

Miss Olive Pink – an extraordinary life

Olive Muriel Pink arrived for the first time in Alice Springs in 1930, thus beginning a 45-year connection with Central Australia. Her passion for social justice for Aboriginal people led her first into an anthropological research career, and then into a protracted political campaign to establish a sanctuary for tribal Warlpiri people in the Tanami Desert.

Miss Pink is a legendary figure around Alice Springs – her letter-writing and telephone campaigns targeting bureaucrats and politicians on all manner of issues are the stuff of folklore, as are memories of her somewhat fierce and unyielding nature.

In 1956, at the age of 72, Miss Pink was successful in having the "Australian Arid Regions Flora Reserve" gazetted and became the Reserve's Honorary Curator – a position she held until her death in 1975.

Working alongside her Warlpiri gardener, Johnny Jampijinpa Yannarilyi, Miss Pink battled drought conditions, feral goats and rabbits to establish plantings of arid zone trees and shrubs within the Reserve. Some of the bean trees, red gums and mulgas she and Johnny planted survive within the Garden today.



The Garden today

Olive Pink Botanic Garden was opened to the public in 1985, and there are now over **350 Central Australian plants** represented in the Garden – 145 of these occur naturally within bushland on rocky hill habitat. There are 30 rare or threatened species present, and these are designated by two horizontal lines on their label.

A network of **walking trails** takes visitors around the Garden and up onto **Annie Myers Hill**, where great views of Alice Springs, the Todd River, and the MacDonnell Ranges can be gained. There are six **self-guided walks**, and **interpretive signs** help visitors learn more about desert plants and their uses, and about the life of the Garden's founder, Miss Pink.

Excellent **bird-watching** and **wildlife viewing** exist in the Garden - Euros (hill kangaroos) are commonly seen, and over 80 bird species have been recorded. Shelters dotted around the Garden provide quiet areas for **picnics** or relaxing, and these facilities can also be hired for **private functions**.





Visitors can enjoy a delicious gourmet home-style lunch or tea-break in this unique garden setting, and be entertained by the antics of resident bowerbirds and babblers while dining. A range of locally handcrafted gifts and a selection of cards and books are available in the Gift Shop.

The Café also caters for special breakfast and starlight dinner events, and can cater for private functions.

Opening hours

Tuesday – Sunday (closed Mondays) 10am – 4pm
 The Café is closed over peak summer months - see www.opbg.com.au/cafe for re-opening dates.
 Phone: (08) 8952 0190 Fax: (08) 8952 0238



Opening Hours

Garden & Visitor Centre: 8am – 6pm Daily
 (closed Christmas Day & Good Friday)
 Café and Gift Shop: 10am – 4pm Tuesday – Sunday
 (closed Monday).
 Café closes for peak summer months
 (see www.opbg.com.au for re-opening dates)

Getting there

The Garden is a 15 minute walk from either the centre of Alice Springs or from accommodation on Barrett Drive. Situated on the corner of Tuncks Road and Barrett Drive, on the eastern bank of the Todd River south of the CBD, there is ample car-parking available. The *Alice Springs Wanderer* mini-bus includes the Garden on its regular route.



Events

Exhibitions, guided walks, public talks and plant sales are regular Garden events. Visit www.opbg.com.au to see current events.

Help the Garden grow!

Although entry to the Garden is free, we rely on donations from the public to grow. Please give generously when you visit – all donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.

Contact us

Olive Pink Botanic Garden
 (Tuncks Road)
 PO Box 8644 Alice Springs NT 0871
 Ph. (08) 8952 2154 Fax (08) 8953 5522
 E-mail: garden@opbg.com.au
 Website: www.opbg.com.au

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Central Australian plants
 Self-guided walks
 Birdwatching
 Interpretive displays
 Cafe & Gift Shop