

OLIVE PINK BOTANIC GARDEN

DRAFT MASTER PLAN
2010-2030

Contents

The Olive Pink Botanic Garden Master Plan	6
The Draft Master Plan – how we got to this stage	7
SWOT Analysis	7
History of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden	9
Significance of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden	10
What we will become – our vision	11
What we will do	12
The garden	12
Community engagement	12
Heritage	13
Business development	13
Governance	13
Draft map	14
Legend of draft map	15
The Garden Plan	20
Purpose	20
Aims	20

Getting the job done.....	20
Out in the garden.....	20
Behind the scenes.....	21
Conservation and research.....	22
Supporting documents	22
Interpretation and Information Plan	23
Purpose	23
Issues relevant to information and interpretation.....	23
Desired visitor experience	23
The role of information and interpretation.....	23
Orientation signage to introduce people to the garden.....	24
Labels and information panels about individual plants.....	24
Information and interpretation in the Gazebo.....	24
The outside walls of the Visitor Centre.....	24
Nodes for the delivery of information and interpretation	25
Heritage and cultural interpretation	25
Face-to-face delivery of information and interpretation	25
Electronic delivery of information	26
Self-guided walks	26
Delivery of ‘pre-visit’ and ‘take home’ information	26
Peter Fannin Reading Room and Frances Smith Library.....	26
The Garden’s history and the people who made it	27

Community Engagement Plan.....	28
A place for the community	28
Relationships.....	28
Our role in education.....	28
Community partnerships	29
Bringing the garden to life	29
Traditional Custodians	29
Friends of the Gardens	29
A unique tourism experience.....	29
Commercial partnerships.....	30
Governance.....	30
Infrastructure Plan	31
Purpose	31
Relevant issues.....	31
Objectives	31
Strategies	31
Existing and future issues	33
The building	33
Service area	33
Car park.....	33
Outdoor event area	34

Roads, paths and lighting.....	34
Appendix 1.....	35
Appendix 2.....	36
Code of Conduct.....	42
SWOT analysis.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

DRAFT

The Olive Pink Botanic Garden Master Plan

The Board of Trustees of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden is pleased to present this first stage of a Master Plan for the Olive Pink Botanic Garden. This Master Plan will:

- establish a **vision** for the future of the garden,
 - guide the **development** of the garden for the next 20 years,
 - provide the **strategic** framework for the next 20 years, and
 - enable the Board of Trustees and staff of the garden to meet their **responsibilities** managing a contemporary botanic garden.
- the values and significance of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden
 - the strategic framework for the future management of the garden, including the vision and purpose, and strategic objectives which will guide decision making in the future.
 - the opportunities and constraints for the garden in terms of its development and management in the future

Consultation with a broad range of stakeholders is an integral part of the development of this Master Plan.

The Master Plan is supported by:

- the Garden Plan
- the Interpretation and Information Plan
- the Community Engagement Plan
- the Infrastructure Plan.

In drafting this Master Plan, we have considered the following:

- the strengths and weaknesses of the garden

The Draft Master Plan – how we got to this stage

SWOT Analysis

The Board of Trustees started meeting regularly from September 2009. They learnt heavily upon previous plans for the garden, their knowledge and their skills to bring the draft plan to this stage.

One of the first exercises was to conduct a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats [constraints]) Analysis, and the complete version of this is available at page 43.

Clearly the plant collection is a major asset, which is enhanced by the natural setting which incorporates rocky hills, open shrubland and the river landscape. The garden's location and ambience make it popular and easily accessible, and it is used by the community equally as a place of learning and relaxation, a place to see wildlife and a place for family gatherings. Miss Pink's story infuses the site with historical and anthropological meaning, as do the sacred places of the local Arrernte people, all factors that contributed to our listing as a Heritage Site in the NT.

Most of the weaknesses of the garden arise from the lack of sufficient resources. Our staffing levels are inadequate for even basic maintenance (both administrative and horticultural) of our plant collection and our infrastructure is ageing. There has been a lack of strategic planning at all levels, from

business and marketing to interpretation, and, significantly, the plant display. Our engagement with the Traditional Custodians could be improved, along with our connection to the national Botanic Gardens network.

A rectangular box with a thin black border, containing the text "Photo of.....?". The box is positioned to the right of the main text block and is partially overlaid by a large, faint watermark that reads "DRAFT".

On a more positive note, opportunities abound. Renewed interest in water-wise gardening gives us an important role in community education, and the Heritage listing of the garden makes us eligible for funding to develop important cultural and historical features. The garden also fits well with new tourism ventures such as 'Art, Land and Culture', the Red Centre Way and the Food Trail. The Solar Cities Programme gives us the opportunity to make our management practices more sustainable, while the popular Bean Tree Café and our

programme of exhibitions and events are attracting more visitors.

Apparent threats are relatively minor and relate mostly to the need to retain our community focus in competition with the tourism emphasis of many local businesses (this could equally be seen as an advantage!). We also need to tie in with Territory level goals for development and the revitalisation plans for the local CBD.



Photo of Eremophila??



