

OLIVE PINK BOTANIC GARDEN

MASTER PLAN

Developed 2010

Introduction

The Board of Trustees of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden, partners and supporters of the garden are pleased to present this Master Plan for the Olive Pink Botanic Garden. This Master Plan:

- establishes a **vision** for the future of the garden,
- guides the **development** of the garden,
- provides the **strategic** framework and
- enables the Board of Trustees and staff of the garden to meet their **responsibilities** managing a contemporary botanic garden.

Consultation with a broad range of stakeholders was an integral part of the development of this Master Plan, and support of those stakeholders will lead to its implementation.

The Master Plan is supported by:

- the Garden Plan
- the Interpretation and Information Plan
- the Community Engagement Plan
- the Infrastructure Plan.

In developing this Master Plan, we have considered the following:

- the strengths and weaknesses of the garden
- the valuable feedback and suggestions received from the local community, partners and other supporters
- the values and significance of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden
- the strategic framework for the future management of the garden, including the vision and purpose, and objectives which will guide decision making in the future.
- the opportunities and constraints for the garden in terms of its development and management in the future

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History of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden

On 28 September 1955 Miss Olive Muriel Pink was granted a licence to occupy a half acre of Crown Land on the east bank of the Todd River *'for gardening purposes'* until 30 September 1956. She then embarked on a campaign to have the surrounding land set aside in perpetuity as a reserve.

Her request was granted and the land was gazetted on 23 September 1956 as the *Australian Arid Regions Flora Reserve*, with Miss Olive Muriel Pink as its first curator. An additional area of land, mostly comprising the surrounding hills, was added to the reserve on 4 December 1959.

The garden is part of a substantial area of contiguous Crown Land that extends east from the Todd River on the southern edge of the Alice Springs Central Business District. The vegetation on the floodplain area was fairly modified and devoid of tree and shrub cover when Miss Pink took up occupancy there in 1956.

Miss Pink and her Warlpiri assistant gardeners spent the next two decades working in drought conditions and within funding constraints to develop her vision for the Reserve. Together they planted a somewhat eclectic collection of trees and shrubs native to the central Australian region as well as various cacti and garden flowers.

After Miss Pink's death in 1975, the NT Government assumed control of the Reserve and set about fulfilling her vision of a public area for the appreciation of native flora. It opened to the public in 1985 as the Olive Pink Flora Reserve, and was renamed Olive Pink Botanic Garden in 1996.



The garden is governed under the NT *Crown Lands Act* (2009) by a Board of Trustees which was first established in 1971. Miss Pink had requested in 1969 that the government appoint *'Permanent Trustees'* who would look after it when she could no longer do so.

The garden was listed on the Register of the National Estate in 1995 and included on the Northern Territory Heritage Register in 2009.

Significance of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden

The Olive Pink Botanic Garden is a significant regional, arid zone botanic garden. Miss Pink worked in an honorary capacity for over 20 years to achieve her vision of

“... forty-nine acres of ground on which to preserve and grow, native trees, shrubs and flowers - as a ‘soul-feeding’ antidote to the restless rush and materialism of what ‘modern living’ entails for so many in this isolated town¹.”

The garden holds significance for local residents as a place of enjoyment for the whole community, and also attracts national and international visitors. There are differing layers of visitor experience in the garden and people interact and respond in differing ways to these layers.

The garden contributes to the conservation of the flora of central Australia, provides opportunities for people to learn about arid zone plants, horticulture, landscapes and conservation, and encourages respect for the Olive Pink Botanic Garden and its heritage.

¹ Letter from OMP to H.C. Coombs, August 1974; in Marcus, J (1991) “Yours Truly Olive M Pink” p4

The garden is a place which can inspire people to appreciate the natural world and to enjoy its atmosphere and peace. It has the capacity to attract artistic people and trigger creativity.

Tharrarletneme, the northern ridge of the garden, known as Annie Meyers Hill, is of great significance to the Arrernte speaking people.

The garden is a place of special ambience and of safety, a quiet reflective place for recreation and relaxation.

There is great integrity in the garden and in its works.

It has a wonderful location beside the Todd River.

Regardless of why they come, it is vital that people’s experience of the garden is enjoyable and memorable. Interaction with the garden should arouse some interest in central Australian flora.



Governance of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden

The governance structure of the garden builds a collective sense of purpose and support that enable the garden's vision and planning priorities to be identified and met.

The governance of the garden is 'unusual' and is itself part of the heritage of the garden.

