



16th Australasian **Botanic Guides Conference**

*Beauty rich and rare*  
Kings Park and Botanic Garden Western Australia

**16 - 20 September 2019**

## WALK SUMMARY: HEART OF THE PARK

**The Heart of the Park Walk is a 3 hour bushwalk experience which takes you into the heart of the Tableland of Kings Park.** You are within one of the largest inner-city parks in the world, in the middle of a city of 2.14 million people. You get off the concrete and onto sand tracks and experience the Banksia Woodland of the SW of Western Australia which is part of our Global Biodiversity Hotspot. On this walk you start to appreciate the complex interrelationships between all aspects of the ecosystem and how the unique environment you are in has been created.

### Soils/Topography

- Geologically ancient landscape. Soils are 'poor' and lack nutrients especially phosphates BUT plants and animals have adapted to this. Our soil is magic soil for our flora and fauna
- Soil changes from the Tableland to the grey Quindalup soil of the damper region and there is a corresponding change in the plants
- Soils have wealth of living things below surface. Compaction of soil damages roots, crushes termites, ants and even turtle frogs as well as vital seedlings you may not have seen. Damage opens the ground to weeds.
- Fungi - there are around 300 species in Kings Park. They have an important role in decomposing dead material. Many plants depend upon them eg Orchids.

### Plants

- Tree species – Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphcephala*). Christmas tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*), Sheoaks (*Allocasuarina* spp), Orange Wattle (*Acacia saligna*)
- Banksia Woodland - an endangered ecosystem. Thrive in low nutrient soils. Acorn Banksia (*Banksia prionotes*).
- Plants that may be seen: Kangaroo paws (*Anigozanthos* spp), Greenhood and/or spider orchids (*Pterostylis* spp./*Caladenia* spp.), 3 species of Jacksonia, sundews (*Drosera* spp.), *Synaphea spinulosa*, Zamia (*Macrozamia fraseri*), Balgas (*Xanthorrhoea* spp.), Parrot bush (*Banksia sessilis*), Cockie's tongue (*Templetonia retusa*).

### Birds/Animals

- There are around 50 different bird species in Kings Park including Rufous whistlers, Silvereyes, Red- and White-tailed black cockatoos, Galahs, Kookaburras, Wrens White-cheeked honeyeaters, Rainbow bee-eaters and Osprey.
- Animals that may be seen include Quendas, Ant lions and Blue-tongue lizards

### Human History

- Colonial history - including; chopping down of Jarrah and Sheoaks for export (Saw pits); *Banksia menziesii* for firewood
- Aboriginal uses – hunting, seasonal movements, gathering food and plants for medicinal uses
- Restoration sites – Old rubbish sites or tracks, Research into different techniques.
- Weed management – pink spray. Veldt grass.
- Fire control and ecology