Photo of event in garden

History of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden

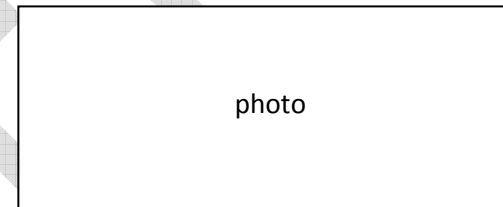
On 28 September 1955 Miss Olive Pink was granted a licence to occupy a half acre of Crown Land on the east bank of the Todd River 'for gardening purposes' until 30 September 1956. She then embarked on a campaign to have the surrounding land set aside in perpetuity as a reserve.

Her request was granted and the land was gazetted on 23 September 1956 as the *Australian Arid Regions Flora Reserve*, with Miss Olive Muriel Pink as its first curator. An additional area of land, mostly comprising the surrounding hills, was added to the reserve on 4 December 1959.

The garden is part of a substantial area of contiguous Crown Land that extends east from the Todd River on the southern edge of the Alice Springs Central Business District. The vegetation on the floodplain area was fairly modified and devoid of tree and shrub cover when Miss Pink took up occupancy there in 1956.

Miss Pink and her Warlpiri assistant gardeners spent the next two decades working in drought conditions and within funding constraints to develop her vision for the Reserve. Together they planted a somewhat eclectic collection of trees and shrubs native to the central Australian region as well as various cacti and garden flowers.

After Miss Pink's death in 1975, the NT Government assumed control of the Reserve and set about fulfilling her vision of a public area for the appreciation of native flora. It opened to the public in 1985 as the Olive Pink Flora Reserve, and was renamed Olive Pink Botanic Garden in 1996.



The garden is governed under the NT Crown Lands Act (2009) by a Board of Trustees which was first established in 1971. Miss Pink had requested in 1969 that the government appoint '*Permanent Trustees*' who would look after it when she could no longer do so.

The garden was listed on the Register of the National Estate in 1995 and included on the Northern Territory Heritage Register in 2009.

Significance of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden

The Olive Pink Botanic Garden is a significant regional, arid zone botanic garden. Miss Pink worked in an honorary capacity for over 20 years to achieve her vision of

“... forty-nine acres of ground on which to preserve and grow, native trees, shrubs and flowers - as a ‘soul-feeding’ antidote to the restless rush and materialism of what ‘modern living’ entails for so many in this isolated town¹.”

The garden holds significance for local residents as a place of enjoyment for the whole community, and also attracts national and international visitors. There are differing layers of visitor experience in the garden and people interact and respond in differing ways to these layers.

The garden contributes to the conservation of the flora of central Australia, provides opportunities for people to learn about arid zone plants, horticulture, landscapes and conservation, and encourages respect for this place and its heritage.

The garden is a place which can inspire people to appreciate the natural world and to enjoy its atmosphere and peace. It has the capacity to attract artistic people and inspire creativity.

Tharrarletneme, the northern ridge of the garden, known to Europeans as Annie Meyers Hill, is of great significance to the Arrernte speaking people.

The garden is a place of special ambience and of safety, a quiet reflective place for recreation and relaxation.

There is great integrity in the garden and in its works.

It has a wonderful location beside the Todd River.

Regardless of why they come, it is vital that people’s experience of the garden is enjoyable and memorable. That interaction with the garden should arouse some interest in central Australian flora.

Photograph of garden – perhaps with MacDonnell Ranges or Todd River in background

¹ Letter from OMP to H.C. Coombs, August 1974; in Marcus, J (1991) “Yours Truly Olive M Pink” p4

What we will become – our vision

The Olive Pink Botanic Garden will be widely recognised as an exceptional arid zone botanic garden which displays the plants of central Australia and actively contributes to their conservation through horticulture and community education.

We will provide a safe community space which enhances people's understanding of central Australia's flora, the environment and the garden's heritage, in a setting which inspires people to reflect and relax.

The staff and Trustees of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden will apply best practices in horticulture, sustainable management and interpretation.

We will work with the traditional custodians and our other partners to develop and maintain the garden, respecting its heritage value and our relationships with affiliated organisations and the community.

We will strive to enrich the social and cultural life of central Australia's people and its visitors.

Our Master Plan, developed in partnership with the community, will guide both current management and further development to ensure enjoyment of the garden by present and future generations.



Photograph of garden – perhaps with people in shot, using the garden.

What we will do

The Board of Trustees of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden is entrusted with ensuring that the heritage of the garden and its plant collection are protected for future generations.

Over the next 20 years the Board of Trustees is committed to ensuring that the garden will succeed in being recognised as an exceptional regional botanic garden, in displaying the flora of central Australia, actively contributing to its conservation and enriching the social and cultural life of its visitors.