The garden is run by a Board of up to seven Trustees, appointed by the responsible Minister, from the local community.

The concept of Trustees

On 14 February 1969 Miss Pink wrote to Frank Dwyer, the Assistant Administrator of the NT, asking for three people, who she described as '*helpers and champions*' of the reserve, to be gazetted as '*Permanent Trustees*' of it. She said '*these three will continue the protection of it*' when she could no longer do so "*and with same objects even when open to the public*'.

In the 10 years between her death in 1975 and the official opening in 1985, the government developed Miss Pink's *Australian Arid Regions Flora Reserve* into a place for people. The government then handed control and management to the Board of Trustees, with a recurrent grant which enabled the Board to employ a curator and horticulturist.

The function of the garden's Trustees has expanded from Miss Pink's original concept of *champions* who *will continue the protection of it* to a body responsible for:

- strategic planning;
- maintaining effective management systems;
- developing policies and processes;
- ensuring legal and financial accountability;
- managing risk;
- supporting the Curator;
- being accountable to stakeholders;
- monitoring performance in relation to the garden's strategic objectives;
- providing an annual report to the NT Government, other stakeholders and the local community.

In addition to legislative responsibilities under the *NT Crown Lands Act*, there is other legislation that can assist the Board of Trustees in ensuring it is legally compliant.

While the understanding is that the Board will manage the garden on behalf of, and in consultation with, the local community, members sit as individuals. The Board has not included 'representatives' of community organisations or special interest groups, with one exception, viz The Board has usually included an employee of the government agency providing the garden's recurrent funding.



Principles

What we will become – our vision

The Olive Pink Botanic Garden will be widely recognised as an excellent arid zone botanic garden which displays the plants of central Australia and actively contributes to their conservation through horticulture and community education.

We will provide a safe community space which enhances people's understanding of central Australia's flora, the environment and the garden's heritage, in a setting which inspires people to reflect and relax.

The staff and Trustees of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden will apply best practices in horticulture, sustainable practices and interpretation. We recognise our responsibility to maintain a sustainable (financially sound) business, and our responsibility to maintain the garden in an environmentally frugal manner.

We will work with the Traditional Custodians and our other partners to develop and maintain the garden, respecting

its heritage value and our relationships with affiliated organisations and the community.

We will strive to enrich the social and cultural life of central Australia's people and its visitors.

Our Master Plan, developed in partnership with the community, will guide both current management and further development to ensure enjoyment of the garden by present and future generations.

We recognise the role of the Alice Springs Desert Park within the local community, the tourism market, and its role within the national and international botanic gardens community. We also recognise there is a role for another botanic garden within Alice Springs, with a clear point of difference. We will concentrate upon taxonomic plantings and amenity gardens.

Our garden will involve itself in the business of promoting skills in sustainable gardening. We will work closely with the local community, and help the people of Alice Springs develop skills in sustainable gardening at home.

What we will do

The Board of Trustees of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden is entrusted with ensuring that the heritage of the garden and its plant collection are protected for future generations.

The Board of Trustees is committed to ensuring that the garden will succeed in being recognised as an exceptional regional botanic garden, in displaying the flora of central Australia, actively contributing to its conservation and enriching the social and cultural life of its visitors.

To achieve this we will focus on the following:

The garden

We will:

- implement best practices in horticulture and sustainable management to maintain the garden and its infrastructure
- develop a Collection Plan. This will articulate with other planning documents
- provide a space for concessionaires, recreation and outdoor events
- develop and implement an Information and Interpretation Plan so that there are educational

opportunities in regard to plants, horticulture, conservation and sustainability, and ensure they are consistent with international best practices

- develop and implement an Infrastructure Plan to guide future development

Community engagement

We will:

- be influential in building and maintaining effective relationships, a strong volunteer base, community partnerships and networks
- through our visitor programs and garden design, enrich the social and cultural life of central Australia's people and its visitors
- respect and develop our relationship with the Traditional Custodians
- encourage community involvement and ensure that there is a sense of pride and ownership in the garden by the local community

- provide support to researchers

Heritage

We will:

- protect the heritage value of the garden
- respect the significant Arrernte cultural site within the garden
- honour the legacy of Miss Olive Pink

Business development

We will:

- maintain relationships with funding agencies and demonstrate accountability to these agencies
- seek funding opportunities
- build our philanthropic base
- develop partnerships to share resources and increase capacity
- manage and develop business and commercial opportunities, including concessionaires

- develop and monitor our marketing strategies, which will focus on our website and brochures

How we will do it

Governance

We will:

- maintain effective governance and management systems, policies, and processes
- have members with appropriate skills on the Board
- provide support for staff, feedback on performance and staff development opportunities
- ensure legal accountability
- ensure there is sufficient capacity to manage the garden into the future
- monitor and review the Master Plan.

