safety and enhanced dignity of the important State War Memorial precinct.

Education and interpretation about Western Australian native flora and eco systems increases community appreciation and understanding of its conservation value. A significant environmental education development in 2008/2009 was the public announcement of the multi million dollar *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park* project to be constructed in the Botanic Garden Arboretum. This facility will create a world-class environmental discovery and learning experience to connect children with nature and will be opened in 2011. This

project is made possible through funding from foundation partners including Rio Tinto Future Fund, Friends of Kings Park, Lotterywest and the Water Corporation.

Economic and Social Trends

Kings Park and Botanic Garden is Western Australia's single most visited destination, with over six and a half million visitors welcomed in 2008/2009. This represents a 12% increase on the visitation level compared with the previous year.

Year	Total No. of Visitors	% Increase
2005/2006	4.8 million	2.1%
2006/2007	5.2 million	8.3%
2007/2008	5.8 million	11.5%
2008/2009	6.5 million	12%

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

With 6.5 million visitors annually, Kings Park and Botanic Garden engages with more than just its local surrounding areas. Tourism Western Australia estimates that 80% of visitors are local Western Australians. This equates to 4.8 million people, representing a visitation of 2.18 times annually for every individual of the population of Western Australia¹.

It is likely that the increasing visitation level is partly in response to extremely high standards of presentation and service and to improvements in existing facilities and services such the recently refurbished Saw Avenue picnic area and the revised open format of the annual Kings Park Festival. It may also be driven in part by the construction of new higher density apartments close to Kings Park, and by the population increase in WA generally.

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

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

Likely Developments and Forecast Results of Operations

Likely developments in the operations of the Authority in the 2009/2010 financial year will be a period of consolidation during which the plans and improvements made in previous years will have a positive impact. Some of the likely developments will be:

- (a) Hosting the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) International World Conference in August 2009. The first time the conference will be held in the southern hemisphere, it is expected to attract hundreds of delegates from all over the world, presenting papers on research and activities in ecological restoration being undertaken and the future impact of climate change on restoration activities.
- (b) Completion of Stage One of the Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk project and associated enhancement of the Fraser Avenue precinct. This will improve risk management, visitor safety and the quality of experience through better traffic management, increase in the dignity of the State War Memorial and enhanced cultural experiences.

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics website cites the Western Australian population as at end of September quarter 2008 was 2,188,500. See <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3101.0/>

- (c) Detailed planning and design for the significant enhancements to the environmental education program and associated facilities. The *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park* project will deliver major benefits in terms of community education, awareness of climate change and the importance of understanding and conserving our natural environment, primarily through new opportunities to connect children with nature.
- (d) Implementation of the five year Management Plan for Kings Park and Botanic Garden, including conservation of heritage assets, management of infrastructure to address rising costs, aging assets and increasing visitation and commencement of planning for the 50th anniversary of the State's Botanic Garden in 2015.
- (e) Continuation of the restoration, rehabilitation and adaptive management work undertaken to conserve and enhance the bushland areas of Bold Park and Kings Park and in particular the monitoring, restoration and weed management activities in the 40ha area damaged by the January 2009 fire in Kings Park bushland.
- (f) Continuation of the research and development projects in conservation science, to deliver significant benefits to the community and industry in terms of preservation of endangered species and successful translocations of native flora in disturbed or degraded areas.
- (g) A review of budgets and operational outcomes given the implications of rising visitation and subsequent maintenance and operational costs impacting on service delivery, including annual review of the Kings Park Festival, volunteer engagement strategies and business development activities.
- (h) Seek funding partners to support projects and enhance visitor facilities, including an Indigenous Memorial to recognise Indigenous connections with the land in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

Changes in Written Law

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

Disclosures and Legal Compliance

Financial Statements

Refer to **Appendix 1** of this Annual Report for the Authority's complete audited Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2009.

Detailed Key Performance Indicators

Refer to **Appendix 2** of this Annual Report for the Authority's complete audited Key Performance Indicators for the financial year ended 30 June 2009.

Ministerial Directives

There were no Ministerial Directives in 2008/2009.

Other Financial Disclosures

Contracts with Senior Officers

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

Pricing Policies and Services

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

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

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

In accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 810, the Authority reviews its fees and charges annually. The Authority was mindful when considering an increase to any particular fee to ensure that additional cost would not impose an unreasonable burden on household expenditure and is fair and equitable to all concerned.

The approved increase to fees and charges will take effect on 1 July 2009. The revised fees do not fully recover costs and are highly competitive in comparison to other services.

Capital Works

Capital Projects Incomplete

Work in Progress/Incomplete Works	Estimated Total Cost	Estimated Total Cost to Complete	Estimated Year of Completion
	\$,000	\$,000	
Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk	5,247	4,598	2010
Deep Sewerage program ⁽²⁾	2,364	600	2010
Total	7,611	5,198	

Notes:

- (1) The estimated total cost for the Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk was reported as \$4,192,000 in the 2007/2008 annual report. That estimate was made prior to the awarding of the contract in March 2009.

Capital Projects Completed

No capital projects were completed during 2008/2009.

Employment and Industrial Relations

Staff Profile

As at 30 June 2009, the Authority had 157 employees in total. Thirteen permanent vacancies were advertised throughout the year, and capital works programs and external grants continued to require a number of fixed-term employment contracts.

The majority of the Authority's employees are covered by the Government Officers Salaries, Allowances and Conditions General Agreement 2008 (referred to as GOSAC), or the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Certified Agreement 2007 for the Western Australian Shire Councils; Municipal Road Boards; Health Boards; Parks Cemeteries and Racecourse; Public Authorities; and Water Boards Union (referred to as LGU). The Shop and Warehouse Award covers a number of employees at *Aspects of Kings Park*.

Staff Profile:

Employment Type	2008/2009	2007/2008
Permanent Full-time	87	76
Permanent Part-time	10	6
Fixed Term Full-time	32	37
Fixed Term Part-time	6	4
Casual paid on 30 June 2009	22	26
Total	157	149

Staff Development

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

Other Legal Requirements

Compliance with Public Sector Standards and Ethical Codes

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

- 1. Compliance issues that arose during the financial year 2008/2009 regarding the public sector standards included:**
 - Nil breach claims lodged.
- 2. Compliance issues that arose during the financial year 2008/2009 regarding the WA Code of Ethics included:**
 - No issues of non-compliance.
- 3. Compliance issues that arose during the financial year 2008/2009 regarding the Authority's Code of Conduct included:**
 - The Authority relies on and promotes the WA Code of Ethics as its Code of Conduct. No issues of non-compliance arose.
- 4. Significant action taken to monitor and ensure compliance included:**
 - New employees are inducted using the induction process.
 - Regular quarterly meetings are scheduled for all employees, where the Chief Executive Officer addresses general corporate issues, including required standards of behaviour and ethics.
 - The WA Code of Ethics is available to all employees from the Employee Services Coordinator and from the Authority's intranet.

Occupational Safety and Health

Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1984

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

Supervisors are responsible for:

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

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

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

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

Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981

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

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

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

Indicator	Target 2008/2009	Actual 2008/2009
Number of fatalities	0	0
Number of severe claims	0	0
Lost time injury/diseases (LTI/D) incidence rate	0	0
Lost time injury severity rate	0	16.7

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan Outcomes

The Authority's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2007–2012 (DAIP) outlines the ways in which the Authority aims to ensure that people with disabilities have access to Authority facilities, services, events and information.

In 2008/2009 the Authority achieved the following initiatives in relation to disability access and inclusion:

- 1. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the services of, and any events organised by the Authority.**
 - Set-down areas and additional ACROD parking during 2008/09 major events. On ANZAC Day the Authority, in collaboration with the Returned Serviceman's League (RSL), actively informed participants of parking for the disabled and set-down areas.
 - Areas were set aside at major events for chairs, deck chairs, wheelchairs and space for people to assist those with disabilities.
 - Volunteers are kept up to date with the Authority's DAIP through their newsletters. Guides who deal with visitors face to face and via phone enquiries are given appropriate training opportunities.
- 2. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the buildings and other facilities of the Authority.**
 - Planning commenced for new universal access pathways through parts of the Botanic Garden.
 - The new Variety Pavilion is completed at Saw Avenue. The upgrade to the area includes new paths, BBQ picnic facilities and a new play area, with good access for children with disabilities. This is a Variety WA sponsored project.
 - Works are underway to improve the Fraser Avenue precinct with a new roadway into the Main Carpark, a drop off point in front of Fraser's Restaurant and the Visitor Information Centre, new toilets and paths. This will result in better and safer access to the State War Memorial and visitor facilities for the disabled, elderly and infirmed.
 - The new toilets with disabled access will include an adult change table – developed in consultation with the Independent Living Centre and Disability Services Commission.

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

- The upgrade of the Authority's website in 2009 further improved visitor accessibility to information and services:
 - The website includes a Google translation bar, alternative font sizing, and the inclusion of alt-text on all links and photos. Feedback polls have been used to make targeted improvements according to user requests.
 - The website offers visual imagery and allows people to access relevant information available to download.
- Authority documents, such as Annual Reports, Strategic Plan and the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan are available electronically and in hard copy as well as alternative formats such as large font.
- Recorded events information is available on the Authority's main telephone line and it is updated regularly in line with new events happening in the park.
- An e-newsletter is produced for both the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority and the Kings Park Festival and sent to all subscribers on the web.

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

- The Authority's Park Management Officers are provided with training to enable them to recognise and assist people with disabilities.
- The Authority provides employment and some work experience placements for people with disabilities, which in turn increases staff awareness and understanding of people with disabilities.
- Volunteer group's newsletters regularly remind members of existing and new paths and facilities that have been built for people with limited mobility.
- A new Guide Training Course was offered in 2008, and included the provision of training for communicating effectively with all groups of people, including people with disabilities. Similarly a training course for the Volunteer Master Gardeners was delivered in 2009.

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

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

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

- Public consultation opportunities were provided during the March-April 2009 public consultation period for the 2009-2014 Kings Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan. Submissions could be made in person, in writing or by using a feedback form.
- People with disabilities were invited to focus groups for the *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park* consultative process; children with disabilities were represented at the Saw Avenue upgrade development via Variety WA Inc; informal consultation was undertaken with parents with disabled children on playground, paths, parking and toilet facilities.

Reconciliation Action Plan

In December 2008, Reconciliation Australia endorsed the Authority's Reconciliation Action Plan 2008–2009 (RAP). The Authority's RAP outlines the ways in which the BGPA aims to maintain its long standing commitment to recognition and celebration of Indigenous cultural heritage and respect for Indigenous people and their connections with Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park, past, present and future.

In 2008/2009 the Authority achieved the following initiatives in relation to reconciliation:

- 1. Building relationships with Indigenous people to develop trust and enable a cooperative approach to cultural and land use matters, towards achievement of our reconciliation objectives.**
 - The BGPA Indigenous Reference Group was consulted with on the management and development of Kings Park and Bold Park at meetings in November 2008 and May 2009.
 - All relevant Section 18 applications lodged as required under the Aboriginal Heritage Act (application to use land).
 - Anthropological consultants Amergin Consulting Australia Pty Ltd were appointed in May 2009 following a tender process to provide advice on Aboriginal cultural heritage matters.
- 2. Promoting respect for and understanding of Indigenous people and cultural values, particularly in relation to their historical and ongoing cultural links with Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park.**
 - The Reconciliation Action Plan has been placed on the BGPA website and launched internally at an all staff meeting.
 - 65% of BGPA staff received Indigenous awareness training as part of the outcomes agreed under the Authority's Reconciliation Action Plan, and all new staff are made aware of the plan during induction and have access to the plan on the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority internet.
 - Following consultation with the BGPA Indigenous Reference Group a joint application with the Department of Indigenous Affairs was made to Government to build a statue of an Indigenous family in Kings Park in recognition of the historic and ongoing Nyoongar connections with Kings Park.
 - The BGPA continued to reflect Indigenous culture in the naming of appropriate facilities and locations with the renaming of the Saw Avenue Carpark to Kulbardi, which is the Nyoongar name for magpie.
- 3. Creating opportunities for Indigenous people facilitates exchange of knowledge and skills and provides support for increased integration and participation in all aspects of society.**
 - Indigenous people were contracted as monitors for the excavation works as part of the transplanting of the Gija Jumulu (boab) in the Botanic Garden.

Recordkeeping Plans

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

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

Evaluation of the Authority's recordkeeping practices as documented in the Authority's recordkeeping plan is ongoing through an annual review of the Authority's Records Management Policy and Procedures Manual. Latest review was carried out in September 2008.

Review and update of the Authority's Thesaurus was implemented early June 2009. Any changes to the Thesaurus have been reflected in the Authority's current Retention and Disposal Schedule. An amended Schedule will be submitted to the State Records Commission for endorsement in August 2009.

Submission of the fully revised Recordkeeping Plan 2004 is on track to be submitted to the State Records Commission in December 2009.

Ongoing review and upgrade of Authority's archival on-site storage in early 2009 has resulted in the purchase of four new vertical plan cabinets to enable correct storage of plans and three new artwork storage shelves.

2. The Authority conducts a recordkeeping training program.

Training of the Authority's Records Management Coordinator (RMC) is ongoing. One-on-one training by external consultants carried out during the past year included Power User on TRIM Context 6.2 and Thesaurus upgrade both in June 2009, and Retention and Disposal in March 2009.

Regular reminders on recordkeeping responsibilities, in particular the handling of electronic mail, are delivered by CEO at quarterly general staff meetings. The last – State Records Office Information Sheet Email Records - occurred in July 2008. In addition RMC delivered presentation to the Authority's Corporate Executive outlining current recordkeeping projects with specific emphasis on implementation of the Retention and Disposal Schedules.

In early 2009, RMC added to Authority's internal website Records Information that included advice on TRIM training and Frequently Asked Questions in relations to staff members' record keeping responsibilities.

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

An annual internal Customer Satisfaction Survey was conducted in April 2009 to establish the level of satisfaction and areas for improvement of the Authority's record management practices. The overall outcome of the survey, and in particular the Authority's recordkeeping training program, is that the majority of satisfaction levels were of a "very satisfied" or "satisfied" standard.

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

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

An in-house records management induction brochure created in May 2008 has been placed on the Authority's internal website. The aim of this brochure is to assist new staff members and remind existing staff of their recordkeeping responsibilities. In addition, one-on-one records management training is provided for new employees as required. A reminder regarding this brochure will be delivered by the CEO at the BGPA general staff meeting planned for July 2009.

Advertising

In accordance with the requirements of Section 175ZE of the *Western Australian Electoral Act 1907*, the Authority reports that it incurred the following expenditures for the financial year ended 30 June 2009 in advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising:

Advertising Medium	Expenditure	Total
Advertising Agencies		\$94,369.96
Marketforce Productions	391.98	
Adcorp	11,638.48	
Jigsaw Media	7,964.00	
V Strack	34,290.00	
Rosalie Okely Graphic Design	40,085.50	
Market Research Organisations		\$17,692.35
A Stuckey	1,680.00	
Media Monitors	1,252.35	
Research Solutions	9,260.00	
University of South Australia	5,500.00	
Polling Organisations		-
Direct Mail Organisations		\$1,166.00
Poster Girls	1,166.00	
Media Advertising Organisations		\$47,938.27
Association of Perth Attractions	500.00	
Community Newspapers	140.00	
Countrywide Publications	15,533.50	
Media Decisions	20,223.57	
School Matters Newsletter	3,964.40	
Wildflower Holiday Guide	2,999.70	
Uniclub	4,400.00	
West Australian Newspaper	177.10	
Total Expenditure		\$161,166.58

Government Policy Requirements

Corruption Prevention

The Authority has an Audit Committee that regularly meets and oversees compliance and assists in governance improvements. In addition, regular internal audit reviews are conducted and recommendations are promptly actioned, to ensure good controls and procedures are in place to prevent misconduct or corruption.

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

New employees are inducted to ensure they are fully aware of ethical and accountable decision making, including what is defined as acceptable and unacceptable behaviours in the workplace, and of the consequences of misconduct. The Authority's values are frequently emphasised by the CEO and managers in relevant staff meetings throughout the year.

Security of confidential information remains a focus for the Authority with ongoing improvements in information systems, security, user policies, and access, including cyclic passwords and employee awareness of confidentiality and privacy requirements.

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

Substantive Equality

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

Independent Audit Opinion



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

BOTANIC GARDENS AND PARKS AUTHORITY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

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

The financial statements comprise the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009, and the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity and Cash Flow Statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory Notes.

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

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

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

Summary of my Role

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators based on my audit. This was done by testing selected samples of the audit evidence. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion. Further information on my audit approach is provided in my audit practice statement. Refer www.audit.wa.gov.au/pubs/AuditPracStatement_Feb09.pdf.