To achieve this we will focus on the following:

The garden

We will:

- Implement best practices in horticulture and sustainable management to maintain the garden and its infrastructure
- Develop a Collection Plan. This will articulate with other planning documents.
- Provide a space for concessionaires, recreation and outdoor events
- Develop and implement an Information and Interpretation Plan so that there are educational opportunities in regard to plants, horticulture, conservation

and sustainability and ensure they are consistent with international best practices

- Develop and implement an Infrastructure Plan to guide future development

Community engagement

We will:

- Be influential in building and maintaining effective relationships, a strong volunteer base, partnerships and networks
- Strive to enrich the social and cultural life of central Australia's people and its visitors
- Respect and develop our relationship with the traditional custodians
- Encourage community involvement and ensure that there is a sense of pride and ownership in the garden by the local community
- Provide support to researchers

Heritage

We will:

- Protect the heritage value of the garden
- Respect the site as a significant Arrernte cultural site
- Honour the legacy of Miss Olive Pink

Business development

We will:

- Maintain relationships with funding agencies and demonstrate accountability to these agencies
- Research and access future funding opportunities
- Build the philanthropic base
- Develop partnerships to share resources and increase capacity
- Manage and develop business/commercial opportunities, including concessionaires

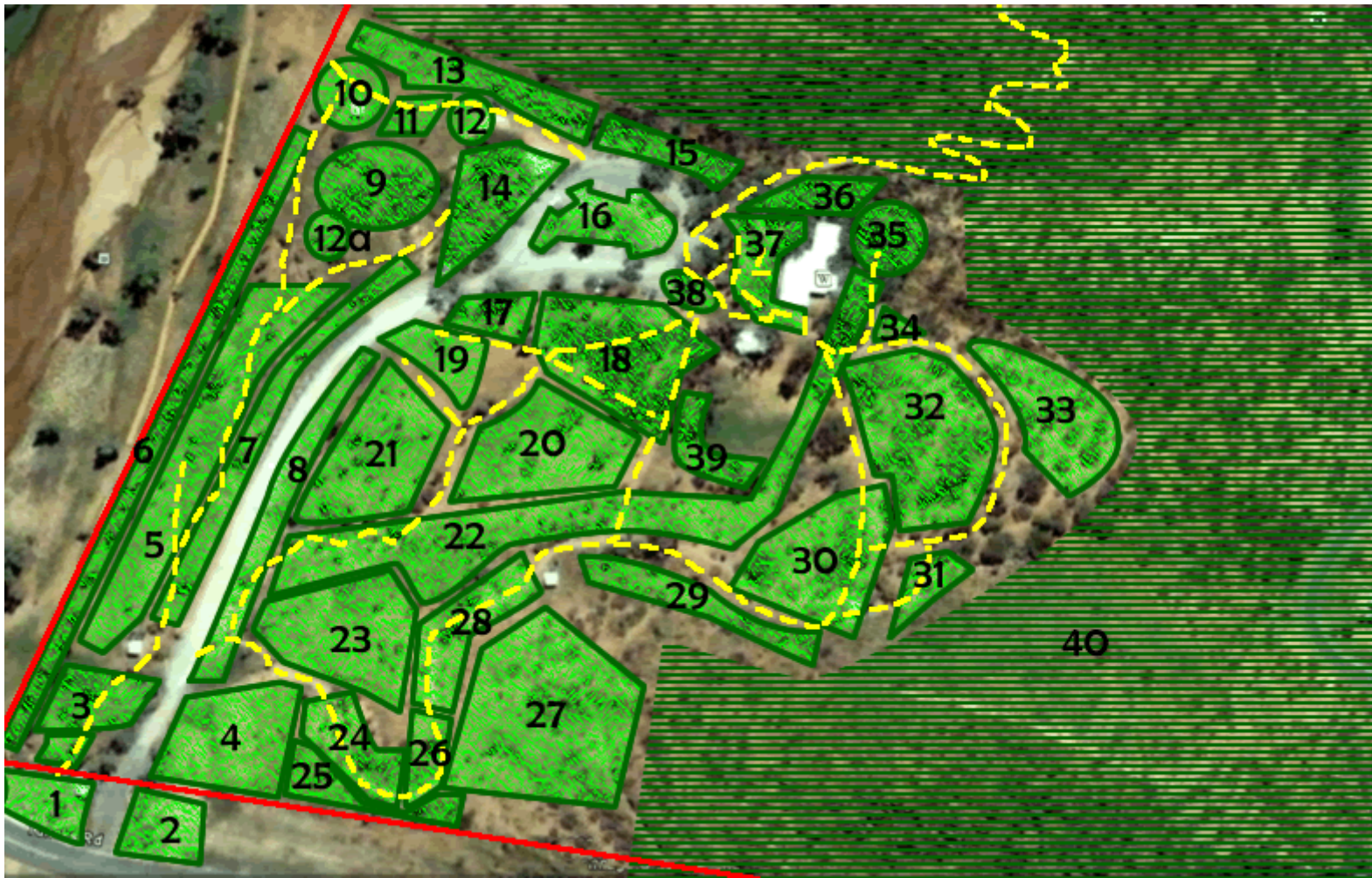
- Promote the Olive Pink Botanic Garden so that it is a key attraction/destination of choice in central Australia

- Develop and monitor our marketing strategies which will focus on our website and brochures

Governance

We will:

- Maintain effective governance and management systems, policies, and processes
- Have appropriate skills on the Board
- Provide support for staff, feedback on performance and staff development opportunities
- Ensure legal accountability
- Ensure there is sufficient capacity to sustainably manage the garden into the future
- Monitor and review the strategic objectives and the Master Plan.



Draft map: Our dreams for the garden include these planting displays, and these visitor services.