Strengthen our relationship with the Desert Park

We will:

- continue to work closely with the Alice Springs Desert Park
- ensure that there are sufficient points of difference with the Desert Park in garden design. The Desert Park has a strong focus on habitats. The Olive Pink Botanic Garden has a strong focus on amenity gardens. Each garden will augment rather than compete with the other.
 - seek its assistance in:
 - plant propagation
 - mapping
 - records management
 - horticultural expertise
 - curation



Master Plan Description

The Garden Plan

Purpose

Our purpose is encapsulated in our name - a botanic garden that serves as a memorial to Olive Pink. Consequently, our activities are set by widely accepted functions of botanic gardens.

Botanic gardens are cultural institutions holding documented collections of living plants for the purpose of scientific research, conservation, display and education².

Our approach allows for flexibility and a unique perspective, but the basic principles remain.

Our general botanical focus as a place of excellence for the horticulture of central Australian arid zone plants is paramount. Many other uses of the garden arise from this, but we recognise that other uses should not detract from our basic purpose, or damage the garden.

² Source: International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation.

As well as being the first botanic garden for Australian arid zone plants, our history is enriched by the anthropological legacy of Olive Pink. Furthermore, the significance of the garden is enhanced in a special way by its location, which incorporates a site of cultural importance to the local Arrernte people.

Objectives

- To protect and conserve central Australian flora
- To display central Australian flora for public education and enjoyment
- To adopt best practice methods in sustainable horticulture for central Australian plants

Lack of staff remains a critical issue for the garden. Over the next five years we will work with our partners to increase our staffing levels to five full time equivalent positions.

Getting the job done

Out in the garden

The design of the garden encompasses many aspects - the physical landscape, the presentation of a wide variety of local plants, conservation priorities, and sustainable techniques, all of which enhance the education, appreciation and enjoyment of our visitors. The 16 ha site contains many types of gardens, and also features relatively undisturbed natural habitats on

three sides - the Todd River to the west and rocky hills on the northern and eastern edges.

Species collections

These are a garden highlight and focus for development. Many species of the same group eg eremophilas, are planted together, demonstrating the regional variety. A new area of local spinifex species is planned.

Rare and threatened species

The rare acacias, *Acacia latzii* and *A. peuce*, are a special feature, as are many other threatened species scattered throughout. More will be added whenever possible.

Specialty gardens

Plans include a new water-wise garden, relocation of the Bush Foods garden, a succulent garden and a 'dry jungle' garden. The waterhole will be upgraded and the tea-tree area, ponding banks and floodout planted with more appropriate riverine and claypan species.

An important native grass garden, initially created near the waterhole by Frances Smith, enabled people to identify various central Australian species. A new, larger native grass garden will be established and used as a 'node' for delivery of information about grasses.

Heritage areas

Some of Miss Pink's original bean trees occur in the western open woodland, and these will be conserved. *Tharrarletneme*, or Annie Meyers Hill, is a place of great significance to the local Arrernte people, full of cultural stories. Nurses Hill is a feature, as are several river red gums brought from Warlpiri country for Miss Pink.

Amenity gardens

Such gardens suit high use areas e.g. near the Visitor Centre. The café now has more of this area for its tables, and delineation of gardens has improved. The car park will be redesigned, with the inner area becoming a welcoming garden of showy plants. Plantings will be used to better define the main entrance road, and pathways enhanced with eye-catching species.

The two major pathways from the main entrance to the Visitor Centre (via the western open woodland or via the riverine area and mulga grove) will be more strongly marked. New plantings at the western gate will welcome visitors entering from the Todd River walkway.

Weed invasion, especially from the west, is a significant problem; methods to counteract this are being pursued.

We will carry out the practices of general plant and garden bed maintenance, weed and pest management, irrigation and

erosion control according to best practice, and using sustainable methods.

Behind the scenes

Documenting the collection

- A Living Collection Policy will describe how we select species for display, and include principles to avoid the creation of weeds and hybridisation. It will refer to the standard operating procedures we use for adding plants to the collection, voucher specimens, tagging, labelling and propagation.
- We are upgrading our computer records, and the system will also include a GIS framework for mapping of plant locations, and irrigation system. There will also be a revised plant directory available to the public (at the garden and on-line) for locating specific plants.
- We will regularly conduct a plant census in the garden.
- A Living Collection Plan will describe how the garden looks. It will be the botanical story of the garden and ensure we contribute to the conservation of the flora of central Australia and provide opportunities for people to learn about arid zone plants, horticulture, and landscapes.