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

Page 1 of 2

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

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators for the year ended 30 June 2009

Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

- (i) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly the financial position of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority at 30 June 2009 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions;
- (ii) the controls exercised by the Authority provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (iii) the key performance indicators of the Authority are relevant and appropriate to help users assess the Authority's performance and fairly represent the indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2009.



COLIN MURPHY
AUDITOR GENERAL
16 September 2009

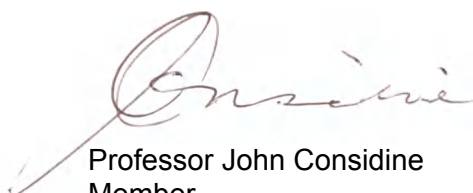
Appendix 1 - Financial Statements

Certification of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

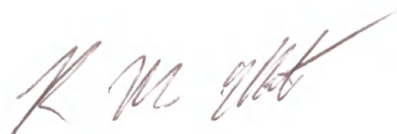
We hereby certify that the performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority for the year ended 30 June 2009.



Richard Simpson
Chairman
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Board of Management
14 September 2009



Professor John Considine
Member
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Board of Management
14 September 2009



Richard Ibbitson
Chief Financial Officer
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
14 September 2009

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

Income Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$000	2008 \$000
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	4	9,104	7,986
Supplies and services	5	4,936	5,326
Depreciation and amortisation expense	6	1,049	1,043
Cost of sales	9	1,051	998
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	13	131	-
Other expenses	7	2,615	2,511
Total cost of services		18,886	17,864
Income			
Revenue			
User charges and fees	8	1,473	1,423
Sales	9	1,909	1,867
Commonwealth grants and contributions	10	15	97
Interest revenue	11	330	291
Fee for service and sponsorships	12	2,708	2,677
Other revenue	12	670	633
Total Revenue		7,105	6,988
Gains			
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	13	-	14
Total Gains		-	14
Total income other than income from State Government		7,105	7,002
		11,781	10,862
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation	14	12,544	12,604
Resources received free of charge		25	70
Total income from State Government		12,569	12,674
SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD		788	1,812

See also note 38 'Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service'.

See also note 26 'Correction to prior period' for comparative figure adjustments.

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

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
Balance Sheet for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$000	2008 \$000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	26	8,842	3,251
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	15,26	2,636	2,037
Inventories	16	418	326
Receivables and other assets	17	1,257	1,956
Amounts receivable for services	18	675	959
Total Current Assets		<u>13,828</u>	<u>8,529</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Amounts receivable for services	18	3,404	3,029
Property, plant and equipment	19	42,486	36,876
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>45,890</u>	<u>39,905</u>
Total Assets		<u>59,718</u>	<u>48,434</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	22	880	766
Provisions	23	1,395	1,263
Other current liabilities	24	2,379	2,178
Total Current Liabilities		<u>4,654</u>	<u>4,207</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	23	577	375
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>577</u>	<u>375</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>5,231</u>	<u>4,582</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>54,487</u>	<u>43,852</u>
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	25	15,669	11,790
Reserves		17,333	11,365
Accumulated surplus		21,485	20,697
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>54,487</u>	<u>43,852</u>

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

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$000	2008 \$000
Balance of equity at start of period		43,852	39,032
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY	25		
Balance at start of period		11,790	9,835
Capital contribution		3,879	1,955
Balance at end of period		15,669	11,790
RESERVES	25		
Asset Revaluation Reserve			
Balance at start of period		11,365	10,312
Gains/(losses) from asset revaluation		5,968	1,053
Balance at end of period		17,333	11,365
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (RETAINED EARNINGS)	25		
Balance at start of period		20,697	18,922
Surplus for the period		788	1,812
Correction of prior period errors	26	-	(37)
Gains recognised directly in equity		-	-
Balance at end of period		21,485	20,697
Balance of equity at end of period		54,487	43,852
Total income and expense for the period		788	1,812

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

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

	Note	2009 \$000	2008 \$000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		11,322	11,302
Salary and Allowances Act 1975		172	161
Capital contributions		3,879	1,955
Holding account drawdowns		959	1,354
Net cash provided by State Government		<u>16,332</u>	<u>14,772</u>
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(8,817)	(8,434)
Supplies and services (includes cost of sales)		(5,912)	(10,362)
Other payments		(2,360)	(536)
GST payments on purchases		(885)	(1,027)
GST payments to taxation authority		(5)	-
Receipts			
User charges and fees		1,508	1,482
Sales		1,901	1,867
Commonwealth grants and contributions		15	97
Fee for service and sponsorships		3,182	2,677
Interest received		336	291
Other revenue		829	666
GST receipts on sales		639	570
GST receipts from taxation authority		248	539
Net cash used in operating activities	27	<u>(9,321)</u>	<u>(12,170)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		59	14
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(880)	(1,163)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(821)</u>	<u>(1,149)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		6,190	1,453
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period		<u>5,288</u>	<u>3,835</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF PERIOD	27	<u>11,478</u>	<u>5,288</u>

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

1. Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards

General

The Authority's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2009 have been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS), which comprise a Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements (the Framework) and Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

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

Early adoption of standards

The Authority cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard or Australian Accounting Interpretation unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. No Standards and Interpretations that have been issued or amended but are not yet effective have been early adopted by the Authority for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2009.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General Statement

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

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

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

(b) Basis of Preparation

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

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

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

(c) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity comprises the Authority.

(d) Contributed Equity

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

Transfer of net assets to/from other agencies are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal. See note 25 'Equity'.

(e) Income

Revenue recognition

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

Sale of goods

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

Rendering of services

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

Interest

Revenue is recognised as the interest accrues.

Service Appropriations

Service Appropriations are recognised as revenues at nominal value in the period in which the Authority gains control of the appropriated funds. The Authority gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited to the bank account or credited to the holding account held at Treasury. See note 14 'Income from State Government'.

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions

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

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

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

Gains

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

(f) Property, Plant and Equipment

Capitalisation/Expensing of assets

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

Initial recognition and measurement

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

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

Subsequent measurement

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

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

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

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

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

Refer to note 19 'Property, plant and equipment' for further information on revaluations..

Derecognition

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

Asset Revaluation Reserve

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets as described in note 19 'Property, Plant and Equipment'.

Depreciation

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

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

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

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

(g) Intangible Assets

Capitalisation/Expensing of assets

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

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

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

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

Licences and software^(a) 5 years

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

Licences

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

Research and Development Costs

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

Computer Software

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

Website costs

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

(h) Impairment of Assets

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

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

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

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

Refer to note 2(p) and note 17 'Receivables and other assets' for impairment of receivables.

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

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

(j) Leases

The Authority enters into commercial operating leases for specified business premises located in Kings Park and Botanic Gardens. The Authority acts as Lessor and revenue is recognised as income as per the terms and conditions of the lease agreement. *See note 19 'Property, plant and equipment'.*

The Authority holds operating leases for motor vehicles. Lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis over the lease term as this represents the pattern of benefits derived from the leased motor vehicles. *See note 28 'Commitments'.*

The Authority does not hold any finance leases.

(k) Financial Instruments

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

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

These have been disaggregated into the following classes:

Financial Assets

- Cash and cash equivalents
- Restricted cash and cash equivalents
- Receivables
- Amounts receivable for services

Financial Liabilities

- Payables

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

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

(l) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purpose of the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalent (and restricted cash and cash equivalent) assets comprise cash on hand.

(m) Accrued Salaries

Accrued salaries (See note 22 'Payables') represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year, as the pay date for the last pay period for that financial year does not coincide with the end of the financial year. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight of the financial year end. The Authority considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its net fair value.

(n) Amounts Receivable for Services (Holding Account)

The Authority receives funding on an accrual basis that recognises the full annual cash and non-cash cost of services. The appropriations are paid partly in cash and partly as an asset (Holding Account receivable) that is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover items such as leave entitlements and asset replacement. See note 14 'Income from State Government' and note 18 'Amounts receivable for services'.

(o) Inventories

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

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

See note 16 'Inventories'.

(p) Receivables

Receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less an allowance for any uncollectible amounts (i.e. impairment). The collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis and any receivables identified as uncollectible are written-off against the allowance account. The allowance for uncollectible amounts (doubtful debts) is raised when there is objective evidence that the Authority will not be able to collect the debts. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days. See note 2(k) 'Financial Instruments' and note 17 'Receivables and other assets'.

(q) Payables

Payables are recognised at the amounts payable when the Authority becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as they are generally settled within 30 days. See note 2(k) 'Financial Instruments' and note 22 'Payables'.

(r) Provisions

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing or amount and are recognised where there is a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and when the outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is probable and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are reviewed at each balance sheet date. See note 23 'Provisions'.

(i) Provisions - Employee Benefits

Annual Leave and Long Service Leave

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

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

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

PriceWaterhouseCoopers was engaged by the Authority to calculate the Leave Provisions based on a shorthand method applying the Department of Treasury issued discount rates and other factors as published in the Accounting Policy Guideline 3 dated 26 June 2009

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

See Note 4 'Employee benefits expense and 'note 23 'Provisions.'

Purchased Leave

The provision for purchased leave relates to Public Service employees who have entered into an agreement to self-fund up to an additional four weeks leave per calendar year. The provision recognises the value of salary set aside for employees and is measured at the nominal amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. This liability is measured on the same basis as annual leave. See Note 4 'Employee benefits expense and 'note 23 'Provisions.'

Superannuation

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) in accordance with legislative requirements administers public sector superannuation arrangements in WA.

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

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

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

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

See note 2(s) 'Superannuation expense'.

(ii) Provisions - Other

Employment On-Costs

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other expenses' and are not included as part of the Authority's 'Employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'. See note 7 'Other expenses' and note 23 'Provisions'.

(s) Superannuation Expense

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

- (a) Defined benefit plans – For 2007-08, the change in the unfunded employer's liability (i.e. current service cost and, actuarial gains and losses) assumed by the Treasurer in respect of current employees who are members of the Pension Scheme and current employees who accrued a benefit on transfer from that Scheme to the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS); and
- (b) Defined contribution plans - Employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS) and the GESB Super Scheme (GESBS).

Defined benefit plans – For 2007-08, the movements (i.e. current service cost and, actuarial gains and losses) in the liabilities in respect of the Pension Scheme and the GSS transfer benefits are recognised as expenses. As these liabilities are assumed by the Treasurer (*refer note 2(r)(i)*), a revenue titled 'Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer' equivalent to the expense would have been recognised under Income from State Government in note 14 'Income Statement', had the Authority had a liability in the 2007-08 period. Commencing in 2008-09, the reporting of annual movements in these notional liabilities has been discontinued and is no longer recognised in the Income Statement.

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

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

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

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

(u) Comparative Figures

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

Comparative figures have been restated as per Note 26 '*Correction to prior period*' due to a reconciliation of Property, plant and equipment.

3. Disclosure of changes in accounting policy and estimates

Initial application of an Australian Accounting Standard

The Authority has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2008 that impacted on the Authority:

Review of AAS 27 'Financial Reporting by Local Governments', AAS 29 'Financial Reporting by Government Departments' and AAS 31 'Financial Reporting by Governments'. The AASB has made the following pronouncements from its short term review of AAS 27, AAS 29 and AAS 31:

AASB 1004 'Contributions';

AASB 1050 'Administered Items';

AASB 1051 'Land Under Roads';

AASB 1052 'Disaggregated Disclosures';

AASB 2007-9 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the review of AASs 27, 29 and 31 [AASB 3, AASB 5, AASB 8, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 116, AASB 127 & AASB 137]; and

Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities.

The existing requirements in AAS 27, AAS 29 and AAS 31 have been transferred to the above new and revised topic-based Standards and Interpretation. These requirements remain substantively unchanged. AASB 1050, AASB 1051 and AASB 1052 do not apply to Statutory Authorities. The other Standards and Interpretation make some modifications to disclosures and provide additional guidance (*for example, Australian Guidance to AASB 116 'Property, Plant and Equipment' in relation to heritage and cultural assets has been introduced*), otherwise there is no financial impact.

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

AASB Standards and Interpretations	
1048	'Interpretation and Application of Standards' (issued September 2008)
1049	'Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting' (revised – October 2007)
2007-2	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 12 [AASB 1, AASB 117, AASB 118, AASB 120, AASB 121, AASB 127, AASB 131 & AASB 139]' – paragraphs 1 to 8
2008-10	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Reclassification of Financial Assets [AASB 7 & AASB 139]'
2008-12	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Reclassification of Financial Assets – Effective Date and Transition [AASB 7, AASB 139 & AASB 2008-10]'
Interpretation 4	'Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease' (revised – February 2007)
Interpretation 12	'Service Concession Arrangements'
Interpretation 13	'Customer Loyalty Programmes'
Interpretation 14	'AASB 119 – The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding Requirements and their Interaction'
Interpretation 129	'Service Concession Arrangements: Disclosures'

Voluntary changes in Accounting Policy

There have been no voluntary changes in accounting policy.

Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

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

Title	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements' (September 2007). This Standard has been revised and will change the structure of the financial statements. These changes will require that owner changes in equity are presented separately from nonowner changes in equity. The Authority does not expect any financial impact when the Standard is first applied.	1 January 2009
AASB 2008-13 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 17 – Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners [AASB 5 & AASB 110]'. This Standard amends AASB 5 'Noncurrent Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations' in respect of the classification, presentation and measurement of non-current assets held for distribution to owners in their capacity as owners. This may impact on the presentation and classification of Crown land held by the Authority where the Crown land is to be sold by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure. The Department does not expect any financial impact when the Standard is first applied prospectively. 1 July 2009.	1 July 2009
AASB 2009-2 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Improving Disclosures about Financial Instruments [AASB 4, AASB 7, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]'. This Standard amends AASB 7 and will require enhanced disclosures about fair value measurements and liquidity risk with respect to financial instruments. The Authority does not expect any financial impact when the Standard is first applied.	1 January 2009

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

Title	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
AASB 3 'Business Combinations' (March 2008)	1 January 2009
AASB 8 'Operating Segments'	1 January 2009

Title	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
AASB 123 'Borrowing Costs' (June 2007). This Standard has been revised to mandate the capitalisation of all borrowing costs attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of qualifying assets. The Authority already capitalises borrowing costs directly attributable to buildings under construction, therefore, this will be no impact on the financial statements when the Standard is first applied. Agencies presently expensing such borrowing costs will need to report the impact. The AASB has deferred the withdrawal of the option to expense borrowing costs for public sector agencies (AASB Action Alert Issue No. 121 – 19 December 2008). The AASB has approved the issue of ED 176 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Borrowing Costs of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities' for comment, which proposes that not-for-profit public sector entities be able to choose whether to expense or capitalise borrowing costs relating to qualifying assets by deferring the mandatory adoption of the capitalisation approach (AASB Action Alert Issue No. 122 – 9 February 2009).	1 January 2009
AASB 127 'Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements' (March 2008)	1 July 2009
AASB 1039 'Concise Financial Reports' (August 2008)	1 January 2009
AASB 2007-3 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 8 [AASB 5, AASB 6, AASB 102, AASB 107, AASB 119, AASB 127, AASB 134, AASB 136, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]'	1 January 2009
AASB 2007-6 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 123 [AASB 1, AASB 101, AASB 107, AASB 111, AASB 116 & AASB 138 and Interpretations 1 & 12]'	1 January 2009
AASB 2007-8 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101'	1 January 2009
AASB 2007-10 'Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101'	1 January 2009
AASB 2008-1 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard - Share-based Payments: Vesting Conditions and Cancellations' [AASB 2]	1 January 2009
AASB 2008-2 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Puttable Financial Instruments and Obligations arising on Liquidation [AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 132, AASB 139 & Interpretation 2]'	1 January 2009
AASB 2008-3 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 3 and AASB 127 [AASBs 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 101, 107, 112, 114, 116, 121, 128, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138, 139 and Interpretations 9 & 107]'	1 July 2009
AASB 2008-5 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project [AASB 5, 7, 101, 102, 107, 108, 110, 116, 118, 119, 120, 123, 127, 128, 129, 131, 132, 134, 136, 138, 139, 140, 141, 1023 & 1038]'	1 January 2009
AASB 2008-6 'Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project AASB 1 & AASB 5]'	1 July 2009
AASB 2008-7 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Cost of an Investment in a Subsidiary, Jointly Controlled Entity or Associate [AASB 1, AASB 118, AASB 121, AASB 127 & AASB 136]'	1 January 2009

Title	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
AASB 2008-8 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Eligible Hedged Items [AASB 139]'	1 July 2009
AASB 2008-9 'Amendments to AASB 1049 for Consistency with AASB 101'	1 January 2009
AASB 2008-11 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Business Combinations Among Not-for-Profit Entities [AASB 3]'	1 July 2009
Interpretation 15 'Agreements for the Construction of Real Estate'	1 January 2009
Interpretation 16 'Hedges of a Net Investment in a Foreign Operation'	1 October 2008
Interpretation 17 'Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners'	1 July 2009

Changes in Accounting Estimates

There have been no changes in accounting estimates.