Legend of draft map

Area	Comments
1. Main entrance outside western	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome garden • High maintenance annual plantings • Height restrictions • Not labelled
2. Main entrance outside eastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome garden • Height restrictions • Not labelled
3. Main entrance inside western	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian entrance • Welcome garden • Information node • Creek-line to be developed
4. Main entrance inside eastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site for proposed Information and Education Centre • Currently used for material storage • Saline
5. Open woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage area (Miss Pink's bean tree plantings) • Open woodland • Replant/extend plantings
6. Western fence line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open view to Todd river • Site for weed invasion • Plant with appropriate species to create buffer
7. Driveway western side	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sense of arrival • Cluster plantings of sennas etc

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be developed
8. Driveway eastern side	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sense of arrival Cluster plantings To be developed
9. Mansfield grove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mulga grove Introduce more understorey species
10. Western pedestrian entrance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Node Sense of arrival Height restriction for view of hill
11. Western entrance saline area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed with appropriate species
12. Labyrinth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drainage issues Potential to move to new site (12a)
13. Hill slope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunset view Develop path Drainage measures needed
14. Blakeman garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaching maturity Showcase new waterwise irrigation techniques Information node
15. Car park hillslope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop for Bushfood garden Drainage issues
16. Carpark garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sense of arrival Information node Complete redesign Use periphery for major events Significant trees
17. Kurrajong garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established plantings

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating
18. Mulga grove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established area • High usage • Events and memorials • New interps 'mulga story' • Seating
19. Bird-attracting garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghost gums maturing • Over-crowded • Extend area • Increase species diversity • High maintenance
20. New Acacia garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New plantings of acacias • Increase species numbers • Walk through paths • Designate some of the area to remain undeveloped
21. Ghost gum woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce understorey • Table / chairs
22. Riverine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key area / natural feature • Complement existing run off areas • Increase <i>melaleuca</i> plantings • Increase plantings of Todd River species •
23. Saline garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area to be developed as feature saline area • Potential site for ponding embankment • Succulent garden
24. Sand dunes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established plantings • Feature habitat

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend garden area
25. Acacia trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student planting • Rare acacias • Well established
26. Spinifex planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area to be developed into spinifex garden
27. Dune hillslope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural hill slope • Some <i>Callitris</i> plantings • Re-vegetate
28. Grass walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass walk to be developed • Information node
29. Mallee hillslope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some established plantings • Increase species diversity • Erosion management
30. Mallee garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established garden • Information node • Introduce understorey
31. Spinifex loop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocky hill slope • To be replanted
32. Acacia garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established garden • Acacia walk • Re design paths through the garden • Replant species • Increase diversity
33. Eastern periphery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established area • Mixed species plantings • Site for ceremonies and memorials • Natural feel
34. Grass garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be re developed as grey-water garden
35. Waterhole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential feature attraction • High maintenance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop surrounds with appropriate species • Rare species • Reseal • OH&S
36. Café hill-slope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop With 'dry jungle' species
37. Amenity garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual impression • High use area • Appropriate species • High maintenance
38. Medicine garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established garden • Increase species • Improve interps
39. Ponding embankment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events area • Plant with appropriate species • Retain visibility of southern hill slope
40. Annie Meyers Hill (<i>note - not numbered on map; located at top of map</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacred site • Remove buffel • Regenerate

The Garden Plan

Purpose

Our purpose is encapsulated in our name - a botanic garden that serves as a memorial to Olive Pink. Consequently, our activities are set by widely accepted functions of Botanic Gardens.

Botanic gardens are cultural institutions holding documented collections of living plants for the purpose of scientific research, conservation, display and education².

Our approach allows for flexibility and a unique perspective, but the basic principles remain.

Our general botanical focus as a place of excellence for the horticulture of central Australian arid zone plants is paramount. Many other uses of the garden arise from this, but we recognise that other uses should not detract from our basic purpose, or damage the garden.

As well as being the first botanic garden for Australian arid zone plants, our history is enriched by the anthropological legacy of Olive Pink. Furthermore, the significance of the garden is enhanced in a special way by its location, which incorporates a site of cultural importance to the local Arrernte people.

² Source: International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation.

Aims

- Protect and conserve central Australian flora
- Display central Australian flora for public education and enjoyment
- Develop best practice methods in sustainable horticulture for central Australian plants

Lack of staff remains a critical issue for the garden and our plans very much depend on additional resources. At the very least, we would like to have 3 full-time and 2 casual staff by 2015.

Getting the job done

Out in the garden

The design of the garden encompasses many aspects - the physical landscape, the presentation of a wide variety of local plants, conservation priorities, and sustainable techniques, all of which enhance the education, appreciation and enjoyment of our visitors.

Our small area lends itself to displays of certain species (e.g. mallees) and taking advantage of natural topography (e.g. ti-trees in low-lying areas. Some areas draw attention to habitat features (e.g. adjacent dry river bed habitats, the 'natural' rocky hills) or highlight cultural stories (e.g. Annie Meyers Hill).