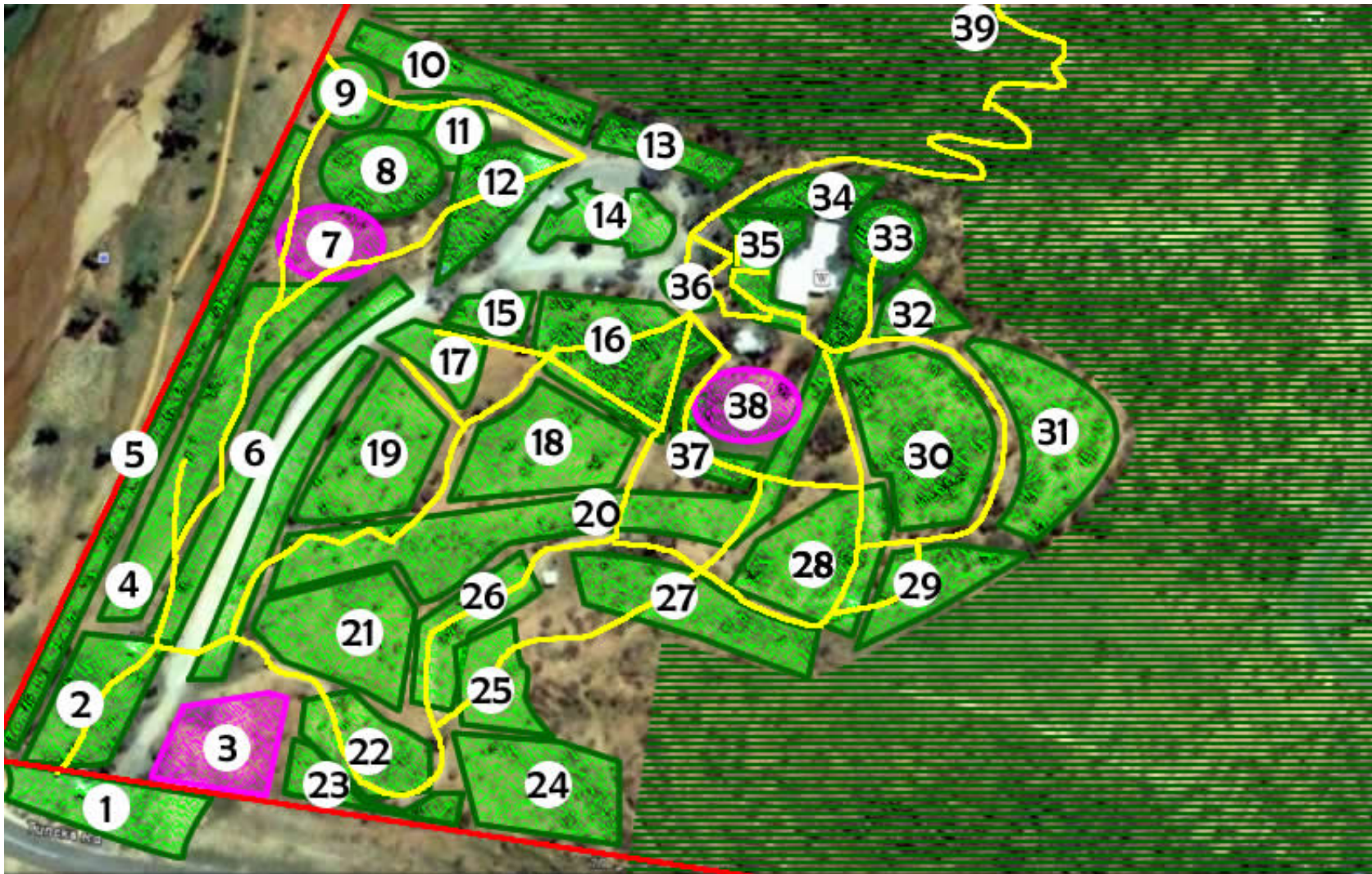
Conservation and research

- The garden does not have a research function. It does however implement best practices in horticulture and sustainable management in the garden, and is striving for a collection of known provenance. Consequently, it will make

itself available to the research community and will actively support the use of the collection in scientific research.