	2009	2008
	\$000	\$000
4. Employee benefits expense		
Wages and salaries ^(a)	7,367	6,648
Superannuation – defined contribution plans ^(b)	554	487
Superannuation – defined benefit plans ^(c)	161	163
Long service leave ^(d)	378	187
Annual Leave ^(d)	644	501
	<u>9,104</u>	<u>7,986</u>
<p>(a) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefits tax component.</p> <p>(b) Defined contribution plans include West State, GESBS and Gold State (contributions paid).</p> <p>(c) Defined benefit plans include Pension scheme and Gold State (pre-transfer benefit).</p> <p>(d) Includes a superannuation contribution component (see note 23 'Provisions').</p> <p>Employment on-costs such as workers' compensation insurance are included at note 7 'Other Expenses'. The employment on-costs liability is included at note 23 'Provisions'.</p>		
5. Supplies and services		
Communications	137	149
Consultants and contractors	2,659	3,206
Consumables	1,502	1,191
Travel	110	134
Other	528	646
	<u>4,936</u>	<u>5,326</u>
6. Depreciation and amortisation expense		
Depreciation		
Plant, equipment and vehicles (includes monuments)	817	804
Buildings	232	232
Total depreciation	<u>1,049</u>	<u>1,036</u>
Amortisation		
Intangible assets	-	7
Total amortisation	<u>-</u>	<u>7</u>
Total depreciation and amortisation	<u>1,049</u>	<u>1,043</u>

	2009 \$000	2008 \$000
7. Other expenses		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	287	205
Building maintenance	1,322	1,049
Equipment repairs and maintenance	312	311
Doubtful debts expense ^(a)	-	3
Employment on-costs ^(b) (see Note 4 'Employee benefits expense')	434	401
Fee for service ^(c)	213	480
Other ^(d)	47	62
	2,615	2,511

(a) See also note 35 'Supplementary financial information'.

(b) Includes workers' compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability is included at note 23 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs, see note 4 'Employee benefits expense'.

(c) Fee for service recognised as a liability, see also note 24 'Other liabilities'.

(d) Audit fees and write-offs, see also note 36 'Remuneration of auditor' and note 37 'Supplementary financial information'.

8. User charges and fees

Rent and licence fees	638	571
Functions and events	735	758
Fines and infringements	100	94
	1,473	1,423

9. Trading profit

Sales	1,909	1,867
Cost of Sales:		
Opening inventory	(326)	(329)
Purchases	(1,143)	(995)
	(1,469)	(1,324)
Closing inventory	418	326
Cost of Goods Sold	(1,051)	(998)
Trading Profit	858	869

See note 2(o) 'Inventories' and note 16 'Inventories'.

10. Commonwealth grants and contributions

Recurrent	15	97
	15	97

Included in fee for service research contributions for 2007/2008 are the following Commonwealth funded research projects:

- \$22,300 from Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts that was fully expended as at 30 June 2008.
- \$15,000 from Curtin University (Australian Research Council), \$13,073 of which remained unspent as at 30 June 2008.
- \$60,000 from University of Western Australia Future Farm Industries (Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation), all of which remains unspent as at 30 June 2008.

Included in fee for service research contributions for 2008/2009 are the following Commonwealth funded research projects:

- \$15,000 from Curtin University (Australian Research Council), \$14,711 of which remained unspent as at 30 June 2009

	2009	2008
	\$000	\$000
11. Interest revenue		
Interest revenue ^(a)	330	291
	<u>330</u>	<u>291</u>
(a) Commonwealth Bank of Australia		
12. Fee for Service sponsorships and other revenue		
Fee for Service and sponsorships		
Fee for service	1,661	1,481
Sponsorships	1,047	1,196
	<u>2,708</u>	<u>2,677</u>
Other Revenue		
Recoups	578	589
Other	92	44
	<u>670</u>	<u>633</u>
13. Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets		
<u>Costs of Disposal of Non-Current Assets</u>		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	(2)	-
Bores pumps and reticulation	(100)	-
Monuments and special items	(29)	-
	<u>(131)</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Proceeds from Disposal of Non-Current Assets</u>		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	-	14
Net gain/(loss)	<u>(131)</u>	<u>14</u>
<i>See also note 2(i) 'Non-current Assets (or Disposal Groups) classified as Held for Sale' and note 19 'Property, plant and equipment'.</i>		
14. Income from State Government		
Appropriation received during the year:		
Service appropriation ^(a)	12,544	12,604
	<u>12,544</u>	<u>12,604</u>
Resources received free of charge ^(b)		
Determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:		
State Solicitor's Office	25	8
Department of Health	-	62
	<u>25</u>	<u>70</u>
	<u>12,569</u>	<u>12,674</u>

(a) Service appropriations are accrual amounts reflecting the net cost of services delivered. The appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.

(b) Where assets or services have been received free of charge or for nominal cost, the Authority recognises revenues equivalent to the fair value of the assets and/or the fair value of those services that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if they were not donated, and those fair values shall be recognised as assets or expenses, as applicable. Where the contribution of assets or services are in the nature of contributions by owners, in which case the Authority makes adjustment direct to equity.

	2009	2008
	\$000	\$000
15. Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
Current		
Fee for service	1,739	2,037
Sponsorship	897	-
	<u>2,636</u>	<u>2,037</u>

16. Inventories

Current		
Inventories held for resale:		
-Purchased stock	418	326
Total current	<u>418</u>	<u>326</u>

See also note 2(o) 'Inventories' and note 9 'Trading profit'.

17. Receivables and other assets

Current		
Receivables	1,163	1,787
Infringements	29	31
Allowance for impairment of receivables	-	(7)
Accrued revenue	39	110
GST receivable	26	23
	<u>1,257</u>	<u>1,944</u>
Prepayments	-	12
Total current	<u>1,257</u>	<u>1,956</u>

Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivables:

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

The Authority only recognises an allowance for impairment of infringement receivables that are registered with Fines Enforcement Registry and that the Fines Enforcement Registry recommends as unrecoverable.

Credit Risk

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

Not more than 3 months	65	8
More than 3 months but less than 6 months	6	8
More than 6 months but less than 1 year	5	3
More than 1 year	9	-
	<u>85</u>	<u>19</u>

See also note 2(p) 'Receivables', note 34 'Financial instruments'.

	2009	2008
	\$000	\$000
18. Amounts receivable for services		
Current	675	959
Non-current	3,404	3,029
	<u>4,079</u>	<u>3,988</u>

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

19. Property, plant and equipment

Land		
At fair value ^(a)	15,170	10,730
Accumulated impairment losses	-	-
	<u>15,170</u>	<u>10,730</u>
Buildings and residences		
At fair value ^(a)	17,041	13,012
Accumulated depreciation	(1,017)	(676)
Accumulated impairment losses	-	-
	<u>16,024</u>	<u>12,336</u>
Assets under construction		
Construction costs	115	3,184
Plant, equipment and vehicles		
At cost	7,633	6,656
Accumulated depreciation	(3,841)	(3,661)
Accumulated impairment losses	-	-
	<u>3,792</u>	<u>2,995</u>
Monuments and special items		
At cost	8,885	8,947
Accumulated depreciation	(1,500)	(1,316)
Accumulated impairment losses	-	-
	<u>7,385</u>	<u>7,631</u>
	<u>42,486</u>	<u>36,876</u>

(a) Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2008 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2009 and recognised at 1 July 2008. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined on the basis of existing use. See note 2(f) 'Property, Plant and Equipment' for basis of valuation.

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

	Freehold land	Buildings and residences	Assets under construction	Plant, equipment and vehicles	Monuments & special items	Total
2009	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Carrying amount at start of year	10,730	12,336	3,184	2,995	7,631	36,876
Additions	-	20	507	1,560	-	2,087
Other disposals	-	-	-	(164)	(28)	(192)
Transfers	-	2,372	(3,576)	-	-	(1,204)
Revaluation	4,440	1,528	-	-	-	5,968
Increments / (decrements)	-	(232)	-	(599)	(218)	(1,049)
Depreciation expense	-	(232)	-	(599)	(218)	(1,049)
Carrying amount at end of year	15,170	16,024	115	3,792	7,385	42,486

	Freehold land	Buildings and residences	Assets under construction	Plant, equipment and vehicles	Monuments & special items	Total
2008	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Carrying amount at start of year	10,730	11,514	2,436	3,214	7,850	35,744
Additions	-	-	748	455	-	1,203
Other disposals	-	-	-	(88)	-	(88)
Revaluation	-	1,053	-	-	-	1,053
Increments / (decrements)	-	(231)	-	(586)	(219)	(1,036)
Depreciation expense	-	(231)	-	(586)	(219)	(1,036)
Carrying amount at end of year	10,730	12,336	3,184	2,995	7,631	36,876

	2009	2008
	\$000	\$000
20. Intangible assets		
Computer software		
At cost	-	7
Accumulated amortisation	-	(7)
	-	-
Reconciliations:		
Computer software		
Carrying amount at start of year	-	45
Amortisation expense	-	(45)
Carrying amount at end of year	-	-

21. Impairment of assets

There were no indications of impairment to property and plant and equipment at 30 June 2009.

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

All surplus assets at 30 June 2009 have either been classified as assets held for sale or written-off.

	2009	2008
	\$000	\$000
22. Payables		
Current		
Accounts payable	668	273
Accrued expenses	129	362
Accrued salaries	83	131
Total current	<u>880</u>	<u>766</u>

See also note 2(q) 'Payables' and note 34 'Financial instruments'.

23. Provisions		
Current		
Employee benefits provision		
Annual leave ^(a)	710	584
Long service leave ^(b)	590	538
48/52 leave arrangements	56	106
	<u>1,356</u>	<u>1,228</u>
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	39	35
	<u>39</u>	<u>35</u>
	<u>1,395</u>	<u>1,263</u>
Non-current		
Employee benefits provision		
Long service leave ^(b)	513	342
48/52 leave arrangements	48	23
	<u>561</u>	<u>365</u>
Other provisions		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	16	10
	<u>16</u>	<u>10</u>
	<u>577</u>	<u>375</u>

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

Within 12 months of balance sheet date	478	644
More than 12 months after balance sheet date	280	-
	<u>758</u>	<u>644</u>

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

Within 12 months of balance sheet date	502	359
More than 12 months after balance sheet date	712	635
	<u>1,214</u>	<u>994</u>

(c) The settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments. The associated expense, apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost), is disclosed in note 7 'Other expenses'.

Movements in Other Provisions

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

Employment on-cost provision

Carrying amount at start of year	45	44
Additional provisions recognised	10	1
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>55</u>	<u>45</u>

	2009	2008
	\$000	\$000
24. Other liabilities		
Current		
Unearned revenue	54	21
Fee for service	2,250	2,037
Other (bonds/retentions/suspense)	75	120
Total current	<u>2,379</u>	<u>2,178</u>

25. Equity

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

Contributed equity

Balance at start of year	<u>11,790</u>	<u>9,835</u>
Contributions by owners		
Capital contribution ^(a)	<u>3,879</u>	<u>1,955</u>
Total contributions by owners	<u>3,879</u>	<u>1,955</u>
Balance at end of year	<u><u>15,669</u></u>	<u><u>11,790</u></u>

(a) Under the Treasurer's Instruction TI 955 "Contributions by Owners made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities' Capital Contributions (appropriations) have been designated as contributions by owners in accordance with AASB Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities'.

Reserves**Asset revaluation reserve:**

Balance at start of year	11,365	10,312
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	4,440	-
Buildings	<u>1,528</u>	<u>1,053</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>17,333</u>	<u>11,365</u>

Accumulated surplus

Balance at start of year	20,697	18,922
Result for the period	788	1,812
Income and expense recognised directly to equity	-	(37)
Balance at end of year	<u>21,485</u>	<u>20,697</u>

26. Correction to prior period

A reconciliation of Property, plant and equipment identified expenses that related to prior periods totalling \$597,715 (2006/2007 \$36,927; 2007/2008 \$560,788) that had inadvertently been capitalised rather than expensed.

As a result 2007/2008 comparative totals have been restated. The effect is represented by changes to the following:

	2008 previous comparative total	2008 restated comparative total
<i>Statement of Changes in Equity</i>		
Correction of prior period errors	-	(37)
Balance at end of period	21,295	20,697
<i>Income Statement</i>		
Supplies and services	4,780	5,326
Other expenses	2,496	2,511
Surplus for the period	2,373	1,812
<i>Balance Sheet</i>		
Property, plant and equipment	37,474	36,876
Total equity	44,450	43,852

Additionally changes are represented in the Cash Flow Statement, note 19 'Property, plant and equipment', note 27 'Notes to the Cash Flow Statement', note 38 'Schedule of income and expenses by service'.

2009	2008
\$000	\$000

27. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement**Reconciliation of cash**

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

Cash and cash equivalents	8,842	3,251
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (see note 15 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents')	2,636	2,037
	<u>11,478</u>	<u>5,288</u>

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

Net cost of services	(11,781)	(10,862)
Non-cash items:		
Depreciation and amortisation expense (note 6)	1,049	1,043
Resources received free of charge (note 14)	25	70
Net (gain)/loss on sale of property, plant and equipment (note 13)	72	(14)
Bad Debts written off	(7)	1
(Increase)/decrease in assets:		
Current receivables ^(c)	705	(925)
Current inventories	(92)	3
Other current assets	-	-

	2009	2008
	\$000	\$000
27. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement (cont'd)		
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:		
Current payables ^(c)	127	(2,136)
Current provisions	132	52
Other current liabilities	253	388
Non-current provisions	202	18
Other non-current liabilities	-	-
Net GST receipts/(payments) ^(a)	(4)	81
Change in GST in receivables/payables ^(b)	(2)	111
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>(9,321)</u>	<u>(12,170)</u>

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

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

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

28. Resources provided free of charge

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

29. Commitments

Capital expenditure commitments

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

Within 1 year	3,285	5,638
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	6,152	6,437
Later than 5 years	-	-
	<u>9,437</u>	<u>12,075</u>

The capital commitments include amounts for:

Plant and equipment	99	-
Scientific Equipment	247	-
Buildings	4,202	4,202
Biodiversity conservation	-	-
Works in Progress	1,679	4,679
Asset replacement	3,210	3,194
	<u>9,437</u>	<u>12,075</u>

Lease Commitments

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

Within 1 year	115	123
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	60	91
Later than 5 years	-	-
	<u>175</u>	<u>214</u>

Representing:

Cancellable operating leases	175	214
	<u>175</u>	<u>214</u>

	2009	2008
	\$000	\$000
30. Operating Lease Receivable		
The Authority leases buildings to commercial tenants for retail purposes under operating leases of varying terms and duration. Details of the minimum lease payments receivable are detailed below.		
Future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases in the aggregate:		
Not later than 1 year	558	497
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	2,098	2,087
Later than 5 years	9,884	10,377
	<u>12,540</u>	<u>12,961</u>

Operating leases fall into two categories; those based on a percentage of gross turnover and fixed leases with either scheduled increases or increases based on annual CPI increases. There is one significant operating lease which expires in 2032 and one lease not yet re-negotiated.

These commitments are all exclusive of GST.

31. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

The Authority has no contingent liabilities or contingent assets.

32. Events occurring after the balance sheet date

The Authority has had no events occurring after the balance sheet.

33. Explanatory statement

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

Significant variances between estimated and actual result for 2009

	2009	2009	Variation
	Actual	Estimate	\$000
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Supplies and services	4,936	5,240	(304)
Fee for service and sponsorships	2,708	749	1,959

Supplies and services

The variance is due to delays in the completion of minor capital works projects.

Fee for service and sponsorships

The variance is due to greater than expected revenue for fee for service projects and sponsorship.

Significant variances between actual results for 2008 and 2009

	2009	2008	Variance
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	9,104	7,986	1,118
Supplies and services	4,936	4,780	156

Employee benefits expense

The variance is due to annual award increases in wages and salaries, together with an increased provision for annual and long service leave. The number of FTE employees was higher for 2009 than 2008.

Supplies and services

The variance is due to an increase in consumables that has been offset by greater reductions in works expenditure, travel, communications, insurance, advertising and promotion.

34. Financial instruments**(a) Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies**

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

Credit risk

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

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance sheet date in relation to each class of recognised financial asset is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any provisions for impairment as shown in the table at Note 34(c) 'Financial Instrument Disclosures' and Note 17 'Receivables and other assets'.