Specialised gardens will continue to be a feature of the garden. These will include a new water-wise garden, relocation of the Bush Foods garden and an area displaying a variety of local spinifex species. The whole area from the waterhole down to the floodout will be managed to create an integrated habitat, incorporating the riverine flow below the waterhole, the melaleuca site, ponding banks and floodout. Consequently some of the component areas will be upgraded. The waterhole will be overhauled and access to it from the café area restricted, while the riverine area will be planted with native species that occur along the Todd River. The melaleuca site will be planted with more species and, in the short term, the ponding banks will form a boundary to an events area and will be planted with claypan species.

We plan to redesign the car park and to plant the inner area with a welcoming garden of showy plants. The driveway will be delineated by appropriate species to better define its edges and the pathways will be planted with species to catch the attention of those who walk along them.

Two main pathways from the Tuncks Road entrance to the Visitor Centre will be more strongly identified; the one passing through the western woodland area, the John Blakeman Garden and children's play area has views to the Todd River, and the one meandering through the riverine habitat area offers glimpses of the dunes and saline areas. New plantings at the western pedestrian entrance will create a good first impression for visitors entering from the Todd River walkway.

We acknowledge that the café area and Visitors Centre is a high use area and as such needs a complete redesign. Already the café has been given more of this area for its tables, and better delineation of some gardens has occurred.

The western open woodland is a heritage area which contains some of Miss Pink's original bean trees and must be conserved as such. The western fence line and other boundaries are subject to weed invasion and methods to counteract this are being pursued.

We will carry out the practices of general plant and garden bed maintenance, weed and pest management, irrigation and erosion control according to best practice, and using sustainable methods.

Behind the scenes

Documenting the collection

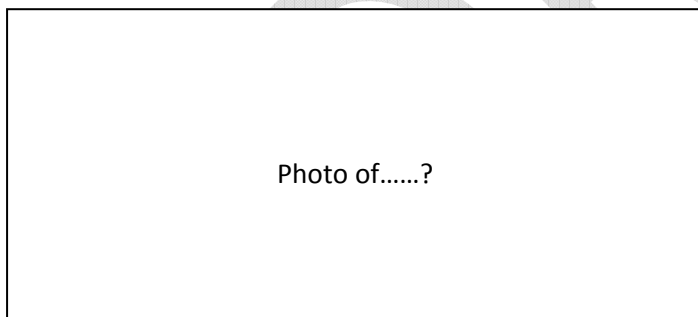
- A Collection Policy will describe how we select species for display, principles to avoid the creation of weeds and hybridisation. It will refer to the standard operating procedures we use for adding plants to the collection, voucher specimens, tagging, labelling and propagation.
- We are upgrading our computer records, and the system will also include a GIS framework for mapping of plant locations, irrigation system etc. There will also be a revised plant

directory available to the public (at the garden and on-line) for locating specific plants.

- We will regularly conduct a plant census in the garden.
- A Collection Plan will describe how the garden looks. It will be the botanical story of the garden and ensure we contribute to the conservation of the flora of central Australia and provide opportunities for people to learn about arid zone plants, horticulture, and landscapes.

Conservation and research

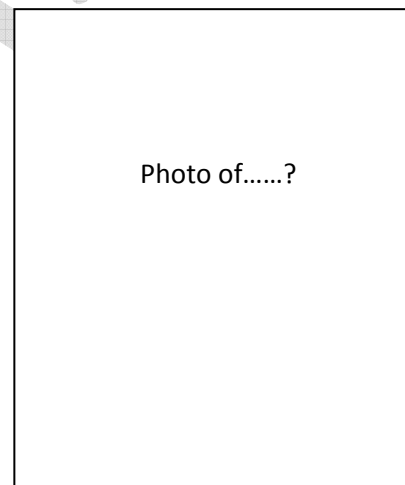
- While having a very limited capacity to conduct our own research programmes, OPBG is well placed to provide information to external researchers.
- Our specific areas of expertise include horticulture of arid zone plants, water-efficient garden and sustainable garden practices for the arid-zone.
- OPBG is also able to act as a host organisation or 'base' for external researchers.



- We will build and maintain professional relationships with other botanical gardens and similar organisations

Supporting documents

- OPBG Collection Plan and OPBG Collection Policy
- OPBG Horticulture Action Plan
- OPBG Interpretation and Information Plan
- OPBG Infrastructure Plan
- OPBG Community Engagement Plan



Interpretation and Information Plan

Purpose

One of the main features of the garden, when it officially opened to the public on 7 February 1985, was its air-conditioned visitor centre and educational display on the flora of central Australia. This proved to be one of the Territory's most enduring interpretive displays and a booklet of the text was a consistent seller. In the following years, some very good signs and display panels were produced. This Information and Interpretation Plan has been developed to guide the Board of Trustees, staff, volunteers and contractors. It will need to be reviewed regularly in line with developments at the garden and changing priorities.

Issues relevant to information and interpretation

Information and interpretation are not the same thing. A key assumption behind this plan is that both should be provided at the garden. Information is facts and figures. For example, we will provide information such as the names of plants, when they flower, the habitat in which they're normally found, and their traditional Aboriginal uses, etc. In contrast, our interpretation is outcome-based. We will use *illustrative media* and *firsthand experience* to help people gain *new insights* or look at things from a *different perspective*. We want our visitors to walk away from a sign or display and say '*I never realised that*' or '*Now I understand.*'

So that we can ensure we have consistency across the garden and across all modes of interpretation and information, the Board of Trustees will develop a style manual.

