



The Friends of KI Threatened Flora

What is the Friends of KI Threatened Flora?

The Friends of KI Threatened Flora is a group of like minded people that want to be involved in saving the Island's threatened flora from extinction. The group is a new initiative and will be designed, owned and driven by community.

The partner organisations are here to support the formalisation of the group and provide expertise as needed.

Functions of the Friends group

Anyone can be involved, and there are a range of activities on offer that will include:

- Assisting with identifying and searching for priority plant populations and collecting seed
- Processing seed collections and undertaking germination trials
- Propagating plants so there are sufficient living specimens for orcharding
- Assisting with maintaining the living collections within the Seed Production Garden and helping with communication and outreach
- Growing and translocating plants to supplement populations or establish new populations
- Helping us grow partnerships and collaborations

I want to help! How can I get Involved?

The Friends of Kangaroo Island's Threatened Flora welcomes interested and new members! Fill out our registration of interest form online by clicking [here](#) or by typing the following into your search engine <https://kuhz0izo.paperform.co/>.

Alternatively, you can contact Bec Duffield on bec.duffield@ncssa.asn.au.

To support the implementation of the SPG you can donate to BioR—see their details under the Partners section

Scan me

Scan this QR code with your phone's camera and it will direct you to information about the plants of Kangaroo Island



Partners

- **SA Seed Conservation Centre** – Botanic Gardens & State Herbarium [click here](#)
- **Paton Family** – Property owners
- **Nature Conservation Society of South Australia** – 'Not For profit' Conservation organisation [click here](#)
- **BioR** – 'Not For profit' Conservation organisation [click here](#)



Botanic Gardens
and State Herbarium



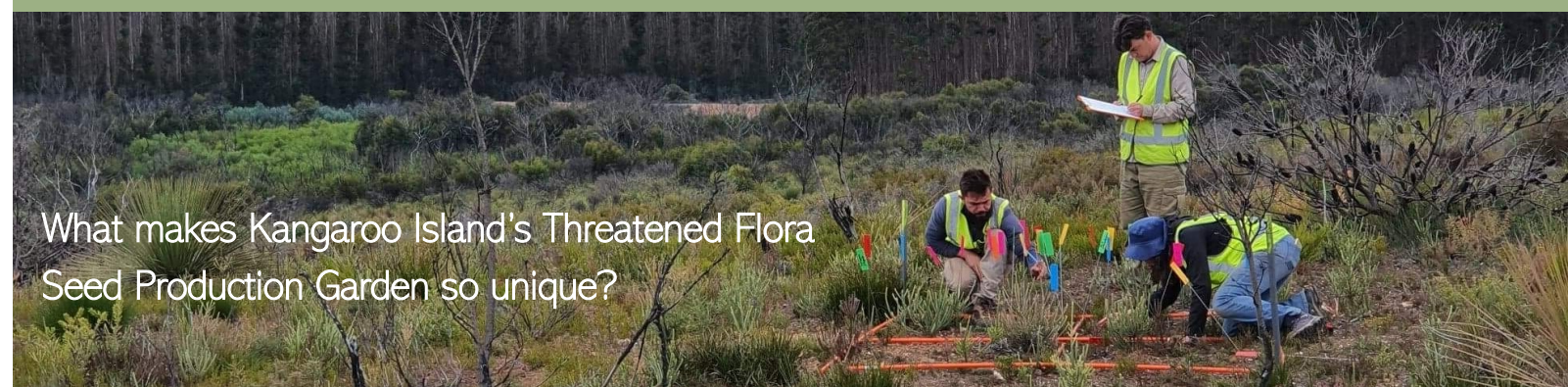
Government
of South Australia



Threatened Plant Seed Production Garden

at Cygnet Park Sanctuary, Kangaroo Island

A Seed Production Garden (SPG) is an area where target plant species are grown to produce seeds for the future. The seeds can be used for restoration, population supplementation, translocations, research and banking for future needs.



What makes Kangaroo Island's Threatened Flora Seed Production Garden so unique?

A living lab!

- It will contain living collections that have been sourced and stored for nearly twenty years.
- There are opportunities for people to see plants that they may not usually see.
- **It showcases threatened plant species that have not been recorded on the Island or seen for nearly 70-80 years.**

A place to connect and learn

- The community can **see & learn about the Island's spectacular flora**.
- There will be interpretation & specific landscaping to narrate the unique biology, life history & adaptation strategies of the plant species.
- It provides a unique experience for nature based tourism organisations, schools and community groups.