- Our specific areas of expertise include horticulture of arid zone plants, water-efficient gardens and sustainable garden practices for the arid zone.
- The garden is also able to act as a host organisation or 'base' for external researchers.
- We will build and maintain professional relationships with other botanical gardens and similar organisations





Map: Our dreams for the garden include these planting displays, and these visitor services.

See following table for numbers

Area	Comments
1. Main entrance, (outside fence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome garden • Display flowering perennials and annuals • High maintenance annual plantings • Sense of arrival • Height restrictions • Plants not labelled
2. Main entrance, western side of gate (inside fence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed interpretation and orientation node • Interpretation on OPBG history/purpose • Riverine species • Sense of arrival
3. Proposed service area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site for service area • Offices • Workshop • Garage • Soil bays • Holding nursery
4. Open woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage area (Miss Pink's bean tree plantings) • Open woodland • Main entrance path • Plant with shade providing trees • Restore bean tree plantings
5. Western fence line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open view to Todd river • Site for weed invasion • Plant with appropriate

	species to create buffer
6. Driveway plantings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of arrival • Cluster plantings • Display flowering perennials and annuals • To be developed
7. Proposed Visitor Centre location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Visitor Centre • Big picture interpretation • Sense of arrival • Disabled access • Toilets • Landscaped amenity gardens
8. Mansfield grove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established mulga grove • Picnic benches
9. Western pedestrian entrance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed interpretation and orientation node • Sense of arrival • Height restriction for view of hill
10. Hill slope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunset view • Develop path • Drainage measures needed
11. Labyrinth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional labyrinth • Move due to drainage issues
12. John Blakeman Garden area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blakeman Shelter • Proposed interpretation and orientation node • Reaching maturity • Showcase new waterwise irrigation techniques

13. Car park hill slope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hill slope species • Drainage issues
14. Car park garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of arrival • Proposed interpretation and orientation node • Complete redesign • Use periphery for major events eg eco fair • Significant trees
15. Kurrajong garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established plantings • Seating
16. Mulga grove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established area • High usage • Events and memorials • Proposed interpretive display for 'mulga story' • Seating/picnic tables
17. Bird-attracting garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghost gums maturing • Over-crowded • Extend area • Increase species diversity • High maintenance
18. New acacia garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New plantings of acacias • Increase species numbers • Walk-through paths • Designate some of the area to remain undeveloped
19. Ghost gum woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce under-storey • Table/chairs/picnic areas
20. Riverine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key area/natural feature

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complement existing run-off areas • Increase <i>Melaleuca</i> plantings • Increase plantings of Todd River species
21. Saline garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area to be developed as feature saline area • Potential site for ponding embankment • Succulent garden
22. Sand dunes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established plantings • Feature habitat • Extend garden area
23. Threatened species trial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student planting • Rare acacias • Well established
24. Dune hill slope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop callitris forest • Re-vegetate
25. Spinifex garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop species collection • Board walk • Interpretation
26. Grass walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed interpretation and orientation node • Grass walk to be developed • Species collection
27. Mallee hill slope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some established plantings • Increase species diversity • Erosion management
28. Mallee garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established garden • Proposed interpretation and orientation node

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce understorey plantings
29. Spinifex loop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocky hill slope • To be replanted
30. Acacia garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established garden • Acacia walk • Redesign paths through the garden • Replant species • Increase diversity
31. Eastern periphery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established area • Mixed species plantings • Site for ceremonies and memorials • Seating • Natural feel
32. Grass garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be redeveloped as grey-water demonstration garden • Interpretive displays
33. Waterhole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential feature attraction • High maintenance • Develop surrounds with appropriate species • Rare species • Reseal • OH&S
34. Café hill slope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop with 'dry jungle' species
35. Amenity gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual impression • High use area • Appropriate species

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High maintenance
36. Medicine garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established garden • Increase species • Improve interpretive materials
37. Ponding embankment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bush food walk • Proposed interpretive displays • Continue planting with appropriate species • Retain visibility of southern hill slope
38. Major events area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated site for • Concerts • Films • Major functions
39. Annie Meyers Hill (<i>Tharrarletneme</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacred site • Remove buffel grass • Regenerate

Interpretation and Information Plan

Purpose

One of the main features of the garden, when it officially opened to the public on 7 February 1985, was its air-conditioned visitor centre and educational display on the flora of central Australia. This proved to be one of the Territory's most enduring interpretive displays and a booklet of the text was a consistent seller. In the following years, some very good outdoor signs and display panels were produced. This Information and Interpretation Plan has been developed to guide the Board of Trustees, staff, volunteers and contractors. It will need to be reviewed regularly in line with developments at the garden and changing priorities.