Desired visitor experience

People come to the garden for differing reasons. They may well be seeking an educational experience and want to learn more about local plants. It might be an aesthetic experience they're after, such as a walk up Annie Meyers Hill to enjoy the view. However, they could just be looking for entertainment, something to eat or simply to 'escape from the world' for a while.

The role of information and interpretation

Labels, signs and display panels are expensive and have a limited life span. However, the Board of Trustees is committed to having an annual budget allocation for their production because it believes the provision of appropriate information and effective interpretation will:

- entice visitors to interact with the plants in the garden;
- enrich their experiences at the garden;
- arouse their curiosity and inspire them to learn more.

This will help the garden achieve its conservation goals.

Orientation signage to introduce people to the garden

Effective orientation signage needs to be developed to explain the layout of the garden and direct people to its different features according to their personal interests and reason for visiting.

Three orientation shelters, or shaded spots, will be developed and maintained as a matter of high priority. Two of these will be established to catch the attention of people entering the garden on foot by either the main gate on Tuncks Road or the small gate in the north-west corner. The other one will be in the carpark, for people entering in cars or buses.

They will have:

- information about what people can do in the garden and where they can do it;
- unobtrusive but effective directional signs to lead them along walking tracks;
- indications of things to look out for, such as plants in flower; birds nesting, and insects that are active.

Labels and information panels about individual plants

While being careful not to overload people with information, or have a negative impact on the views within the garden, engaging information and interpretation about particular flora will be provided alongside the plants in the garden. They will be labelled with both their common and scientific names. As

appropriate, small panels will also be installed with additional information such as flowering time, medicinal uses, adaptations to the arid environment, and plant/animal associations. The garden will encourage firsthand experience wherever possible.

Information and interpretation in the Gazebo

The primary function of the Visitor Centre will, in future, be for functions, exhibitions, meetings and presentations. When it was opened in 1985, it contained information about Miss Pink and display panels which addressed some complex, 'big picture' issues about the flora of central Australia. Some modifications will be made to the Gazebo to enable it to assume this educational role. The new display panels produced for the Visitor Centre in February 2009 will be relocated there and some additional panels developed about:

- climate factors which produce arid conditions in Australia's inland;
- the gradual 'drying' of Australia in the last 2 million years and the evolution of the flora to cope with it;
- why our deserts contain so many plants, compared to deserts in other parts of the world.

The outside walls of the Visitor Centre

The Board of Trustees is concerned about the appearance of the Visitor Centre, in line with the garden's stated aim to be a place of special ambience, quiet and reflective. Glass display cabinets were installed near the entrance to highlight things happening at the garden. They have proven effective as a

medium for disseminating information and don't impact adversely on the aesthetics of the rammed earth walls. However, careful consideration will be given before any additional display cases, signs or display panels are attached to the walls. This includes advertising material.

Nodes for the delivery of information and interpretation

Some parts of the garden have already been identified as 'nodes' for the delivery of information and interpretation on significant themes. e.g. bush tucker plants, bird-attracting plants, and native grasses. Two further nodes will be developed as a matter of priority: the existing **John Blakeman Garden** and a new **native grass garden**.

The John Blakeman Garden was developed with sponsorship from *PowerWater* as a demonstration area about appropriate home garden design and plant selection for arid areas. A series of signs and display panels will be developed and installed at appropriate points in the garden and on the poles of the shade shelter.

A native grass garden was developed near the waterhole by Frances Smith to enable people to identify the various species that grow in central Australia. In line with the Garden Plan discussed earlier in this Master Plan, a new and larger native grass garden will be established in an appropriate place and it will become a 'node' for the delivery of information about grasses.

Heritage and cultural interpretation

There are a number of sites at the garden that lend themselves to a focus on the 'heritage of Miss Pink'. The existing, faded history sign at the base of Annie Meyers Hill will be replaced and a new sign erected at the base of Nurses Lookout. They will reflect Miss Pink's determination that the hills should honour pioneer women of Alice Springs. Some signage will also be developed to draw people's attention to the three rows of bean trees planted by the river in the 1960s by Miss Pink and Johnny Jampijinpa Yannarilyi in honour of people who had helped her.

The existing signage at the summit of Annie Meyers Hill will be upgraded in consultation with the traditional custodians to increase community awareness of the hill's Aboriginal cultural values.

Face-to-face delivery of information and interpretation

Face-to-face delivery of information and interpretation is usually more effective than signs and static displays.

- The garden will develop a quality 'walks and talks' program with regular and frequent activities delivered by staff and volunteer guides.

- High priority will be given to ensuring staff and volunteer guides are readily accessible to answer people's questions and clarify issues related to central Australia's flora.

Electronic delivery of information

The Board will consider new, electronic forms of information delivery, as an alternative to traditional media such as pamphlets and signs, to ensure the garden meets the needs of all potential users and age groups.

Self-guided walks

Numbered markers and folders containing information about specific plants have been developed for the garden's Wattle Walk and Mallee area. The Board will develop similar packages for other parts of the garden and explore the possibility of delivering information via MP3 players, as well as the written word.

