



KANGAROO ISLAND *Rare Plant Garden*

Many plant species don't have to be threatened if some simple & appropriate actions are undertaken.



A Rare Plant Garden ('Garden') is an area where target plant species are grown to produce seeds for the future, however our Garden has many other values such as:

- Mitigating against threatened plant extinctions.
- Providing a source of seeds for future restoration work and seed banking.
- It is a living lab, combining science and conservation.
- It is a beautiful place for community to connect and meaningfully contribute to conservation.
- People can experience and learn about the Island's spectacular flora.



**Watch the
video here:**

youtu.be/zfs4uZXC-rA



Twenty Years of Ex-situ Conservation Work on Kangaroo Island = A Rare Plant Garden

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

Multiple population collections were historically collected and stored in the seed bank. These populations could be represented in the KI living collections within the protected RPG. 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, to produce sufficient seed for current recovery projects, is also critical.



The Vision

To 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.

About the Rare Plant Garden

The Rare Plant Garden ("the Garden") is enclosed in a herbivore proof enclosure with landscaping that represents the different vegetation communities of the Island. Approximately 80 rare plant species, found nowhere else but the Island, are represented in the Garden.

In 2024 we will be constructing a shelter for the Friends Group, and are seeking opportunities to fund a learning centre, that has been designed specifically for our Garden.

Rare Plant 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 Kangaroo Island.
- Create awareness, education and research for selected threatened species, e.g. pollination, seed viability and genetics.
- Activate and support community to be the custodians of 'rare' plant collections and to lead on-ground recovery actions.

Our Future

- We will continue to ensure that multiple populations of threatened plant species are conserved and maintained in our Garden.
- Seed will continue to be collected for seed banking and plant propagation for recovery projects on the Island.
- We will work with partners and stakeholders to secure long term funding for the Garden and an innovative learning centre.
- Progress our business model and identify opportunities for citizen science and responsible eco-tourism.



Incorporating Fire Wise Thinking into the Rare Plant Garden

With the generous support of the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife*, the Garden will be able to safeguard the Island's unique threatened plants for the future, and mitigate against bushfire exposure by using a Fire Wise approach. The Garden is an excellent example of preparing biodiversity against bushfires as it provides protection at one locality for multiple plant populations, providing seeds for current and future restoration initiatives. We are also including Fire Wise plant species into the Garden and have developed a booklet on Fire Wise Strategies for Kangaroo Island and Fire Wise Plant Conservation technical guidelines.

* Funding for this project is supported by the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife and has received funding from the Australian Government through the Preparing Australian Communities local street



THE FRIENDS GROUP

Who are The Friends of KI Rare Plant Garden?

The core to the Garden's success is the group of passionate volunteers that are committed to saving the Island's threatened flora from extinction. The partner organisations are available to support the group and provided expertise if needed.



Functions of the Friends Group

A range of activities are offered:

- Help to identify and search for priority plant populations.
- Collect seeds and undertake germination trials.
- Propagate plants.
- Assist with maintaining the Garden.
- Grow and translocate plants to establish new populations.
- Help us grow new partnerships and inspire new community participation.



Anyone is welcome to join, contact Deb Laver at kirpg@bior.org.au to register your interest. To support the implementation of the Garden you can donate to BioR— www.bior.org.au

Scan this QR code for info. about the plants of Kangaroo Island:



Rare Plant Garden Partners

SA Seed Conservation Centre (www.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/science-conservation/seed-conservation-centre) – Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, Paton Family – Property owners, Nature Conservation Society of South Australia (ncssa.asn.au) – Not-for-profit conservation organisation, and BioR (bior.org.au) – Not-for-profit conservation organisation.

The KI RPG is located on Cygnet Park Sanctuary, a 300 hectare property set aside for conservation in perpetuity. The land for the RPG has been generously donated by the Paton Family.