Issues relevant to information and interpretation

Information and interpretation are not the same thing. A key assumption behind this plan is that both should be provided at the garden. Information is facts and figures. For example, we will provide information such as the names of plants, when they flower, the habitat in which they're normally found, and their traditional Aboriginal uses. In contrast, our interpretation is outcome-based. We will use *illustrative media* and *firsthand experience* to help people gain *new insights* or look at things from a *different perspective*. We want our visitors to walk away from a sign or display and say '*I never realised that*' or '*Now I understand.*'

So that we can ensure we have consistency across the garden and across all modes of interpretation and information, the Board of Trustees will borrow heavily from other gardens and develop a style guide.

Desired visitor experience

People come to the garden for differing reasons. They may well be seeking an educational experience and want to learn more about local plants. It might be an aesthetic experience they're after, such as a walk up Annie Meyers Hill to enjoy the view. However, they could just be looking for entertainment, something to eat or simply to 'escape from the world' for a while.

The role of information and interpretation

Labels, signs and display panels are expensive and have a limited life span. However, the Board of Trustees is committed to having an annual budget allocation for their production because it believes the provision of appropriate information and effective interpretation will:

- entice visitors to interact with the plants in the garden;
- enrich their experiences at the garden;
- arouse their curiosity and inspire them to learn more.

This will help the garden achieve its conservation goals.

Orientation signage to introduce people to the garden

Effective orientation signage needs to be developed to explain the layout of the garden and direct people to its different features according to their personal interests and reason for visiting.

Three orientation shelters, or shaded spots, will be developed and maintained as a matter of high priority. Two of these will be established to catch the attention of people entering the garden on foot by either the main gate on Tuncks Road or the small gate in the north-west corner. The other one will be in the car park, for people entering in cars or buses.

They will have:

- information about what people can do in the garden and where they can do it;
- unobtrusive but effective directional signs to lead them along walking tracks;
- indications of things to look out for, such as plants in flower, birds nesting, and insects that are active.

Labels and information panels about individual plants

Engaging information and interpretation about particular flora will be provided alongside the plants in the garden. Many plants will be labelled with both their common and scientific names. As appropriate, small panels will also be installed with additional information such as flowering time, medicinal uses,

adaptations to the arid environment, and plant/animal associations. The garden will encourage firsthand experience wherever possible.

Information and interpretation in the Visitor Centre

The primary function of the Visitor Centre will be to introduce people to the story of Miss Pink and some 'big picture' issues about the flora of central Australia. Some additional panels will be developed about:

- climate factors which produce arid conditions in Australia's inland;
- the gradual 'drying' of Australia in the last 2 million years and the evolution of the flora to cope with it;
- why our deserts contain so many plants, compared to deserts in other parts of the world.

The Visitor Centre will also be a venue for functions, exhibitions, meetings and presentations. This ancillary function will serve as a method of raising much needed venue, and will be in accordance with our vision for the garden. However, such use will not compete with the primary role of the Visitor Centre in interpretation.

The outside walls of the Visitor Centre

The outside walls of the Visitor Centre will not be a place for advertising. The glass display cabinets in place are effective and support the design of the building. Care will be taken when making any decisions about changing these cabinets.

Nodes for the delivery of information and interpretation

Some parts of the garden have already been identified as 'nodes' for the delivery of information and interpretation on significant themes. e.g. bush tucker plants, bird-attracting plants, and native grasses. Two further nodes will be developed as a matter of priority: the existing **John Blakeman Garden** and a new **native grass garden**.

The John Blakeman Garden was developed with sponsorship from *PowerWater* as a demonstration area about appropriate home garden design and plant selection for arid areas. A series of signs and display panels will be developed and installed at appropriate points in the garden and on the poles of the shade shelter.

A native grass garden was developed near the waterhole by Frances Smith to enable people to identify the various species that grow in central Australia. In line with the Garden Plan discussed earlier in this Master Plan, a new and larger native grass garden will be established in an appropriate place and it will become a 'node' for the delivery of information about grasses.

Heritage and cultural interpretation

There are a number of sites that lend themselves to a focus on the heritage of the garden. New signage will reflect Miss Pink's determination that the hills should honour pioneer

women of Alice Springs. Some signage will also be developed to draw people's attention to the three rows of trees planted by the river in the 1960s by Miss Pink and Johnny Jampijinpa Yannarilyi in honour of people who had helped her.