Delivery of 'pre-visit' and 'take home' information

As well as continuing to develop its pre-visit information, in the form of pamphlets and an attractive website, the Garden will develop effective 'take home' information such as:

- a wide range of 'fact sheets' which can be emailed to people or printed from a computer in the office upon request;
- saleable items such as the booklet *Explanations of origins, adaptations and uses of many interesting central Australian plants* which was a big seller for many years and reprinted a number of times;
- web-based information to achieve the garden's community education goals.

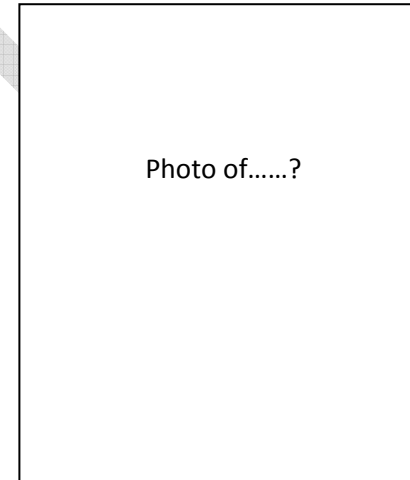
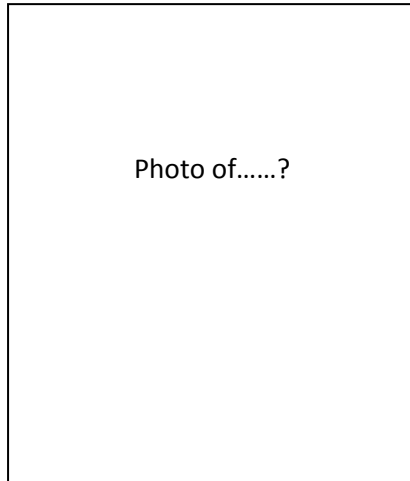
Peter Fannin Reading Room and Frances Smith Library

The *Peter Fannin Reading Room* and the *Frances Smith Library* are key elements of garden's Interpretation and Information Plan. The latter is essentially a reference collection, rather than a lending library and contains specialist books about central Australian flora that may not be available at the public library. The Board will ensure the room is readily accessible and is a comfortable and attractive place where visitors and locals can learn more about plants.

Some of Miss Pink's artefacts and artwork will be on display.

The Garden's history and the people who made it

A history of the garden will be compiled and made available to people to read in book/album format in the Peter Fannin Reading Room. MP3 players are available for visitors so that they can listen to the oral history recordings made by Dave Richards of people who knew Miss Pink.



Community Engagement Plan

A place for the community

The Board of Trustees recognises the importance of the garden as a place for the local community - a place of enjoyment, a place which enriches people's lives and a source of pride for the whole community. The purpose of this plan is to guide community engagement practices to ensure the social, economic and environmental viability and sustainability of the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens

Olive Pink Botanic Garden will engage with the community through building and maintaining effective relationships, a strong volunteer base, partnerships and networks.

We will provide a diverse range of activities and events with the objective of creating an accessible and inclusive environment for all of our community.

Relationships

We will be influential in building and maintaining effective relationships. We will work with the Northern Territory Government on other foci. We will work most closely with the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and

Sport. This is the Department with which we are most closely aligned, and the Department which provides most of our funding.

We will generate small annual reports that celebrate our successes and outline our future works.

So we can achieve the aspirations laid out in this Master Plan, we need to establish new revenue streams. This may be through grants, through philanthropy and through the establishment of a small space dedicated to events.

We will have a strong volunteer base. Volunteers have been, and continue to be a great strength of the garden. Indeed, were it not for our loyal volunteers, the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens would not be in the strong position it is. We need to build further support. This will be reflected in our business planning.

Our role in education

A key function of the garden is to provide an educational experience for its visitors. We will endeavour to educate our community about the environment, sustainability, heritage and Aboriginal culture. We will continue to build our relationships with educational institutions as our capacity increases. We will encourage:

- visits to local schools for information days

- school projects
- guided walks
- research

Community partnerships

Olive Pink Botanic Garden has strong relationships with several local community organisations. We will actively maintain and build upon these partnerships, supporting their objectives and strengthening community ownership of the garden.

Bringing the garden to life

The garden will actively engage with the community by presenting a broad range of activities and events; these will include: public talks, workshops, arts events, music and health promoting activities. These events will be conducted in a manner which is sustainable.

Traditional Custodians

We will further develop our relationship with our Traditional Custodians. Tharrarletneme is of great significance to our Custodians. We need to work with our partners to rid this significant site of buffel grass.

We will encourage the use of the site for cultural interpretation.

Friends of the Gardens

We will re-establish the Friends of Olive Pink Botanic Garden and conduct activities that are mutually beneficial for members and the garden. This group will be an avenue through which the broader community can be involved directly with all facets of the garden and its future development. The Friends group will operate in an inclusive manner. It will host activities such as:

- workshops
- BBQ's
- field trips
- working bees.

