



16th Australasian **Botanic Guides Conference**

Beauty rich and rare
Kings Park and Botanic Garden Western Australia

16 - 20 September 2019

WALK SUMMARY: PHOTOGRAPHING PLANTS

The unique and wondrous flora of Western Australia comprises at least 13,000 species and around 3,000 are growing in Kings Park.

Peak flowering time occurs during spring, attracting photographers from far and wide.

Whatever camera you have at hand, from mobile phone to full frame with macro lens, the suggestions below will help ensure memorable images:

1. Take your time, experiment with different angles and camera settings (such as aperture and focus if available).
2. Capture multiple shots of your main targets. While plants, unlike people, are unlikely to blink at the crucial moment, being able to select the image that is slightly sharper or has a better angle is always good.
3. Get as close as your camera will allow while keeping sharp focus.
4. Experiment with automatic and manual focus to see which gives the best results.
5. Fill the frame — well almost! If a particular bloom is to be the star, let it dominate the available space with just a small gap around the edges or perhaps some negative space on one side.
6. Avoid dappled light at all costs. Try to get your target all in the shade or all in the sun, although strong sunlight can sometimes result in deep shadows that may not be desirable.
7. To avoid blurry photos, hold your breath when pressing the shutter, increase the ISO, use a fast shutter speed, rest your camera on a solid object, or use a tripod.
8. Get low if you can, to add a variety of angles and looks to your images.
9. Bring a large plastic bag or waterproof square on which to sit, in case the ground is damp or dirty.
10. More information is available online at various sites such as <https://mashable.com/2014/06/21/floral-photography-tips/#KBq3mZ1TkZqG>.



Xanthosia rotundifolia or Southern Cross occurs naturally in the Great Southern.



Roe Gardens in Kings Park hosts a myriad of fascinating and unique plants such as *Grevillea dielsiana*.

Expect the unexpected and never be disappointed.