The existing signage at the summit of Annie Meyers Hill will be upgraded in consultation with the Traditional Custodians to increase community awareness of the hill's Aboriginal cultural values.

Face-to-face delivery of information and interpretation

Face-to-face delivery of information and interpretation is usually more effective than signs and static displays.

- The garden will develop a quality 'walks and talks' program with regular and frequent activities delivered by staff and volunteer guides.
- High priority will be given to ensuring staff and volunteer guides are readily accessible to answer people's questions and clarify issues related to central Australia's flora.

Electronic delivery of information

We will consider new, electronic forms of information delivery, as an alternative to traditional media such as pamphlets and signs, to ensure the garden meets the needs of all potential users and age groups.

Self-guided walks

Numbered markers and folders containing information about specific plants have been developed for the garden's Wattle Walk and Mallee area. The Board will develop similar packages for other parts of the garden, including through the use of electronic technology, and the written word.

Delivery of 'pre-visit' and 'take home' information

As well as continuing to develop its pre-visit information, in the form of pamphlets and an attractive website, the Garden will develop effective 'take home' information such as:

- a wide range of 'fact sheets' which can be emailed to people or printed from a computer in the office upon request;
- saleable items such as the booklet *Explanations of origins, adaptations and uses of many interesting central Australian plants*;

- web-based information to achieve the garden's community education goals.

Peter Fannin Reading Room and Frances Smith Library

The *Peter Fannin Reading Room* and the *Frances Smith Library* are key elements of garden's Interpretation and Information Plan. The latter is essentially a reference collection, rather than a lending library and contains specialist books about central Australian flora that may not be available at the public library. Most of the books in this library belong to the Australian Plants Society Alice Springs and the Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club and through the generosity of these clubs are available for use in the Reading Room and Library. The room will be a readily accessible place where visitors and locals can learn more about plants.

Some of Miss Pink's artefacts and artwork will be on display.

The Garden's history and the people who made it

A history of the garden will be compiled and made available to people to read in book/album format in the Reading Room. Visitors will be able to listen to the oral history recordings made by Dave Richards of people who knew Miss Pink.



Community Engagement Plan

A place for the community

The Trustees are appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette, under section 79 of the Northern Territory Government's *Crown Lands Act*. They all fill honorary positions, and are drawn from the Alice Springs community. In accepting a position on the Board, they do so with the understanding that their role is to manage the garden on behalf of, and in consultation with, the local community.

The Board recognises the importance of the garden as a place for the local community - a place of enjoyment, a place which enriches people's lives and a source of pride for the whole community. The purpose of this plan is to ensure the Olive Pink Botanic Garden will engage with the community, building and maintaining effective relationships, a strong volunteer base, partnerships and networks.

We will provide a diverse range of activities and events with the objective of creating an accessible and inclusive environment for all of our community.

Our sponsors and supporters

We will work with the Northern Territory Government, which provides most of our funding, and report regularly on the achievement of the objectives laid out in this Master Plan.

Olive Pink Botanic Garden has several existing commercial partnerships that are essential to the survival of the garden. We will endeavour to maintain these relationships and support local businesses, whilst continuing to explore new avenues of engagement with the commercial sector.

We will generate concise annual reports that outline our successes and future works.

So we can achieve all the aspirations laid out in this Master Plan, we will need to establish new revenue streams. For example, through grants, philanthropy and the establishment of a small space dedicated to events.

Our role in education

A key function of the garden is to provide educational experiences for its visitors. We will endeavour to educate our community about the environment, sustainability, heritage and Aboriginal culture. We will continue to build our relationship with schools and other educational institutions as our capacity increases. We will:

- encourage local schools and other educational institutions to visit the garden
- support school projects
- provide guided walks and talks

Community partnerships

Olive Pink Botanic Garden has strong relationships with several local community organisations. We will actively maintain and build upon these partnerships, strengthening community ownership of the garden.

Bringing the garden to life

The garden will actively engage with the community by presenting a broad range of activities and events; these will include public talks, workshops, art and music events, and health promoting activities. These events will be conducted in a manner which is sustainable.

Traditional Custodians

We will further develop our relationship with our Traditional Custodians. *Tharrarletneme* is of great significance to our Custodians. We need to work with our partners to rid this significant site of buffel grass. We will encourage the use of the site for cultural interpretation.