Combining conservation and science

- It will provide a place where research can be undertaken, and learnings shared e.g. pollination biology, seed biology
- **It will provide better resilience for many threatened plant species** that could be impacted in future large scale bushfires, floods or droughts.

Future proofing against extinctions

- It will improve the genetic diversity of many threatened plant species used in recovery projects.
- It provides protection at one safe locality for multiple fragmented populations.
- It can reverse the decline for many plant species. **Many species wouldn't have to be threatened if some simple & appropriate conservation actions are undertaken.**

A beautiful place to strengthen collaborations and partnerships

- The project will involve the right people and the right partners.
- It will involve motivated and like minded people so they can conserve the flora of Kangaroo Island for future generations. Connecting these people up will provide a **dedicated, energetic and passionate group of volunteers.**
- It is founded on strong partnerships, with reputational goodwill. These organisations have already invested in the concept and are investigating more opportunities through sponsorship and collaborative grants.

About the Project

Kangaroo Island’s Threatened Flora SPG is an initiative of the **South Australian Seed Conservation Centre** and supported by the grant funded ‘Island, Alps and Forests – Multi-regional seed conservation for bushfire recovery’. Funding has also been matched by donations and contributions from **BioR** and **Nature Conservation Society SA (NCS)**.

Project Progress

The herbivore proof exclosure has been constructed and seed collected for more than twenty priority species at multiple populations. Landscaping work for the SPG has been completed and more than sixty plant species have been propagated that will comprise the first living species collection at the SPG.

Seed Production Garden Aims

- Ensure that multiple populations of threatened plant species are conserved as ex-situ populations at one centralised & protected locality.
- Utilise these genetically diverse living collections for seed production for seed banking and recovery projects on the Island.
- Create awareness, education and research for selected threatened species e.g. pollination, seed viability, genetics.
- Activate and support community to be the custodians of ‘rare’ plant collections and to lead on-ground recovery actions.

Transitioning from Preparation to Implementation

The concept has progressed, with considerable interest from community. However to move to the next stage, the SPG requires funding for:

- Formalisation of a Friends Group that will be the heart and soul of the SPG
- Engage part time staff that will support the Friends group, manage the SPG and seek ongoing and long-term investment
- Development of a business model and growth strategy to ensure that the SPG is adequately funded, implementable, responsive, transparent and effective
- Expanding the SPG area including interpretation and educational material
- Creating a beautiful and welcoming hub , with infrastructure that complements the setting, so community can connect up and work together.

The SPG will be underpinned by community inclusivity, sustainable management practices and corporate responsibility.



The Location

The Threatened Flora SPG is located on Cygnet Park Sanctuary (CPS) which is a 300 hectare property set aside for conservation. The property is owned by the Paton Family and is currently being reviewed for listing as a Heritage Agreement that will protect the site and the SPG in perpetuity. The land for the SPG has been donated by the Paton Family. Some of the threatened plants could be established in the broader plantings at CPS to further secure threatened flora populations.

The Vision for the Threatened Flora Seed Production Garden:

Safeguard Kangaroo Island’s threatened flora **against extinction**, by maintaining genetically diverse **insurance populations**, mobilising **community** to utilise these living collections in recovery projects and sharing **knowledge & passion** for the island’s unique flora.

Twenty years of Ex-situ Conservation Work on KI = A Threatened Flora SPG

The SA Seed Conservation Centre has been collecting, testing and storing threatened flora collections from Kangaroo Island since 2003. These collections provide ex-situ conservation insurance against species extinction however it is not intended for these living collections to be retained as seeds forever. In the intervening years a small number of seed collections have been utilised from time to time for recovery projects on Kangaroo Island where appropriate. However a large number of these long term stored collections were utilised in the past couple of years as a consequence of the 2019 bushfires.

Multiple population collections historically collected and stored in the seed bank, could be represented in the KI living collections within the protected SPG. However, some of the quantities stored are insufficient for any **recovery project of scale**. This is partly why ‘seed orcharding’ a number of threatened species at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, to produce sufficient seed for current recovery projects, is also critical.