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

Allowance for impairment of financial assets is calculated based on objective evidence such as observable data indicating changes in client credit ratings. For financial assets that are either past due or impaired, refer to Note 34(c) 'Financial Instrument Disclosures'.

Liquidity risk

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

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

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates will affect the Authority's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The Authority does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks. Other than as detailed in the Interest rate sensitivity analysis table at Note 34(c), the Authority has limited exposure to interest rate risk because it has no borrowings.

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

(b) Categories of Financial Instruments

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

	2009	2008
	\$000	\$000
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	8,842	3,251
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2,636	2,037
Receivables ^(a)	1,257	1,933
Amounts receivable for services	675	959
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Payables	880	766

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

(c) Financial Instrument disclosures

Credit Risk and Interest Rate Risk Exposures

The following table discloses the Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk, interest rate exposures and the ageing analysis of financial assets. The Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk at the balance sheet date is the carrying amount of financial assets as shown below. The table discloses the ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired financial assets. The table is based on information provided to senior management of the Authority.

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

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

Interest rate exposure and ageing analysis of financial assets

	Weighted average effective interest Rate	Carrying amount	Variable interest Rate	Non-interest bearing	Up to 3 months	3-12 months	2 years	3 years	4 years	4 years	5 years	More than 5 years	Impaired financial Assets
Financial Assets	%	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
2009													
Cash and cash equivalents	4.38	8,842	8,842	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted Cash and cash equivalents	4.38	2,636	2,636	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	-	1,257	-	1,257	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amounts receivable for services		675	-	675	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		13,410	11,478	1,932	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2008													
Cash and cash equivalents	6.32	3,251	3,251	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted Cash and cash equivalents	6.32	2,037	2,037	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	-	1,933	-	1,933	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Amounts receivable for services		959	-	959	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		8,180	5,288	2,892	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7

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

Liquidity Risk

The following table details the contractual maturity analysis for financial liabilities. The contractual maturity amounts are representative of the undiscounted amounts at the balance sheet date. The table includes interest and principal cash flows. An adjustment has been made where material.

Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial liabilities

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	Carrying amount	Variable Interest Rate	Non-interest bearing	Adjustment for discounting	Total nominal amount	Up to 3 months	3-12 months	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	More than 5 years
Financial Liabilities	%	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
2009														
Payables	-	880	-	880	-	-	880	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		880	-	880	-	-	880	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2008														
Payables	-	766	-	766	-	-	766	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		766	-	766	-	-	766	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The following table represents a summary of the interest rate sensitivity of the Authority's financial assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date on the surplus for the period and equity for a 0.5% change in interest rates. It is assumed that the change in interest rates is held constant throughout the reporting period.

Interest rate sensitivity analysis

	Carrying amount	-0.5% change		+0.5% change	
		Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
2009					
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	8,842	(44)	(44)	44	44
Restricted Cash and cash equivalents	2,636	(13)	(13)	13	13
Financial Liabilities					
Total Increase/Decrease		57	57	57	57
	Carrying amount	-1% change		+1% change	
		Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
2008					
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	3,251	(33)	(33)	33	33
Restricted Cash and cash equivalents	2,037	(20)	(20)	20	20
Financial Liabilities					
Total Increase/Decrease		(53)	(53)	53	53

Fair Values

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

	2009	2008
	\$000	\$000
35. Remuneration of members of the accountable authority and senior officers		
<u>Remuneration on Members of the accountable authority</u>		
The number of members of the accountable authority, whose total of fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for the financial year, fall within the following bands are:		
\$		
0-10,000	7	7
10,000-20,000	1	1
The total remuneration of members of the accountable authority is:	<u>44</u>	<u>49</u>

The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by the Authority in respect of members of the Accountable Authority.

No members of the Accountable Authority are members of the Pension Scheme.

Where a member's remuneration is zero, the member has been included in a band labelled '\$0 - \$10,000'.

Remuneration of Senior Officers

The number of senior officers, other than senior officers reported as members of the Accountable Authority, whose total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for the financial year, fall within the following bands are:

\$		
150,001 – 160,000	-	2
160,001 – 170,000	2	1
170,001 – 180,000	1	-
201,000 - 210,000	-	1
240,000 - 250,000	1	-
The total remuneration of senior officers is:	<u>743</u>	<u>690</u>

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

No senior officers are members of the Pension Scheme

36. Remuneration of auditor

Remuneration payable to the Auditor General in respect to the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

Auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators	<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>
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The expense is included at note 7 'Other expenses'.

37. Supplementary financial information

Write-Offs

Bad debts written off	-	2
Public property written-off during the financial year	-	-
Inventory adjustments – retail operations	8	3
	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>

Losses Through Theft, Defaults and Other Causes

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

38. Schedule of income and expenses by service

	Service 1		Service 2		Total	
	Customer Service and Cultural Heritage		Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research			
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
COST OF SERVICES	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Expenses						
Employee benefits expense	4,224	3,705	4,880	4,281	9,104	7,986
Supplies and services	2,724	2,938	2,212	2,388	4,936	5,326
Depreciation and amortisation expense	556	553	493	490	1,049	1,043
Cost of Goods Sold	1,037	984	14	14	1,051	998
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	71	-	60	-	131	-
Other Expenses	1,165	1,118	1,450	1,393	2,615	2,511
Total cost of services	9,777	9,298	9,109	8,566	18,886	17,864
Income						
User Charges and Fees	1,203	1,162	270	261	1,473	1,423
Sales	1,867	1,827	42	40	1,909	1,867
Commonwealth grants and contributions	-	-	15	97	15	97
Interest Revenue	185	163	145	128	330	291
Fee for service and sponsorships	780	749	1,928	1,928	2,708	2,677
Other Revenue	222	203	448	430	670	633
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	-	8	-	6	-	14
Total income other than income from State Government	4,257	4,112	2,848	2,890	7,105	7,002
NET COST OF SERVICES	5,520	5,186	6,261	5,676	11,781	10,862
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service Appropriation	5,878	5,906	6,666	6,698	12,544	12,604
Resources received free of charge	14	33	11	37	25	70
Total income from State Government	5,892	5,939	6,677	6,735	12,569	12,674
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	372	753	416	1,059	788	1,812

The 2008 figures have been restated according to a review in the methodology of calculation of the allocation of the schedule of income and expenses by service. The review reflects a greater cost attributable to Service 2 than was recognised under the previous methodology. For instance, corporate overhead costs were previously applied at the rate of 74% to Service 1 and 26% to Service 2. The new rate is 60% for Service 1 and 40% for Service 2.

Generally, the results have shown a more balanced allocation of costs between Service 1 and Service 2. The most significant change is the allocation of Horticulture and Assets expenditure that was previously allocated for performance indicator purposes on a 100% basis to Service 1, has now been determined to be more accurately allocated 53% for Service 1 and 47% for Service 2.

Refer to the Key Performance Indicators for a more detailed analysis.

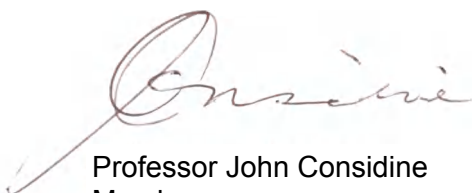
Appendix 2 – Key Performance Indicators

Certification of the Key Performance Indicators for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

I hereby certify that the performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority for the year ended 30 June 2009.



Richard Simpson
Chairman
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Board of Management
14 September 2009



Professor John Considine
Member
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Board of Management
14 September 2009

Key Performance Indicators for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

Relationship to Government Goals

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

Government Goal	Desired Outcomes	Services
Outcomes Based Service Delivery: Greater focus on achieving results in key service delivery areas for the benefit of all Western Australians.	Awareness and appreciation of recreation and tourist resources, and cultural heritage for visitors' enjoyment.	1. Customer Service and Cultural Heritage
	Conservation and enhancement of Western Australia's bushland and other flora.	2. Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research

Outcome 1

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

Key Effectiveness Indicators

1.1 The level of visitor satisfaction with Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park.

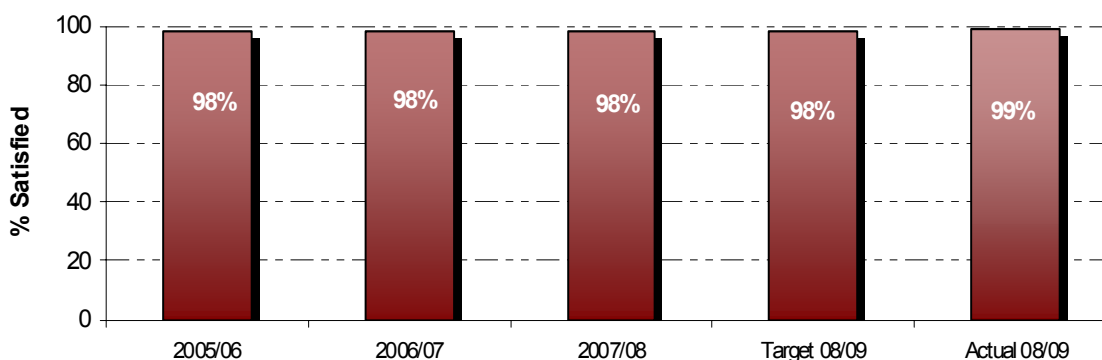
This key indicator measures the level of satisfaction visitors have with the extent to which recreational, tourist and bushland resources have been conserved, enhanced and promoted and the impact of these activities on visitor enjoyment.

Total annual visitation for 2008/2009 to Kings Park and Botanic Garden is based on vehicle counts at various entrances and is estimated to be 6,490,000 visitors. Total annual visitation to Bold Park is based on vehicle counts at Reabold Hill, and is estimated at 120,000 visitors in 2008/2009.

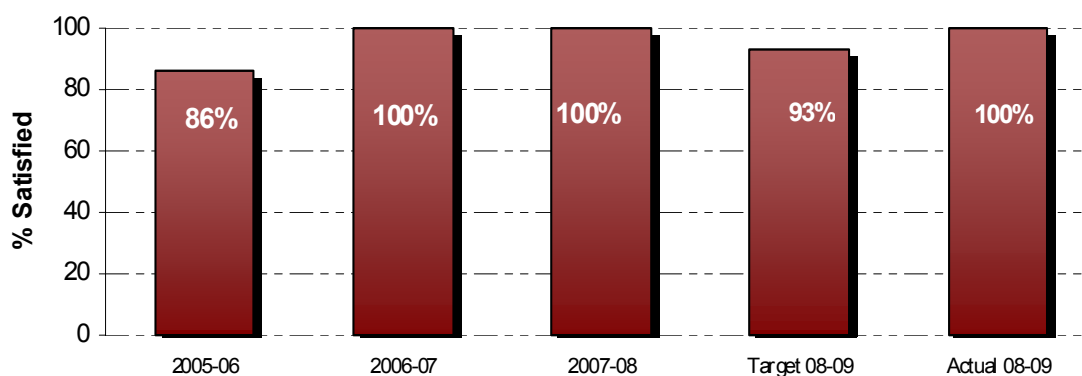
Visitor surveys were conducted during May and June 2009 in both Kings Park and Botanic Garden and in Bold Park. A total of 836 responses were received, providing a margin of error of 3.4% at a 95% level of confidence.

The percentage of overall visitor satisfaction in Kings Park and Botanic Garden was 99%. The percentage of overall visitor satisfaction in Bold Park was 100%.

Overall Satisfaction with Kings Park and Botanic Garden



Overall Satisfaction with Bold Park



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

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

Reporting Year	No. of Cultural Events	Target Percentage (%) Change	Actual Percentage (%) Change
2008/2009	231	+1	-3.75
2007/2008	240	+1	+12
2006/2007	214	+1	-3.6
2005/2006	222	-6.2	-6.7

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

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

Reporting Year	No. Attending Customer Awareness and Education Forums	Target Percentage (%) Change	Actual Percentage (%) Change
2008/2009	799,130	+1	+4.4
2007/2008	765,186	+1	+175
2006/2007	278,331	+1	+10.2
2005/2006	252,545	-13.1	-13.2

Service 1 – Customer Service and Cultural Heritage

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

Key Efficiency Indicators

The Authority has recently undertaken a comprehensive review of the methodology for the calculation of its Key Efficiency Indicators that require an allocation of costs between Service One and Service Two. Accordingly, an analysis of time and resources spent on delivering the outcomes for each service was undertaken and the results incorporated in a new model. The new model has been independently assessed and endorsed by the Authority’s internal auditors for the calculation of published efficiency indicators. The model will be reviewed every three years to ensure the accuracy of the data.

For comparative purposes, the Actuals for 2007/2008 and the Target for 2008/2009 have been recast using the new model.

	Actual 2007/2008	Target 2008/2009	Actual 2008/2009	Notes
Average cost per visitor to Kings Park and Botanic Garden	\$1.32	\$1.53	\$1.43	1
Average cost per attendee at cultural events held in Kings Park and Botanic Garden	\$0.14	\$0.15	\$0.15	
Average cost per attendee at education forums held at Kings Park and Botanic Garden	\$1.24	\$1.22	\$1.51	2
Response times for public information requests	98% within 28 days	90% within 28 days	98% within 28 days	
Percentage change in number of visitors to Reabold Hill compared to previous year	11%	2%	13%	3

Notes:

1. The number of people visiting Kings Park and Botanic Garden exceeded the target by 500,000.
2. The number of attendees at these forums was less than last year, primarily as a result of the number of venues available for bookings was temporarily reduced due to the road works associated with the Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk project.
3. The increase in the number of visitors exceeded the estimated target which is likely due to increased community awareness of improved visitor facilities at Reabold Hill.

Outcome 2

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

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

Key Effectiveness Indicators

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

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

Total DRF species gazetted is a number derived from the list of species of Declared Rare Flora in the Government Gazette 5 August 2008 by the Minister for Environment under section 23F(2) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

The total number of DRF held in the Authority's conservation collection increased by five species to 243. This demonstrates the Authority's commitment to continue to increase the number of DRF held in living collections and represents 62% of the total DRF listed for the State, which is equal to the target set for this financial year.

Collection of DRF species from the wild is the primary responsibility of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), with whom the Authority liaises closely to assist with collections from remote areas as opportunities arise. The Authority therefore has a limited capacity to increase its DRF collections unless plants from germination testing are provided by DEC to be maintained in the Kings Park nursery or planted in the Botanic Garden.

Additional planting of DRF species this year in the Kings Park Conservation Garden within the Botanic Garden provided more opportunities to display and interpret DRF species for the public, which in turn promotes community understanding and appreciation of the importance of conserving these species and their natural habitats.

Number of DRF species in Living Collections

Reporting Year	No. of DRF Species in Living Collections	Total DRF Species Gazetted	Target %	Actual %
2008/2009	243	389	62	62
2007/2008	238	388	65	61
2006/2007	232	392	65	59
2005/2006	220	360	62	61

2.2 Percentage of accessions in botanical displays in Kings Park and Botanic Garden.

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

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

This measure is calculated by the number of accessions in botanical displays in Kings Park and Botanic Garden over the total number of accessions alive in living collections. There was an increase of 113 in the actual number of accessions on display compared with the previous year but there was also a significant increase of 976 in the total number of accessions alive. This resulted in a decrease of 1% in the accessions on botanical display compared with the 2007/2008 year, which was 3% below the target set.

The increase in total accessions alive demonstrates the success of the field collection program in obtaining additional seed and other plant material from across Western Australia that are placed in storage for future propagation and display. The increase in total accessions was also a result of ongoing collections for the Millennium Seedbank Project that are collected primarily for seed conservation purposes rather than botanical displays.

Number of Accessions in Botanical Displays

Reporting Year	No. of Accessions in Botanical Display	Total No. of Accessions Alive	Target %	Actual %
2008/2009	6,783	18,372	40	37
2007/2008	6,669	17,396	45	38
2006/2007	6,649	16,602	45	40
2005/2006	6,518	16,178	43	40

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

This is a measure of horticultural and management skills in maintaining the living collections of plants, where a lower percentage represents an improvement. The loss of accessions was slightly better than expected at 4% instead of 5%, and was also marginally better than the previous year in which a 4.5% loss of accessions was recorded. The number of new living accessions this year was 1,642, but the loss of 666 accessions in the same year has resulted in a net gain of 976 accessions.

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

Number of Accessions Lost

Reporting Year	No. of Accessions Lost	Total No. of Accessions Alive	Target %	Actual %
2008/2009	666	18,372	5	4
2007/2008	787	17,396	5	4.5
2006/2007	1,282	16,602	3	8
2005/2006	845	16,178	4	5

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

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

The indicator is measured by an annual survey of the presence or absence of 15 nominated perennially evident native plant species in each park, which are the most vulnerable taxa within each of Kings Park bushland and Bold Park. Results of these surveys during the 2008/2009 financial year recorded 100% presence of the nominated 15 species in each Park.