Friends of the Garden

We will re-establish the Friends of Olive Pink Botanic Garden and conduct activities that are mutually beneficial for members and the garden. This group will be an avenue through which the broader community can be involved directly with all facets

of the garden and its future development. The Friends group will operate in an inclusive manner. It will host activities such as:

- workshops and talks
- social functions
- field trips
- working bees.

We will build a strong volunteer base. Volunteers have been, and continue to be, a great strength of the garden. Indeed, were it not for our loyal volunteers, the Olive Pink Botanic Garden would not be in the strong position it is. We need to build further support. This will be reflected in our business planning.

The small staffing base means we cannot achieve all of our objectives without Friends of the Garden working as volunteers. This is particularly so in the case of:

- managing the Peter Fannin Reading Room and the Frances Smith Library
- providing a quality 'walks and talks' program with regular frequent activities for visitors to the garden
- having people available to answer visitor's questions and clarify issues related to central Australia's flora.

A tourism experience

We will endeavour to make the garden an attractive tourism facility providing an engaging experience of the central Australian landscape. We will build our partnerships with Tourism NT and Tourism Central Australia, enhancing the journey of visitors to our region, ensuring that they leave with a greater understanding of the central Australian environment. The garden will be a site for:

- guided walks
- information days for tour operators
- environmental volunteer opportunities
- events



Infrastructure Plan

Purpose

The Infrastructure Plan ensures that the garden's infrastructure is maintained to the highest of standards and that planned capital improvements are developed in a strategic manner. This Infrastructure Plan is driven by the Garden Plan and Information and Interpretation Plan. This plan has been developed to guide the Board of Trustees, staff, volunteers and contractors. It will need to be reviewed regularly in line with developments at the garden, available resources and changing priorities.

Relevant issues

Existing placement and purpose of infrastructure will determine future development.

The elements that this plan covers are:

- existing infrastructure
- future capital improvements
- repairs and maintenance requirements.

Objectives

- To enhance visitor experience

The standard of the infrastructure of the garden needs to complement the Master Plan's values - community ownership, heritage, ambience, integrity and education.

- To ensure the built environment is complementary to the natural landscape.

The plan recognises that the garden is a place where people come for an outdoor experience. Thus the built environment will be designed in a sensitive manner to complement the natural landscape and enhance the visitor experience.

Strategies

We will consider the Interpretation and Information Plan, and the Garden Plan to identify needs. We will operate using:

- an annual risk management analysis;
- an effective annual maintenance program; and
- clear daily work procedures.

Existing and future issues

The building

The main building was constructed in 1985 of rammed earth. This building incorporated a Visitor Centre, public toilets, administration area (in the middle) and a one bedroom self contained caretaker's flat on the northern end.

Around 2001 the caretaker's flat was converted to a small cafe; in 2008 the central offices were converted to a commercial kitchen and cafe, and the administration and library relocated to the north end of the building.

At this time, the Visitor Centre was also utilised as an exhibition space for local and related art shows rotating on a monthly basis.

The Board recognises that the current main building is not able to adequately function as a cafe, exhibition space, library and administration area. The primary function of the main room in the Visitor Centre is interpretation, as well as a meeting room.

This Plan envisages that a new visitor centre will be constructed near the John Blakeman Garden. Timing of construction will be intrinsically linked to funding opportunities. This will allow the current Visitor Centre to be utilised for other purposes.

Service area

The current service area is totally inadequate. It is located in an area of the garden such that unnecessary attention is drawn to its function.

This plan identifies, as a high priority, the need for a service area to be developed off Tuncks Road. We are likely to need an electrical substation.

Car park

We plan to redesign the car park. The current configuration wastes space and is not as safe as it might be. Moreover, it is not reflective of the standards to which we aspire for the garden.



Outdoor event area

Plant sales, fairs, celebrations, films and festivals will all benefit from an identified area within the garden.

The plan has identified the area south of the Gazebo to be discreetly groomed to better cater for these events.

Roads, paths and lighting

We recognise that we need to upgrade and better maintain our roads and paths. We will consider the installation of more lighting so we can use the garden more easily in the evenings.

The installation of solar powered lights will not require the digging of an extensive network of trenches. It is more affordable and will allow for the development of a lighting system as funds allow.



Appendix

This Master Plan is supported by policies and procedures which will help guide the direction and work of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden.

They include:

- collection policy
- collection plan
- horticulture action plan
- nursery propagation procedures
- mapping procedures
- annual risk management analysis
- business plan
- events management policy and procedures