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

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

High management zones are degraded areas in which ecological restoration activities are in progress. Low management zones are areas in which there are no active restoration activities at this time.

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

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

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

The indicator this year is slightly lower than the target figure. This is because there was no change in the number of common native species in the high management plots as no new planting has occurred within them. In addition, there was no change in the number of common native species in the low management plots.

Average Numbers of Common Species Present

	Actual 2006/2007	Actual 2007/2008	Target 2008/2009	Actual 2008/2009
Average number of common species present in high management zones	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.6
Average number of common species present in low management zones	3.8	5.4	3.7	4.0
Indicator value	1.42	1.4	1.5	1.4

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

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

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

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

This year the indicator value has decreased beyond the target figure due to a reduction in weed cover in the high management areas and a slight increase in weed cover in the low management areas. This demonstrates the ongoing effectiveness of weed control programs that have been implemented in the high management zones and reinforces the need for weed management programs to inhibit weed invasion in remnant bushland.

Average Percentage of Weed Cover

	Actual 2006/2007	Actual 2007/2008	Target 2008/2009	Actual 2008/2009
Average percentage weed cover in high management zones	24.8%	16.3%	25%	14.6%
Average percentage weed cover in low management zones	36.8%	35.8%	38%	38%
Indicator value	0.67	0.45	0.45	0.38

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

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

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

Number of Representative Native Plant Taxa in Kings Park Bushland

Reporting Year	Target	No. of Native Plant Taxa Recorded
2008/2009	324	324
2007/2008	324	324
2006/2007	324	324
2005/2006	324	324

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

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

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

Number of Representative Native Plant Taxa in Bold Park Bushland

Reporting Year	Target	No. of Native Plant Taxa Recorded
2008/2009	310	310
2007/2008	310	310
2006/2007	310	310
2005/2006	298	310

Service 2 – Biodiversity Conservation and Scientific Research

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

Key Efficiency Indicators

As indicated in Service One, the Authority has recently undertaken a comprehensive review of the methodology for the calculation of its Key Efficiency Indicators that require an allocation of costs between Service One and Service Two. Accordingly, an analysis of time and resources spent on delivering the outcomes for each service was undertaken and the results incorporated in a new model. The new model has been independently assessed and endorsed by the Authority's internal auditors for the calculation of published efficiency indicators. The model will be reviewed every three years to ensure the accuracy of the data.

For comparative purposes, the Actuals for 2007/2008 and the Target for 2008/2009 have been recast using the new model.

	Actual 2007/2008	Target 2008/2009	Actual 2008/2009	Notes
Average cost of representative native plant taxa in Kings Park bushland.	\$2,981	\$3,403	\$2,770	
Average cost of representative native plant taxa in Bold Park bushland.	\$3,695	\$4,250	\$4,020	
Average cost per research fee for service project administered.	\$7,161	\$7,700	\$9,736	1
Percentage change in number of refereed scientific publications published per CF position compared to previous years.	(25%)	0%	67%	2

Notes:

- 1 The increase in the average cost of these projects is due primarily to increases in the cost of staff with the introduction of Specified Callings for scientific staff (including those employed on contract via fee for service funding), increases in the costs of specialised laboratory supplies and professional services to directly support these projects. These projects are funded entirely on a fee for service basis from industry.
- 2 The large fluctuation in refereed publications is a reflection of the stage and complexity of research projects in any given year. In 2008-09 the Authority produced 35 refereed publications, representing a significant increase in publications compared with the 21 in 2007/2008.

Appendix 3 – Our Volunteers

Friends of Kings Park President's Report

2008 saw the 15th Anniversary of the establishment of the Friends of Kings Park and has seen the Friends maintain its membership at around 900 with over one hundred staff members from the Authority.

The year saw the creation of our own website, www.friendsofkingspark.com.au, linked to that of the Authority and the decision was taken during the year to invest \$95,000 to renovate Glasshouse 7 in the Depot area to provide our Growing Friends with a new home and the capacity to propagate a wider and larger range of plants. This work was substantially completed by the end of June.

The work on establishing new Corporate Membership packages has been completed and the first Jarrah Corporate Memberships were presented to Rio Tinto, Water Corporation and Lotterywest in recognition of their partnership with the Authority and Friends, in the development of the Rio Tinto Naturescape.

At the 2008 Annual General Meeting, there were changes made to our Constitution which were necessary to facilitate the inclusion of the Friends on the Register of Environmental Organisations, maintained by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, and the granting to the Friends of Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status by the Australian Taxation Office. Both of these outcomes have been achieved and the Friends of Kings Park Trust has been created to receive donations from our members, the public and corporations.

At the Volunteers Christmas Party in December at Bold Park, 15 Year Volunteer Badges and Certificates and 15 Year Supporter Badges and Certificates were awarded for the first time. In addition many 10 Year Volunteers Badges and Certificates and 10 Year Supporter Badges and Certificates were also awarded.

As in past years, the response to our plant sales has been very positive with sales reaching in excess of \$93,000. Our sales are only successful because of the hard work of the volunteers who prepare, erect and dismantle the sales area and the volunteers who serve on the day. The work is hard, but enjoyable and very satisfying.

In addition to the plant sales, we received donations of over \$8,800 from attendees to the Skyshow and over \$23,600 from visitors to the Walkway. Receipts from plant sales, the Skyshow and the Walkway account for over 75% of our income.

Wildflower Address

This year we had the privilege of having Prof Kingsley Dixon, Director of Science, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, present the annual Wildflower Address in September. Prof Dixon's presentation was entitled Saving Western Australia's Biodiversity in the Age of Extinction.

Sponsorship

The Friends aim as part of its objects, to provide public education and support environmental study and research. Some of this is achieved by hosting the Wildflower Address and some by sponsoring others to gain experience, or participate in such work.

This year, through the Vic Galea Scholarship, the Friends provided the opportunity for Carmelo Bonfiglio of BGPA to undertake a one month work placement at Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. Friends also made a donation to the Honour Avenues Group in recognition of the work done by the Group throughout the park.

Activities

The Growing Friends Group has had another excellent and productive year. A total of 4 plant sales were run in September during the Wildflower Festival, in November, March and May.

Over 40,000 plants were propagated during the past year which as mentioned before, provided for gross sales of \$93,000. Thanks go to Val Gough, Tony Scalzo, Jill Rule, Betty Forbes and Pippa Moodie who coordinate these activities through their work on the Horticulture subcommittee and all of the regular Growing Friends team who work tirelessly to make this group a success.

The Orchid Growing Group has been very busy cataloguing and re-potting the collection of orchid plants, the result of which was strong plants and numerous orchid flowers. With the completion of the orchid glasshouse they were able to move their stock into a much larger area with a better watering system to which the plants have responded well.

The members of the group have collated, cleaned and stored orchid seeds from many species collected from throughout the State and have seeded several species which have germinated and are developing ready to be potted. Their aim is to grow plants from these seeds to plant within the Park as well as for educational and display purposes. Work with the tissue culture specimens is ongoing.

A trip led by Dr Nigel Swarts to the South West during October was both interesting and informative. On behalf of the Group, I would like to acknowledge the help and support provided throughout the year by Dr Swarts and other Authority staff.

The Bushland Carers Groups have built on the success and hard work of previous years. The Sunday and Midweek groups have been busy with over 30 members participating in a range of activities. These have included woody weeding projects to remove non-local plants that shade out and compete with local understory species, hand weeding of herbaceous weeds, removal of *Watsonia* infestations, seed collecting, and planting sessions to supplement and enhance local flora in degraded areas. The Committee thanks Glenn Cook and Tony Scalzo for their leadership roles and Kings Park staff for their support of this group.

The fires in the bushland early in 2009 will add new challenges as weeds compete with local plant species and the Bushland Carers will be actively involved in assisting with weed management programs in these areas.

The Herbarium Carers assist in the classification and preparation of plants for future reference, which is a very important task.

The Botanic Garden Carers continue to assist the park in replanting and weeding the Botanic Garden and the results are there for everyone to see, as part of the major show of plants to visitors.

The Office Carers meet on the last Thursday of each month at the Lodge to prepare the Friends newsletter and magazine for mailing to the members. Ten to twelve Office Carers meet regularly to carry out this valuable task, which involves collating, labelling and enveloping the papers to be sent out. Many long term friendships have been formed amongst the group and new members are always welcome. Office Carers volunteered over 250 hours service throughout the year.

Magazine/Calendar

Our Magazine Editor, Tony Scalzo, in partnership with Graphic Designer, Rosalie Okely continues to produce a world class magazine for our members that most other organisations can only dream about. As well as the magazine, they created a brilliant calendar which also acknowledged the photographers of the magnificent plants displayed in the calendar.

Friends on the Staff

Once again I would like to acknowledge the staff of the Authority. The relationship we have with them is exceptional. On behalf of the Friends, I would like to thank Mark Webb and his team for their valuable assistance, encouragement and support to the Friends over the past year.

Management Committee

Throughout the year we have been most ably served by our staff, Sher Davin, our Office Administrator and Kim Collier, our Marketing and Events Officer.

The success of the Friends is achieved through a combination of the contribution of our part time paid staff and the hard work of all our volunteers. This success of this work relies on the direction provided by the members of the Management Committee. The composition of the Management Committee changes at our AGM in April. Accordingly, the membership of the two Committees that operated during this year was:

Position	July 2008 to March 2009	April to June 2009
President	Bob Bunney	Bob Bunney
Vice President	Martin Revell	Martin Revell
Treasurer	Liz Millward	Liz Millward
Committee Member	Tony Scalzo	Tony Scalzo
Committee Member	Valerie Gough	Valerie Gough
Committee Member	Clytie McCutcheon	Joanne Menegazzo
Committee Member	Ross Rudeforth	Ross Rudeforth
Committee Member	Pippa Moodie	Pippa Moodie
Committee Member	Alex Hew	Alex Hew
Imm. Past President	Tom Alford	Tom Alford
BGPA Liaison	Peter Netherway	Zoe Fulwood

I would like to publicly acknowledge the hard work and support we receive from our Auditor, Bruce Donald and the accounting assistance and advice we receive from Darren Harrop.

In conclusion, thank you to all of you, our members, who contribute in so many ways. It is our honour to represent you and your assistance is sincerely appreciated. In addition, once again, thanks to all the Authority staff who assist us in so many ways.

Bob Bunney
President, Friends of Kings Park

Kings Park Volunteer Guides President's Report

This year Kings Park Volunteer Guides celebrate a quarter of a century of service to Kings Park and Botanic Garden and the community. At the end of this financial year there were 120 Guides available for duty. This number, as has been the pattern for many years, shows an increase from last year's figure of 103. Following our established two year cycle, a training course for new Guides started last July to bring our numbers back to the desired level.

During the last twelve months the Guides have carried out almost 7,000 hours of regular duties in the Visitor Information Centre and on guided walks. In addition to this, some thirty guides have given over 2,000 hours to extra duties. These included:

- committee meetings and the accompanying work involved
- organising and implementing Guide assessment (TEG – Team for Evaluating Guides)
- compiling rosters for general duties and those during the Wildflower Festival
- conducting the training course for new Guides
- publishing the Newsletter

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

Visitor Information Centre

The Visitor Information Centre has opened daily (except Christmas Day) from 9.00am to 4.00pm. Two Guides are on duty on each of the two shifts covering the opening hours.

Guides have continued to carry out improvements to the Information Centre to make it more attractive to visitors. The display areas are fully utilized to allow visitors to view large posters of features of the park, to browse a wide range of pamphlets and brochures about the park and selected tourist attractions in the city and to watch a video showing park scenes. The latest addition is a set of photographs in the windows to draw attention to aspects of the Park not immediately visible to the casual visitor in Fraser Avenue, such as the large area of bushland, unexpected in an inner city park.

Many of the park brochures have been developed in conjunction with or at the request of Guides.

A daily record has been kept of the number of visitor contacts, and the statistics for the year show a total of 56,423 contacts in the Information Centre by visitors from every continent (50,665 in 2007/08). There were also many phone enquiries. The increase in numbers of visitor contacts at a time when international and interstate tourist numbers may be falling owing to the current economic difficulties is probably due to the upsurge of local interest because of the widely publicized transplanting of the spectacular Gija Jumulu boab tree from the North and the success of the Wildflower Festival.

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

Free Guided Walks

Our program of two free guided walks every day, at 10.00am and 2.00pm has continued this year with the same calendar as before, depending on the season. Numbers of walkers vary according to the weather – fewer walkers if it is wet or windy or very hot, and a significant increase during the wildflower season. The regular walks take visitors into the bushland in the appropriate seasons and into the Botanic Garden and the formal part of the park all the year round. An innovation for this year has been the suspension of the usual pattern during the Wildflower Festival to allow the provision of three free walks each day, two in the Nature Trail in the bush and one at midday into the Botanic Garden. This has proved very popular.

When requested, we also undertook special walks for larger groups or people with special interests. There was a significant increase in the demand for these walks during the Wildflower Festival. The Authority makes a small per capita charge for these walks.

Number of Walkers	2008/2009	2007/2008
Free Guided Walks	5,868	4,828
Special Walks	1,049	825
Total Walkers	6,917	5,653

Much of the increase in the numbers of walkers was due to the success of the changed walks program during the Kings Park Festival. It is expected that a similar program will be offered in the next Festival but there may be some concern that the current economic difficulties will affect international and interstate tourist numbers.

The Effect of the 2009 Bushfire

Guides do not take visitors into the bushland during the hot, dry summer but as winter approaches bush walks begin. Two of the walks take visitors into several areas badly burnt in the bushfire in early 2009. Now Guides can show visitors living examples of the remarkable regenerative capacity of our bushland. Of course the ill-effects of too frequent fires are also pointed out.

Health and Safety

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

Uniforms

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

This year we have added a matching sleeveless vest to the uniform and although Guides usually prefer to wear their own waterproof protective gear, the Authority has provided some jackets to be worn if the need arises. New replacement shirts are on order.

Training Course for New Guides

Over the years a two year cycle of training new Guides to keep up our numbers has proved most effective. Following successful past practice, a group of trainees were selected by panel interview from the applicants for the course beginning last July. With most valuable and welcome assistance from Kings Park and Botanic Garden staff, the course spread over 13 weeks was organized and run by a Guide committee. Trainees were expected to learn the required botanical and heritage information and of equal importance, training was given in guiding techniques.

The wealth of knowledge and expertise available from the staff and experienced Guides enabled trainee Guides to reach a high standard of performance, ready to join in duties with established Guides.

Of the original thirty accepted into the course, twenty successfully completed the training and the probationary period to become Guides taking their places on the Duty Roster. This has been the usual success rate for a demanding program.

Evaluation

The compulsory program for evaluating the quality of the services Guides provide to visitors has continued and now seems to be accepted as necessary to ensure that the standards of our performance match the expectations of visitors to WA's most visited attraction. As part of the preparations under way to begin the next two year cycle of evaluations following the completion of the recently completed cycle, Guides are being surveyed to assess attitudes and to seek opinions on possible improvements.

Elections to form the next Team Evaluating Guides (TEG) are also being conducted. TEG is a body of ten experienced Guides elected by the whole group who give extra voluntary time to observe and assess the quality of service given by each individual Guide. The TEG member quietly evaluates a Guide on duty and then provides confidential feedback, usually over a cup of coffee, and may also offer guidance and support and listen to any problems that the Guide may want to put forward.

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

Further Education

All Guides are expected to update their knowledge and skills and to know the latest relevant information about the park and the flora. To this end we have a group email notification process so that important news can be circulated rapidly to Guides who are on line. We also have ten meetings a year which all Guides are strongly encouraged to attend. Matters pertaining to our duties are discussed, followed by a speaker giving a talk on a relevant subject. These talks are of high quality and are much appreciated by Guides. We are grateful to the speakers both from park staff and from outside who freely give of their time and expertise.

During the week following each meeting there is usually a walk in the park that follows up and enlarges upon the talk at the General Meeting. A summary of the talk and the follow-up activity is published in the monthly newsletter which is posted to all Guides and relevant Authority staff. Other articles with further educational content are also included.

Social

Guides enjoyed many social activities this year. Often Kings Park Guides have the chance on these occasions to observe and learn from guides in other places

The Lodge

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

Having all the volunteer groups with offices in the same building encourages friendly interaction which engenders a cooperative working spirit.

Twenty Fifth Anniversary

On the last day of the 2008/2009 Year Guides past and present and staff who worked with them were treated to an enjoyable, informal morning tea to celebrate a significant milestone – the twenty fifth anniversary of the formation of the Kings Park Guides. Short speeches by the CEO of the Authority and the President of the Guides emphasised the achievements and growth of the Guides and the harmonious and mutually beneficial relations with the BGPA staff.

A feature of the morning's festivities was the awarding for the first time of Life Membership to two recently retired long – serving Guides. Both were widely acknowledged as having given outstanding service.

Hobart Conference

A number of Guides have indicated they will attend the Australasian Conference of Voluntary Guides in Botanic Gardens in November in Hobart. These conferences are held every two years and in spite of the long distances many delegates have to travel are well attended. Several of the Guides have had their considerable expenses subsidized by a generous donation from the Friends of Kings Park for which we extend our thanks. Kings Park Guides find at these conferences they are in an enviable position because we are able to take our visitors into natural areas as well as the formal botanic garden to which most of the others are limited – and we have our wildflowers.

Jim Davies

President, Kings Park Guides

Kings Park Master Gardeners President's Report

At 30 June 2009, there are 33 Volunteer Master Gardeners, 8 Associate Members and 13 Volunteer Master Gardener trainees. Four Volunteer Master Gardeners have received their 10-year badges. In all we contributed some 2,013 hours of voluntary service to the Park and the public. To support this effort some 967 hours have been devoted to administrative work including organising a training course for new members, rostering of members, an on-going review and reorganisation of our reference collection, the production of newsletters and articles, representation at meetings, preparation for public presentations and co-ordination of further education activities.

Changing Our Formal Name

This year the Constitution was revised. DOCEP has accepted the new Constitution which changed our formal name to Volunteer Master Gardeners. The change will make it clear to the public that we are a volunteer group within Kings Park. Also, the secretary/treasurer position was divided into two separate positions, namely, Secretary and Treasurer.

Gardening Advisory Service

Provision of advice to home gardeners on the growing of native plants is still the core business of our group and members have continued to operate the free telephone service on three half-days per week, dealing with both recorded and direct calls. Members now attend the Friends of Kings Park plant sales to assist buyers with their selections and to give planting and growing tips for the many species on offer. Revision and upgrading of the *Native Plant Notes*, an integral part of the service, is ongoing.

Practical Activities

Our Bush Garden has arrived at the number of plants that we want to plant. From the first year in 2005, we have planted approximately 4,000 plants of about 140 species which grow naturally in Kings Park. The severe drought this summer has affected the Bush Garden which is not watered at all. This provides a good opportunity for us to do some close observation on how plants behave in drought conditions and which species are good at handling the conditions so we can give more accurate advice to the public.

As usual, we have done some planting with the Authority's Bushland Management team. The VMGs value the opportunity to be involved in the work of the Bushland Management team and appreciate having a good relationship with them.

The two VMG 'teams' who contribute to the park's plant-breeding program twice weekly have become a 'feature' in the glasshouse. We were involved in a number of interesting projects such as helping to propagate boab seedlings from the seeds of Gija Jumulu for planting back in the Kimberley. Some members are regularly committed to assisting in the seed-technology area and with the orchid project. Members also assist on a 'needs basis', responding to requests for assistance by staff and post-graduate students working in the Science area. Simple tasks, such as seed cleaning, are often carried out in conjunction with rostered phone-duty sessions.

Involvement in translocation programs for establishing rare and endangered species in their natural habitat remains a major aspect of our work. Members have worked on cleaning seeds, preparing labels, germinating seedlings, planting out, harvesting seeds, monitoring and processing collected data. This work can entail long days working on country sites, sometimes with an overnight stay.

Promotional Activities

Volunteer Master Gardeners have continually sought opportunities to promote the beauty and diversity of our native flora, the work of the Botanic Gardens and Park Authority, our own Gardening Advisory Service, and, the work carried out by the other volunteer groups. A

number of talks have been given to service, social and gardening groups in return for a donation to the Park. Media interviews of VMGs have also promoted the work of Kings Park. Recently Radio National recorded a simulation of a Volunteer Master Gardener answering queries during her Gardening Advisory Service duty.

For a few years, the Friends of Kings Park have kindly included a regular Volunteer Master Gardeners' article featuring attractive garden plants, together with details of their propagation and cultivation, in their quarterly magazine, *For People and Plants*. We also contribute regularly to *e-News* issued by the Park, and an abbreviated version of our *Native Plant Notes* is being added to the Authority's website.

Our more visible promotion is the Bush Garden, where we have planted more than 90 species of plants local to Kings Park. They are growing without any irrigation. We have continued with development and maintenance and were rewarded last spring with a magnificent, colourful display.

Training and Further Education

An 18-session training course for new members is being conducted by the Volunteer Master Gardeners. There are 15 people attending the training, and one person is attending it as a refresher course before rejoining the group after an absence of 10 years. We appreciate the expertise of the speakers, most of whom are BGPA staff. Through their contributions to the course the participants learn about the scientific and horticultural work undertaken in the Park and they gain an understanding of growing native plants in home gardens. The course provides initial training that will support them in their volunteering within the Science Division of Kings Park.

Our monthly newsletter, *MAGazine*, continues to keep members informed of our activities, developments within the Park, and, botanical and horticultural issues, as well as challenging members with a regular quiz.

Through our program of speakers we have learned something of the management and impact of fire in the Park; the transplanting of the boab, Gija Jumulu; the challenges of developing the *Naturescape* project; the biodiversity of the Western Australian flora and the wonderful work of scientists in Kings Park. Members also took the opportunity to attend a workshop on *FloraBase* and on another occasion to enjoy a guided walk through the Conservation Garden.

During the *Threatened Species Day* a small group of us helped to entertain and educate some of the 1600 school students who attended activities on that day. During the Festival we were involved in a number of activities such as Fathers' Day and other weekend activities. Our greatest involvement was, of course, during the final event of the Festival, the *Wildflower Market Place*, where we worked the Help Desk and assisted at the Friends of Kings Park Plant Sale.

Improved Facilities

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

Our office at the Lodge has made it possible to improve our filing system, data collection, and photograph collection. A new computer and a new phone in the office have helped to make our work easier.

Volunteer Master Gardeners and Staff Interaction

We once again sincerely thank Chief Executive Officer, Mr Mark Webb, for his continued interest and encouragement. His support for volunteers is reflected throughout the Authority. We also thank the directors, Ms Marcelle Broderick, Dr Kingsley Dixon and Mr Digby Growsns

for their ongoing support and the opportunities they have given us to participate in their work and activities of the Authority.

We are grateful to all members of the Visitor Services team and especially to Peter Netherway and Zoe Fulwood who have not only given outstanding assistance to our group but also have facilitated closer co-operation between all volunteer groups. We express our gratitude to the administrative assistants who facilitated our work and interface with the Authority and to all staff and students who happily share their knowledge, skills and facilities with us.

Above all we must thank our mentor, Biodiversity and Extensions Manager, Bob Dixon. Without his untiring assistance and confidence in our ability we could not have continued to contribute, and to enjoy the many rewards of voluntary service in Kings Park and Botanic Garden over the years.

Ratna Sulastin
President, Kings Park Master Gardeners

Honour Avenues Group Chairman's Report

Who We Are

The volunteers of the Honour Avenues Group are ex-servicemen and women drawn from the members of the Highgate RSL Sub-Branch. With a maximum of 12 active members the average age of the group is 72 years. They have put in 1,719 hours over 95 days since July of 2008.

The first Avenue, May Drive, was opened in 1919 with Lovekin Drive and Marri Walk being added at a later stage to cope with the applications from WW11 relatives. The RSL have cared for the Honour Avenues since 1922.

The Objectives

With a total of 1,350 plaques within the three Honour Avenues of Kings Park our overall objective is to either refurbish or replace all which do not meet our exacting standards.

In addition we manufacture and arrange for dedication, new plaques for the families who apply to have a relative included in the Honour Avenues.

The Tasks Carried Out During the Year

The Honour Avenues Group completed the following during 2008/2009 year:

- The replacement of 41 damaged, welded or cracked plaques.
- The supply of 41 new dedication plaques.
- The placement of 36 new acrylic unit or service colour patches.
- The refurbishment of 92 and the replacement of 11 Centenary plaques and posts for Fraser Avenue.
- Updated computer records.
- Researched historical data to cross check accuracy of service records.
- Recycled and replaced plaque posts as required.

Dedication Ceremonies

In addition to the above work program, New Plaques Dedication Ceremonies were held at the historical site of May Circle, May Drive, in August and November 2008 and February and May 2009. A total of 39 plaques were dedicated in front of some 550 people.

At this point the ceremonies for both August and November 2009 have been filled with approved applicants.

ANZAC Day

The students of Carine Senior High School, for the twenty-third year, placed flowers on each plaque on the eve of ANZAC Day 2009.

With each flower an Australian national flag was attached to the post. Given to the Honour Avenues Group by Red Dot Stores Perth, the flags drew attention to the plaques and ANZAC Day and were the subject of many comments by the general public.

Media Coverage

Prior to ANZAC Day, ABC Television shot a 10 minute documentary, in the park, on the work of the Honour Avenues Group, which was telecast on ANZAC between the coverage of the march and the commencement of the service. This resulted in many enquires as to how to apply for a plaque.

In May 2009, ABC Radio prepared a session on the Volunteers of Kings Park and a segment was devoted to the Honour Avenues Group.

The Year Ahead

The future works program will include:

- The replacement of 65 old cast iron plaques that have been welded in the past.
- The replacement of plaques and posts that have been damaged beyond repair by parking motorists.
- Cleaning, resetting and alignment of plaques and posts displaced by motorists.
- Replacement of stolen, or broken, unit colour patches.
- The raising of funds to ensure a continuation of our maintenance programme covering all of the Honour plaques of Kings Park.

*These plaques, with their white posts, are their spiritual crosses,
wherever their physical remains maybe on land or sea.
Here they rest together and share an undying comradeship in this park of peace.
Lest We Forget*

Norman G Manners
Chairman, Highgate RSL Sub-Branch Honour Avenues Group

Friends of Bold Park Bushland President's Report

Our committee is pleased to report that we now have a secretary, Diane Gilbert, after several years without one. We aim to organise ourselves to make greater use of email to communicate with our members, who will receive more frequent updates to supplement our regular printed newsletters.

Adopt-a-Highway program

We have continued our involvement in the Adopt-a-Highway program. Four times a year a small group meets to collect rubbish from the West Coast Highway frontage of the park. About 20 – 30 large bags of rubbish are collected each time and are later picked up by the Town of Cambridge. Jeremy Owens organises this valuable activity which helps to keep this very visible edge of the park looking cared for and respectable.

Bushland Regeneration Group

The Bushland Regeneration Group, coordinated by Barbara Knott, attends twice monthly between May and November for weeding and other activities. The core group has concentrated on removing *Euphorbia*, gladioli and bridal creeper from the Eastern Gateway site, uphill from the Tuart Car Park off Perry Lakes Drive.

Planting within selected sites in the Eastern Gateway restoration site has also been undertaken, using a larger group of volunteers and working closely with Authority staff.

Monitoring Group

The Monitoring Group has continued to record the survival rates of the previous years' plantings, meeting on a quarterly basis to scrutinise a total of nine monitoring sites in the Eastern Gateway area.

Community links

We are becoming a regular fixture at the Floreat Library during Conservation Week, again mounting a display of Barbara Knott's spectacular photographs of the park.

We have maintained our formal links with peak conservation bodies, the Conservation Council of WA and the Urban Bushland Council, as well as informal links supporting the activities of local groups WREN (Western Region Environmental Network) and the Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland.

Guided walks for Bold Park

Significant progress has been made towards establishing a program of guided walks in Bold Park, following a workshop in late 2007 that explored the concept. The Friends group has been working closely with the Authority to develop this program, with input from other key stakeholder groups: Kings Park Guides, Wildflower Society, Birds Australia WA and the Naturalists' Club.

An application to Lotterywest for a grant to assist with the program has received conditional approval and we are working with the Authority to finalise the application.

Campaigns

We have continued to be involved in activities in relation to developments near Bold Park, such as the new stadium and basketball facilities under construction along Underwood Avenue opposite Perry Lakes. We have also actively opposed UWA proposals for housing development on remnant bushland at the corner of Selby Street and Underwood Avenue, Floreat, on the grounds that this area comprises a significant link in the green corridor between Bold Park and Kings Park.

Our main campaign activity has been in relation to Stephenson Highway, in response to renewed pressure for construction of the northern end of this highway, near the Mitchell

Freeway in Osborne Park. If the highway was built through City Beach, it would run through the centre of the northern section of Bold Park, between The Boulevard and Oceanic Drive.

With the help of Friends member Giz Watson, MLC, we met with the previous planning minister shortly before last year's State election. The minister had been impressed with the number and quality of submissions received, and her response to our concern about the highway alignment was positive.

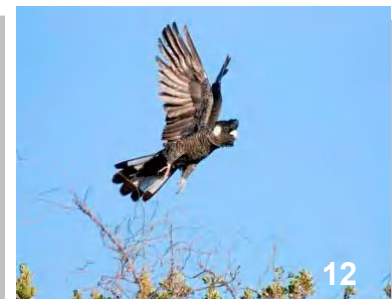
Our efforts to see this road reservation removed from Bold Park are continuing.

Liaison with Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority

We are increasingly part of the wider family of community groups associated with the Authority. Various events organised by the Authority provide valuable opportunities to exchange ideas with other volunteer groups, for example, in relation to the very successful Kings Park Guides program.

We enjoy a close working relationship with staff located at Bold Park, who work with us on our bush care programs, attend our monthly meetings and assist with newsletter production.

Stephanie Clegg
President, Friends of Bold Park Bushland (Inc)



Details of photograph are provided in Appendix 7 of this Annual Report.

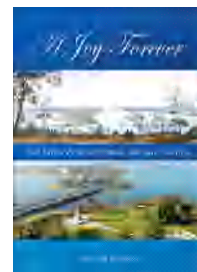
Appendix 4 – Publications

The Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority creates and contributes to, many publications throughout the year.

Book

Brown, A., Dundas, P., Dixon, K., Hopper, S. (2008). Orchids of Western Australia, UWA Press, 422pp, hardback book.

Erikson, D. (2009). A Joy Forever: The story of Kings Park. Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Western Australia.



Refereed publications

Barrett, M.D., Craven, L.A. and Barrett, R.L. (2009). *Calytrix gomphrenoides* (Myrtaceae), a new species from the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. *Nuytsia* 19: 19(1): 1-8.

Barrett, M.D., Barrett, R.L., Shivas, R.G. and McTaggart, .AR. (2009). *Tilletia micrairae*. *Fungal Planet* 33. *Persoonia* 22, 170–171.

Barrett, R.L. (2008). *Lepidosperma amansiferrum* is an orthographic error of *L. amantiferrum*. *Nuytsia* 18, 339

Butcher, P.A., Krauss, S.L. (2008). Development of microsatellites from the rare ironstone endemic, *Tetratheca paynterae* subsp. *paynterae* and cross species amplification. *Molecular Ecology Resources* 9:386-389.

Butcher, P.A., McNee, S.A. and Krauss, S.L. (2009). Genetic impacts of habitat loss on the rare ironstone endemic *Tetratheca paynterae* subsp. *paynterae*. *Conservation Genetics* Published online (December 2008) 10.1007/s10592-008-9775-y.

Chiwocha, S.D.S., Dixon, K.W., Flematti, G.R., Ghisalberti, E., Merritt, D.J., Nelson, D.C., Riseborough, J.M., Smith, S.M. and Stevens, J. (2009). Karrikins: a new family of plant growth regulators in smoke. *Plant Science* 177: 252-256.

Close, D.C., Ruthrof, K.X., Turner, S., Rokich, D.P. and Dixon, K.W. (2009). Ecophysiology of species with distinct leaf morphologies: Effects of plastic and shade cloth tree guards. *Restoration Ecology* 17: 33 – 41.

Commander, L.E., Merritt, D.J., Rokich, D.P. and Dixon, K.W. (2009). Seed biology of Australian arid zone species: Germination of 18 species used for rehabilitation. *Journal of Arid Environments*. 73: 617-625

Cousin, J. A. and Phillips, R.D. (2008). Habitat complexity explains species-specific occupancy but not species richness in a Western Australian woodland. *Australian Journal of Zoology*. 56: 95-102

Dixon, K.W., Merritt, D.J., Flematti, G.R. and Ghisalberti, E.L. (2009). Karrikinolide – a phytoreactive compound derived from smoke with applications in horticulture, ecological restoration and agriculture. *Acta Horticulturae* (ISHS) 813:155-170.

Fisher, J.L., Loneragan, W.A., Dixon, K., Veneklaas, E.J. (2008). Soil seed bank compositional change constrains biodiversity in an invaded species-rich woodland. *Biological Conservation* 142: 256-269.

He, T., Krauss, S.L. and Lamont, B.B. (2008). Polymorphic microsatellite DNA marker for *Banksia hookeriana*. *Molecular Ecology Resources* 8: 1515-1517.

He, T., Krauss, S.L. and Lamont, B.B. (2008). Polymorphic microsatellite DNA marker for *Daviesia triflora*. *Molecular Ecology Resources* 8: 1475-1476.

- He, T.H., Lamont, B.B., Krauss, S.L., Enright, N.J. and Miller, B.P. (2009). Long-distance dispersal of seed in the fire-tolerant shrub *Banksia attenuata*. *Ecography* Published Doi:10.1111/j.1600-0587.2008.05689.x
- He, T.H., Lamont, B.B., Krauss, S.L., Enright, N.J., Miller, B.P. and Gove, A.A. (2008). Ants cannot account for inter-population dispersal of the arillate pea *Daviesia triflora*. *New Phytologist* 181: 725–733
- Hengeller, B. and Phillips, R.D. (2008). An annotated list of the birds of Kachana Station in the east Kimberley, Western Australia. *Amytornis* 1:7-14.
- Herath, D., Lamont, B.B., Enright, N.J. and Miller, B.P. (2008). Comparison of Post-Mine rehabilitated and natural shrubland communities in southwestern Australia. *Restoration Ecology* Published online (Oct 2008) DOI: 10.1111/j.1526-100X.2008.00464.x
- Krauss, S.L., He, T.H., Barrett, L., Lamont, B.B., Enright, N.J., Miller, B.P. and Hanley, M.E. (2009). Contrasting impacts of pollen and seed dispersal on spatial genetic structure in the bird-pollinated *Banksia hookeriana*. *Heredity*. 102: 274-285 Advanced Online http://www.nature.com/doi/finder/10.1038/hdy.2008.118
- Mallon, R., Bunn, E., Turner, S.R. and Gonzalez, M.L. (2008). Cryopreservation of *Centaurea ulreia* (Compositae) a critically endangered species from Galicia (Spain). *CryoLetters* 29(5):363-370.
- Messina, G., Pandolfi, C., Mugnai, S., Azzarello, E., Dixon, K., and Mancuso, S., (2009). Phyllometric parameters and artificial neural networks for the identification of *Banksia* accessions. *Australian Systematic Botany*. 22: 31-38.
- Nelson, D.C., Riseborough, J.A., Flematti, G.R., Stevens, J., Ghisalberti, E.L., Dixon, K.W. and Smith, S.M. (2009). Karrikins Discovered in Smoke Trigger Arabidopsis Seed Germination by a Mechanism Requiring Gibberellic Acid Synthesis and Light. *Plant Physiology*. 149: 863-873.
- O'Brien, E.K. and Krauss, S.L. (2009). Testing the home-site advantage in forest trees on disturbed and undisturbed sites. *Restoration Ecology*. Published online (September 2008) Doi: 10.1111/j.1526-100X.2008.00453.x
- Panaia, M., Bunn, E., Turner, S. and McComb, J. (2009). Incubation temperature critical to successful stimulation of *in vitro* zygotic embryo growth in four Australian native Cyperaceae species. *Plant Cell Tissue and Organ Culture*. 97: 197-202
- Perry, G.L.W., Enright, N.J., Miller, B.P. and Lamont, B.B. (2009). Nearest-neighbour species interactions in species-rich shrublands: the roles of abundance, spatial patterns and resources. *Oikos* 118: 161-174.)
- Perry, G.L.W., Enright, N.J., Miller, B.P., Lamont, B.B. and Etienne, R.S. (2009). Dispersal, edaphic fidelity, and speciation in species-rich Western Australian shrublands: evaluating a neutral model of biodiversity *Oikos*. Published online (March 2009) Doi: 10.1111/j.1600-0706.2009.17096.x
- Petersen, R.H. and Barrett, M.D. (2008). *Xerula flavo-olivacea* var. *kimberleyana* R.H.Petersen and M.D.Barrett. In: Petersen, R.H. (2008): The genus *Xerula* (Agaricales; Fungi) in Australia and New Zealand. *Nova Hedwigia* 87: 1-67.
- Phillips, R.D., Chapman, G.C., O'Hanlon, N.J. and Morris, L.C. (2008). A short-term avifauna survey of Faraway Bay in the north Kimberley, Western Australia. *Amytornis* 1:15-19.
- Phillips, R.D. (2009). Observations of habitat use and abundance of fish species over a 15 year period at Mettam's Pool. *Western Australian Naturalist* 26, 175-182.
- Roberts, D.L. and Dixon, K.W. (2008). Orchids. *Current Biology* Vol.18, Issue 8 pp.R325-R329.
- Rokich, D., Harma, J., Turner, S., Sadler, R. and Tan, B. Fluazifop-p-butyl herbicide: Implications for germination, emergence and growth of Australian plant species *Biological Conservation*. 142(4): 850-869.

- Rudall, P. J., Remizowa, M. V., Prenner, G., Prychid, C. J., Tuckett, R. E. and Sokoloff, D. D. (2009). Nonflowers near the base of extant angiosperms? Spatiotemporal arrangement of organs in reproductive units of Hydatellaceae and its bearing on the origin of the flower. *American Journal of Botany* 96: 1-17.
- Swarts, N.D. and Dixon K.W. (2008). Terrestrial orchid conservation in the age of extinction. *Annals of Botany*. 0: mcp025v1-14. Published online www.aob.oxfordjournals.
- Swarts, N.D., Sinclair, E.A., Krauss, S.L. and Dixon, K.W. (2009). Genetic diversity in fragmented populations of the critically endangered spider orchid *Caladenia huegelii* in a relictual landscape. *Conservation Genetics*. Published online (August 2008) Doi:10.1007/s10592-008-9651-9.
- Tieu, A., Turner, S. R. and Dixon, K. W. (2009). The novel use of commercial enzymes to depulp the fruits and seeds of selected Australian native species for seed storage and germination. *Ecological Management and Restoration* 9: 229 – 232.
- Turner, S., Merritt, D., Renton, M. and Dixon K. (2008). Seed moisture content affects afterripening and smoke responsiveness in three sympatric Australian native species from fire prone environments. *Austral Ecology*. Published online Doi: 10.1111/j.1442-9993.2009.01993.x.

Scientific publications can also be obtained from the Authority's website.

For People and Plants – Friends of Kings Park Magazine

- Barrett, M. (2008). DNA Barcoding Assists New Discoveries and Re-Collections of Waxflowers. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 63, p 20-21.
- Brand, G. and (Scalzo, T. Growing Friends). (2009). Summer Flowering Annuals – How to Enjoy Them in Your own Garden. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 64, p18-19.
- Courtney, P. (2008). Gija Jumulu – A Wonderful Gift, Fantastic Journey, Great Destination and a Warm Welcome. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 62, p 4- 9.
- Courtney, P. (2009). Gija Jumulu Flowers for Easter. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 65, p 21.
- Courtney, P. (2009). Gija Jumulu Update. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 64, p 4.
- Dixon, B. (2008) A Nation of Gardeners and a Touch of Class in Holland. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 62, p 24-25.
- Dixon, K. (2008). Saving Perth's Parkland Trees: Kings Park Scientists Work to Resolve the Loss of Significant Trees. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 63, p7.
- Dixon, K. and Rokich, D. (2008). Kings Park Hosts World Ecological Restoration Conference in 2009! *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 64, p 26.
- Dixon, K. and Rokich, D. (2008). Kings Park Makes Restoration History! *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 63, p 16-17.
- Easton, S. (2009). From the Flames. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 64, p 6-7.
- Easton, S. and Scalzo, T. (Bushland Carers Group) (2008). Weeding Watsonia in Kings Park. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 63, p 18-19.
- Hammersley, L. (2008). New Lease of Life for Historic Treasure. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 62, p 12-13.

- Hammersley, L. (2009). Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 65, p 25.
- Hammersley, L. (2009). Parkland Planning for a Focused Future. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 65, p 26.
- Mansell-Fletcher, J. (2008). Fauna Corner – Kings Park and Botanic Garden Pests, Part 2. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 62, p14-16.
- Mansell-Fletcher, J. (2009). Fauna Corner – Pests – European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*). *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 64, p 22-25.
- Marchant, N. (Honorary Research Fellow) (2009). J.A.L. Priess an Extraordinary Plant Collector in the Early Swan River Colony. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 64, p 8-12.
- Merritt, D. and Dixon, K. with (Guja, L. PhD Candidate, Curtin University and Wardell-Johnson, G. Associate Professor, Curtin University). Dispersal of Seeds by the Ocean. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 65, p 14-17.
- Miller, B. (2009). Why Do Rare Plants Live Where They Do? *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 65, p 10-11.
- Nevill, P. (2009). Plants Not Planes Bring Research Scientist Back to Perth. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 65, p 12-13.
- Pin Tay, E. (2008). Triggerplants – Sensitive Plants of Western Australia, *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 63, p 8-14.
- Pin Tay, E. (2008). Vampires of the Plant World. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 62, p 18-22.
- Sinclair, E. (2009). Restoration Genetics of Seagrass Meadows. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 64, p20-21.
- Stevens, J. (2008). Budding Scientists Bloom at Kings Park. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 63, p 15.
- Swarts, N. (2008). The Recovery of the Critically Endangered *Caladenia huegelii*. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 62, p28-29.
- Thomas, J. (2008). African Tulip Tree – Moving With the Times. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 63, p 22-23
- Turner, S. (2009). Depulping Australian Native Fruits Made Easy. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 64, p14-15.
- Webb, M. (2009). Connecting Children with Nature – Rio Tinto Naturescape, Kings Park. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 65, p 18-20.
- Webb, M. (2009). Kings Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan Review. *For People and Plants, Friends of Kings Park Magazine*, Issue 64, p13 and 26.

Information Publications and Brochures

All Information brochures are available from the Visitor Information Centre, the front reception at Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park and many are available on the Authority's website. In addition, a range of botanical, gardening, historical, Indigenous, and children's books are available for sale at *Aspects of Kings Park*.

- Aboriginal Life
- Birds of Bold Park
- Birds of Kings Park and Botanic Garden
- Bold Park Visitor Guide (includes map of Bold Park) (link to Bold Park section of website)
- Camel Lake Heritage Trail
- Discover Kings Park Education Service

- From Firestick to Fireworks
- Guided Walks
- Kings Park and Botanic Garden Visitor Map and Information Brochure
- Kings Park Bushland Nature Trail
- Kings Park for Kids (Kings Park Guides)
- Know Kings Park Series (Kings Park Guides)
- Lotterywest Federation Walkway
- Maps of Kings Park and Botanic Garden (link to the maps section)
- Science @ Kings Park and Botanic Garden
- Self-Guided Memorials Walk
- Social Functions in Kings Park and Botanic Garden
- Special Walks
- The Bali Memorial
- Weddings in Kings Park and Botanic Garden
- Western Australian Botanic Garden
- Wildflowers for Gardens (Master Gardeners)

Publications Available on the Authority's Website

- Annual Reports 2004/2005 – onwards
- Bold Park Management Plan 2006-2011
- Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Strategic Plan 2009-2014
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2007-2012
- Kings Park and Botanic Garden Management Plan 2009-2014
- Reconciliation Action Plan 2009
- Science Directorate Strategic Plan 2006-2011

Authority Publications Available to Purchase from *Aspects of Kings Park*

- 2010 Friends of Kings Park Calendar
- A Joy Forever – The Story of Kings Park and Botanic Garden
- Australian Seeds
- Avenues of Honour
- For People and Plants
(Friends of Kings Park Magazine)
- Kings Park and Botanic Garden: Western Australia
- Memorials and Memories
- Perth Plants: a field guide to the bushland and coastal flora of Kings Park and Bold Park, Perth, Western Australia.

Appendix 5 – Scientific Research Grants

Industry Grants

- 1 Rocla Quarry Products: Developing sustainable restoration of Banksia woodland communities disturbed through sand quarrying activities (2000-ongoing).
- 2 Shark Bay Resources: A program to research and develop integrated restoration of borrow pits for Shark Bay Resources Pty Ltd (2004-2008).
- 3 Westralia Airports Corporation: Deriving Research Benchmarks for Nationally Threatened Plant Species occurring on Westralia Airports Corporation Land (2004-2009).
- 4 Australian Orchid Foundation: Seed storage optimisation for Australian orchids (2004-2009).
- 5 Fire and Emergency Services Authority: Impact of fire suppressing agents on native vegetation in Western Australia (2005-2009).
- 6 ACMER: Optimising collection, storage and germination of Australian native plant species (2005-2008).
- 7 Millennium Seedbank Project: Western Australian Seeds Program (2005-2009).
- 8 Millennium Seedbank Project: Seed conservation science for Western Australian orchids (2005-2009).
- 9 Roe 7 Alliance: Conservation biology of the grand spider orchid (*Caladenia huegelii*) (2005-2009).
- 10 Department of Environment and Conservation, Great Southern District: Rare Plant Translocations program for *Grevillea scapigera*
- 11 Department of Environment and Conservation, Yilgarn District, Wheatbelt Region Rare Plant Translocations program for *Symonanthus bancroftii*
- 12 Catalpa Resources (was Westonia Mines Ltd) funding for two new translocation sites for *Eremophila resinosa* at Westonia.
- 13 Public Transport Authority: funding for conservation of *Verticordia lindleyi* subsp. *lindleyi* continues.
- 14 Newcrest Operations: Weed Ecology and Management for Newcrest Operations, Telfer (2006-2009).
- 15 Australian Orchid Foundation: Role of pollinators and mycorrhiza in speciation of hammer orchids (*Drakaea*) – implications for conservation (2006-2009).
- 16 Rocla Quarry Products: Understanding the ecophysiological reasons that underpin Banksia species establishment (2006 – 2011).
- 17 Department of Environment and Conservation: Conservation biology of *Drakaea elastica* and *Drakaea concolor* (2007).
- 18 Department of Environment and Conservation: Clonal propagation through tissue culture of the critically endangered *Dryandra montana* (Proteaceae) (2007-ongoing).
- 19 Worsley Alumina: *In vitro* culture lines of selected recalcitrant rush and sedge species to assist in production of plants for restoration (2007-ongoing).
- 20 Holdsworth Wildlife Endowment: Conservation biology of Australian hammer orchids (2007-2009).
- 21 Extension Hill Pty Ltd (Asia Iron Holdings) and Mt Gibson Iron Ore Pty Ltd: An integrated research program focused on the on- and off-site conservation of the declared rare flora *Darwinia masonii* and *Lepidosperma gibsonii* (2007-2010).
- 22 Newcrest Operations: Ecosystem Restoration Principles for Newcrest Operations, Telfer (2007-2010).

- 23 Main Roads: Glossy Leaved Hammer Orchid conservation (2008-2010).
- 24 BHP Billiton. A major five year project with BHP Billiton Iron Ore continues. This seed science and seed management project will develop a "Seed Atlas for the Pilbara" that provides practical guidelines for the collection, processing, storage, germination and use of seeds in restoration for dominant and priority species in the Pilbara region.
- 25 GME Resources. A research plan for deriving research benchmarks for conservation of the rare species *Cratystylis centralis*. (2008-2009)
- 26 Alcoa of Australia: A national program for leading practice in seed conservation science (2006-2009).
- 27 Cockburn Cement Limited, Department of Industry and Resources, and UWA: Population genetic provenance research in the seagrass *Posidonia australis* (2008-2009).
- 28 Worsley Alumina: Effects of seed burial depth, seed size and soil-related factors on seedling emergence at Boddington Bauxite Mine (2008).
- 29 Conservation of the rare species *Leucopogon 'ciliate'* for Iluka Resources (2008-2010).
- 30 Mt Gibson Mining Limited, Talling Peak Hematite Operation: Propagation biology of *Eremophila* sp. Talling Peak – a one year research and development program (2009 – 2010)
- 31 Anglo-Gold Ashanti: Molecular conservation forensic assessment of the Declared Rare Flora *Eucalyptus articulate* (2008-2009).
- 32 Gindalbie Metals Ltd: Conservation genetics of *Acacia karina* (2009-2012).
- 33 Grange Resources Limited: An integrated research program focused on practical outcomes for the *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation, restoration and translocation of the DRF *Commersonia* sp. Mt. Groper. (Sterculiaceae) – a five year research and development program (2010-2015)

Nationally Competitive Grants

1. Quantifying long-distance seed dispersal and its role in the metapopulation dynamics of plants with contrasting life histories. ARC Discovery grant (2005-2009: total funds \$670,000).
2. A molecular ecophysiological assessment of the importance of using local provenance seed in native plant community restoration. ARC Linkage grant LP0669757 (2006-2011: total funds \$780,000).
3. Reliable establishment of non-traditional perennial pasture species. CRC for Plant-Based Management of Dryland Salinity, Sustainable Grazing of Saline Lands, Meat and Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Initiative (2006-2009: total funds \$850,000).
4. A physiological and biochemical basis for seed storage for biodiversity conservation and restoration. ARC-Linkage (2005-2008: total funds \$353,000).
5. Optimising synthesis, developing delivery systems and resolving the ecological significance of the chemical in smoke that promotes seed germination. ARC-Discovery grant DP0559058 (2005-2008: total funds \$355,000).
6. Grass roots - native perennial grasses for sustainable pasture systems. RIRDC (2005-2008: total funds \$585,000).
7. Discovery of the physiological and molecular modes of action of butenolide in promoting seed germination and vigour in plants. ARC-Discovery grant DP0667197 (2006-2009: total funds \$470,000).
8. Improving establishment of commercial native plants suitable for agroforestry through improved understanding of germination biology, moisture management and weed control. Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (2007-2008: total funds \$416,000).

9. Enhancing native seed performance for minesite restoration and biodiversity conservation. ARC-Linkage grant LP0669589 (2007-2009: total funds \$261,000).
10. A novel method of broad-acre weed seedbank management using a naturally occurring germination stimulant. ARC-Linkage grant LP0776951 (2007-2009: total funds \$282,848).
11. *In vitro* propagation (through somatic embryogenesis) of rush and sedge species important for land rehabilitation. ARC Linkage. (2006–2008: approx. value: \$220,000).
12. Investigation of the metabolism, molecular targets and environmental fate of the seed germination stimulant, butenolide. ARC Linkage LP0882775 (2008-2012: \$575,000). Administering organisation: UWA. Collaborative partners: Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Worsley Alumina Pty Ltd, Iluka Resources, Extension Hill/Mt Gibson Iron, Alcoa World Alumina.
13. Assessing plant virus threats to indigenous Western Australian flora: implications for biodiversity, conservation, ecosystem reclamation and the wildflower industry. ARC Linkage LP0882671 (2008-2010: \$255,000). Administering organisation: Murdoch University. Collaborative partners: Department of Agriculture and Food WA, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Alcoa World Alumina Australia, Worsley Alumina Pty Ltd, Saturn Biotech Pty Ltd
14. LIEF bid with UWA for cryo preparation equipment at the Centre for Microscopy, Characterisation and Analysis.
15. Development of cryopreservation for high value provenance collections of recalcitrant species used in post mining restoration. ARC Linkage grant (2009-2012). Administering organisation: Curtin University of Technology. Collaborative partners: Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, The University of Queensland, The University of Western Australia and Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority.
16. The Science Directorate and collaborative partners have been successful with three applications for recently announced grant bids, namely:
 - a. A multidisciplinary research program to assess limiting factors and predict impacts of climate change for endangered Australian orchids. ARC Linkage grant LP0989338 (2009-2011 \$760,000). Administering organisation: Australian National University. Collaborative partners: The University of Western Australia.
 - b. Mechanisms and manipulation of seed dormancy maintenance in annual ryegrass and other weed species. ARC Linkage grant LP0990923 (2009-2011). Administering organisation: The University of Western Australia.
 - c. Broad scale implementation of native grass germination enhancement technologies. RIRDC research grant PRJ-003853 (2008-2012)

Appendix 6 – Research Scientists and Students

Research Scientists

Information regarding the Authority's Research Scientists can be found by going to the science section of the Authority's website.

Externally Funded Research Scientists

Dr Janet Anthony is genetics lab manager, and is conducting weed ecology research.

Dr Matt Barrett is working on an integrated conservation research program for the declared rare flora *Darwinia masonii* and *Lepidosperma gibsonii*.

Dr Avner Cohen is a senior researcher at The Volcani Center in Israel and has joined Kings Park and Botanic Garden for an 18 month sabbatical study (Oct 2008-Apr 2010) on collaborative biotechnological research on native plant species. Dr Cohen is an expert in plant breeding and will be focusing on the generation of novel types of interspecific hybrids of selected native Australian plant species for use by the flower and ornamental plant industry, through interspecific hybridization and overcoming self- and incompatibility barriers.

Dr Lucy Commander is researching seed-based restoration methods for minesite restoration of the Pilbara flora.

Todd Erickson commenced research on a seed program to develop a Seed Atlas for the Pilbara to establish seed conservation and restoration methods following iron ore mining.

Dr Siti Hidayati is working on an ARC funded project investigating the physiology of seed germination and seed longevity.

Dr Kristina Hufford is assessing the molecular ecophysiological consequences of the importance of using local provenance seed in bushland restoration.

Dr Rowena Long is a research associate investigating the use of karrikinolide as a broad acre weed control agent.

Dr Christopher Loo is managing the seed enhancement subprogram for a nationally collaborative project for the reliable establishment of non-traditional pasture species, with funding from Land Water and Wool, MLA, AWI, and the CRC Plant Based Management of Dryland Salinity.

Dr David Merritt is the BGPA/Alcoa seed conservation scientist, and manages the seed biology programs of the Authority, with 50% funding from Alcoa World Alumina Australia.

Dr Ben Miller is conducting population ecological research on the declared rare flora *Darwinia masonii* and *Lepidosperma gibsonii*.

Dr Paul Nevill is assessing the conservation genetics and phylogenetics of *Acacia karina*, a rare species impacted by mining.

Dr Liz Sinclair is involved in the establishing genetic guidelines for the effective ecological restoration of seagrass meadows.

Dr Ann Smithson is assessing the molecular ecophysiological consequences of the importance of using local provenance seed in bushland restoration.

Dr Jason Stevens is the BGPA/Rocla Quarry Products restoration ecophysiologicalist, and manages the restoration ecophysiology programs of the Authority, with 50% funding from Rocla Quarry Products.

Dr Nigel Swarts has undertaken the development and application of integrated conservation principles for the rare species *Caladenia heugelii*.

Dr TianHua He has been working on an ARC funded project assessing genetic variation and population dynamics of *Banksia hookeriana* and genetic provenance issues for Bold Park restoration.

Dr Shane Turner is working on an ARC funded project looking at ways of enhancing seed performance for minesite restoration and biodiversity conservation. Industry partners include: BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina Pty Ltd, Alcoa of Australia and the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority.

Dr Jeff Walck is working on a project funded by the Millennium Seedbank, researching the ecophysiology of seed dormancy and germination.

Students

Robert Alderman has completed an honours research project “Germinating agricultural (cropping) weeds using the smoke derived chemical Karrikinolide”.

Russell Barrett continues his PhD revising the taxonomy of *Lepidosperma* in association with molecular phylogenetic studies.

Stephen Benigno continues his PhD investigating the effects of soil compaction and water stress on *Banksia* woodland restoration.

Helen Bowers continues her PhD project investigating seed dormancy and germination in Australian Rutaceae.

Donna Bradbury continues her PhD on a population genomics assessment of population genetic structure in Tuart.

Mark Bundock continues a PhD to investigate the effects of commonly used herbicides and adjuvants on native vegetation in Western Australia.

Samantha Clarke continued a PhD project to develop establishment techniques for native perennial grasses for sustainable pasture systems.

Lucy Commander completed a PhD program to research and develop integrated restoration of borrow pits in the Shark Bay World Heritage area.

Emma Dalziell is undertaking an honours research project using molecular techniques to identify mycorrhizal fungal specificity in the *Caladenia* genus.

Jessica Daniels continued a PhD program on seed storage physiology and seed dormancy of orchid species.

Jon de Long (a Masters student from the United States of America) joined the orchid research group for 12 weeks (Aug-Nov 2008) to investigate mycorrhizal associations.

Todd Erickson has commenced his PhD research investigating seed restoration science for the Pilbara flora.

Alea Faber-Castell is undertaking her PhD into the conservation and biology of Australian duck orchids (*Paracaleana*).

Kristy Fenner completed an Honours project investigating seed dormancy mechanisms and germination of four problematic species required for minesite restoration.

Michalie Foley continues her PhD project on the molecular ecology assessment of habitat fragmentation of *Banksia ilicifolia*.

Peter Golos continues a PhD investigating “Ecosystem Restoration Principles for Newcrest Operations, Telfer”.

Melissa Graham completed an Honours program to assess the effects of seed burial depth, seed size and soil-related factors on seedling emergence at Boddington Bauxite Mine.

Erin Griffiths completed her one-year research project “Using nursery management techniques to improve banksia and eucalypt establishment post mining”.

Lydia Guja completed her Honours project investigating seed dispersal mechanisms and plant distribution within the metropolitan coastal zone.

Lydia Guja has commenced her PhD project investigating the relationship between seed dispersal mechanisms, seed germination traits and plant distribution in the coastal zone.

Beorn Harris, originally from the United Kingdom, continues his PhD researching biotechnology solutions for enhanced propagation of Western Australian *Ericaceae* for minesite restoration, while also developing an *ex situ* conservation program for an endangered species *Leucopogon* sp. ‘*ciliate*’.

Matt Hyde has commenced an honours research project investigating low temperature seed storage physiology for the orchid genus *Pterostylis*.

Natalie Krawczyk completed an Honours program to research weed seed dispersal by birds, both native and introduced, in the Perth Metropolitan region.

David Leach continues a PhD research program that will assess the impacts of fire-suppressing agents on native vegetation in Western Australia.

Jemma Marris completed a one-year research project “Understanding root morphology and drought responses in two rare species found on banded ironstone formations”.

Myles Menz is writing his PhD research plan to investigate pollination traits of specific orchid species.

Laura Merwin, a visiting fullbright scholar, conducted molecular research into long distance dispersal of seed in *Banksia candolleana*.

Giuseppe Messina continues a PhD research program that focuses on investigating the conservation biology of two declared rare flora species occurring on Westralia Airports Corporation lands.

Cameron Mounsey has commenced a one-year research project “Root growth and plasticity in shallow-soil endemic species, identifying limitations to promote restoration”.

Andrew Naskos has commenced a one-year research project “Germination requirements and seed enhancements to improve the broadacre restoration of *Acacia acinacea*, *Enchylaena tomentose* and *Einadia nutans*”.

Belinda Newman is completing her PhD into the use of orchids as indicators of ecosystem health.

Siti Nurfadilah (Fadilah), a recipient of an Australian Development Scholarship (ADS), joined BGPA in July 2008 from Indonesia and is undertaking a Master’s Degree by Research through UWA Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Sciences - Plant Science on biotechnology solutions for orchid conservation. Fadilah is jointly supervised by Prof K. Dixon and Dr E. Bunn with assistance from Mr Ryan Phillips (PhD candidate, UWA).

Rachel Ord continues a PhD that will research the potential to rehabilitate the Gngangara Mound pine plantation to native *Banksia* woodlands

Rachel Omodei completed her Honours Research project “Realised pollen dispersal in *Banksia attenuata* (Proteaceae) – a departure from typically nearest neighbour mating?”

Marie Orvain (a biology student from the graduate educational institution National School of Agronomy, France) commenced a 12 week internship (June-Sept 2009) collaborating in the investigation of several priority species in the plant genus *Lepidosperma* (*Cyperaceae*), assist in experimenters to investigate plant adaptations in nutrient-poor soils, and in the forces that may cause areas of exceptional species richness.

Sarah Paul is undertaking her honours research project at UWA on the Role of soil stored spores and rhizomes in reproduction and regeneration of Cheilanthes ferns in arid Western Australia.

Ryan Phillips is undertaking his PhD into the biology and ecology of Western Australian hammer orchids (*Drakaea*) focusing on the relationships between pollinator and mycorrhizal specificity as drivers of speciation.

Bryony Retter completed her Honours research project investigating “Factors affecting pollination success and population decline of orchids in an urban landscape”.

Julie-Ann Riseborough completed her Honours research project “Genetic characterisation of the germination response of *Arabidopsis thaliana* to karrikin, a germination stimulate isolated from smoke”.

Alison Ritchie is conducting her honours research on the realised mating dynamics of natural and restored populations of *Banksia attenuate*.

Sacha Ruoss continues his PhD investigating ecological adaptations of banded ironstone endemics to develop rehabilitation methods.

Liann Smithson has commenced a one-year research project “Physiological strategies for surviving drought in endemic ganded iron formation habitats”.

John Statton continues a PhD investigating “Effective ecological restoration of seagrass in Cockburn Sound”.

Jessica Stingemore completed a one-year research project “Using AFLP’s to delineate genetic provenance for *Persoonia longifolia*”.

Jessica Stingemore commenced her PhD project investigating the landscape genetics and movement ecology of co-occurring persoonias.

Simone Tausch, a student from the University of Regensburg, Germany, completed her six month study identifying the root penetration ability of Banksia woodland species through was layers, allowing the effects of soil compaction to be understood on Banksia woodland restoration.

Renee Tuckett continues a PhD program researching the seed biology and ecology of vernal pool species.

Mark Wallace commenced his PhD researching the role of chromosomal and genetic factors in the evolution of the genus *Lepidosperma* (*Cyperaceae*).

Tim Wiegele commenced a one-year project furthering the research into the restoration of seagrass.

Maite Zarranz Elso (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain) visited the Authority for 10 weeks (April-July 2009) to undertake *in vitro* research on local seagrass species as part of her PhD studies. Maite is supervised by Dr E Bunn and Prof Kingsley Dixon with assistance from Mr John Statton.

Appendix 7 – Photographs and Copyright

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Page 40 Report on Operations – Service 1:

1. The public announcement of the *Rio Tinto Naturescape in Kings Park* project (left to right): Minister for Environment; Youth, Donna Faragher MLC; Richard Simpson, Chairman, BGPA Board; Sam Walsh, Chairman, Rio Tinto Future Fund Board; Clyde Bevan, Chairman, Lotterywest; Sue Murphy, CEO, Water Corporation; Prof Lyn Beazley, WA Chief Scientist, the Premier, the Hon. Mr Colin Barnett. 2. The Saw Avenue Picnic Area was redeveloped with partners Variety WA D Blumer. 3 & 5. The Pioneer Women's Memorial statue and the bronze statue of Lord John Forrest were restored to their former glory. D Blumer. 4. The 80-year old *Corymbia ficifolia* was relocated as part of the Fraser Avenue Ceremonial Walk project. D Blumer. 6. The wandering wildflowers can be seen during the annual Kings Park Festival. 7. The Seed Odyssey art installation was a feature of the 2008 Kings Park Festival. 8. The Wild Fairyland Festival is a hugely popular event held in the Lotterywest Family area. 9. Mass plantings in the garden beds produce stunning displays during spring. D Blumer. 10. BGPA's fun, interactive education programs engage children. D Blumer.

Page 57 Report on Operations – Service 2:

1. The Botanic Garden display beds are impressive when in flower. D Blumer. 2. The Conservation Garden, one year on, has increased the number of threatened species on display. D Blumer. 3. The fire in January 2009 burnt 40ha of bushland along the scarp, skirting the Botanic Garden. 4. The scarp post fire looks devastated. D Blumer. 5. A stunning display of kangaroo paws post fire. S Easton. 6. Bob Elkins processes seeds for the MSB project. D Blumer. 7. Planting to offset carbon output generated through travel and accommodation of more than 700 delegates to the SERI conference. B Nuske. 8. The rock catch fence along Reabold Hill. R Glowacki. 9. *Commersonia adenothalia* plants from tissue culture in cultivation. E Bunn. 10. *Grevillea scapigera* seedlings surviving after summer drought. B Dixon. 11. Dr Deanna Rokich with the Authority's third Golden Gecko award. 12. One of the few remaining *Verticordia lindleyi* ssp *lindleyi* surviving on site. B Dixon. 13. Collecting seeds as part of restoration activities. 14. The bush garden is thriving under the care of the Master Gardeners. R Sulastin.

Page 130 Our Volunteers:

1. The President of the Friends of Kings Park, Bob Bunney, presents Clyde Bevan, Chairman of Lotterywest, with a Jarrah Corporate Membership. 2. A member of the Orchid Carers Group working with Director, Science Prof Kingsley Dixon. 3. The CEO Mark Webb with Jennifer Weston celebrating 25 years of Kings Park Guides. C Pocock. 4. Ethel and Win Lucas were presented with MisGuided Awards as part of the celebrations. C Pocock. 5. Roger Hilton and Thelma Edwards were presented with life membership in recognition of their contributions and years of service to the Kings Park Guides. C Pocock. 6. A Master Gardener hard at work on the bush garden. R Sulastin. 7. The Master Gardeners help out for Threatened Species Day during Quiz on Legs, involving about 1,600 school children. R Sulastin. 8. Dedication ceremonies are held for new plaques. 9. Some of the plaques added to the Honour Avenues in 2008/2009. 10. Planting and installing rabbit guards at the Eastern Gateway restoration site in Bold Park. S Clegg. 11. Fungi experts and members, Dr Neale Bougher and Roz Hart, with the Authority's Mark Webb and Lesley Hammersley, at the Friends of Bold Park AGM. S Clegg. 12. Carnaby's cockatoos, protected under Federal legislation, are frequently seen feeding in Bold Park. B. Knott.



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