A unique tourism experience

The garden will endeavour to be an attractive tourism destination providing a unique experience of the central Australian landscape. We will build our partnerships with Tourism NT and Tourism central Australia enhancing the journey of visitors to our region, ensuring that they leave with a greater understanding of the central Australian environment. The garden will be a site for:

- Guided walks
- Information days
- Environmental volunteer opportunities
- Events

Commercial partnerships

Olive Pink Botanic Garden has several existing commercial partnerships that are essential to the survival of the Garden. We will endeavour to maintain these relationships and support local businesses, whilst continuing to explore new avenues of engagement with the commercial sector.

We will be influential in building and maintaining effective relationships, a strong volunteer base, partnerships and networks. We will:

1. strive to enrich the social and cultural life of central Australia's people and its visitors;
2. respect and develop our relationship with the traditional custodians;
3. encourage community involvement and ensure that there is a sense of pride and ownership in the garden by the local community; and
4. provide support to research.

Governance

We have developed a code of conduct for the Board of Trustees (found on page 42). The Board commits to ensuring effective governance.

Through the staff of the garden, we will augment existing policies and procedures to enable effective and responsible management of the garden, its assets and its people.

The Board will regularly monitor its progress in achieving the goals outlined in this Master Plan.

Image of Desert Rose? NT floral emblem

Infrastructure Plan

Purpose

The Infrastructure Plan ensures that the garden's infrastructure is maintained to the highest of standards and that planned capital improvements are developed in a strategic manner. This Infrastructure Plan is driven by the Garden Plan and Information and Interpretation Plan. This plan has been developed to guide the Board of Trustees, staff, volunteers and contractors. It will need to be reviewed regularly in line with developments at the garden, available resources and changing priorities.

Relevant issues

Existing placement and purpose of infrastructure will determine future development.

The elements that this plan covers are:

- existing infrastructure
- future capital improvements

- repairs and maintenance requirements.

Objectives

- To enhance visitor experience

The standard of the infrastructure of the garden needs to compliment the Master Plan's values - community ownership, heritage, ambience, integrity and education.

- To ensure the built environment is complementary to the natural landscape.

The plan recognises that the garden is a place where people come for an outdoor experience. Thus the built environment will be designed in a sensitive manner to complement the natural landscape and enhance the visitor experience.

Strategies

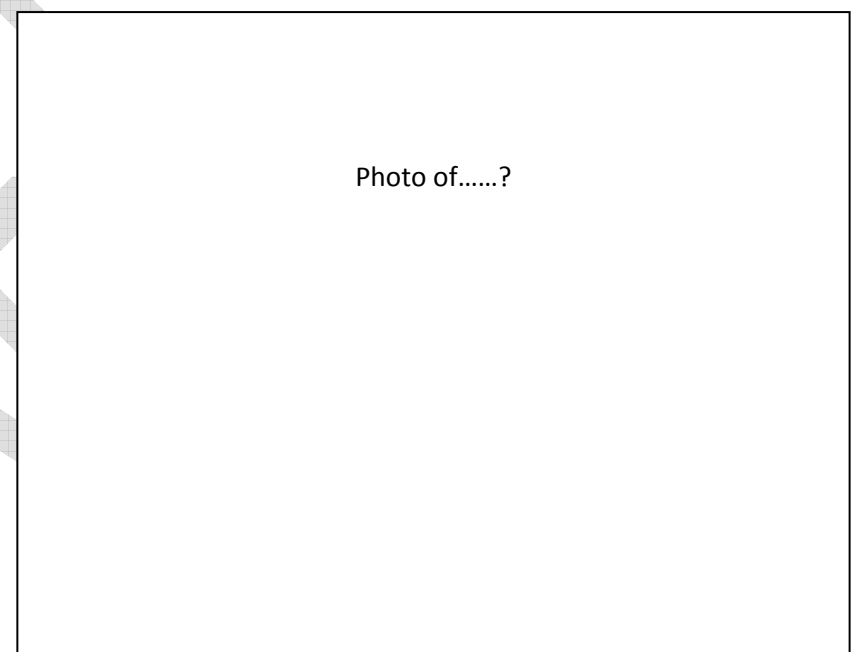
We will consider the Interpretation and Information Plan, and the Garden Plan to identify needs. We will operate using:

- an annual risk management analysis;
- an effective annual maintenance program; and

- clear daily work procedures.

There is an early draft of analysis of existing and proposed infrastructure in Appendix 2 on page 36.

DRAFT



Existing and future issues

The building

The main building was constructed in 1985 of rammed earth. This building incorporated a Visitors Centre, public toilets, administration area (in the middle) and a one bedroom self contained caretaker's flat on the northern end.

Around 2001 the Caretakers flat was converted to a small cafe; in 2008 the central offices were converted to a commercial kitchen and cafe, and the administration and library relocated to the north end of the building.

At this time the Visitors Centre was also utilised as an Exhibition Space, for local and related art shows rotating on a monthly basis.

The current Board endorses the roles the café (run by concessionaires) and Exhibition Space play in bringing visitors to the garden.

The Board recognises that the current main building is not able to adequately function as a cafe, exhibition space, library and administration area.

This Plan identifies the area to the south east of the main entrance as a future site for a Visitor Centre and Administration building. Timing of construction will be intrinsically linked to funding opportunities.

Service area

The current service area is totally inadequate. It is located in an area of the garden such that unnecessary attention is drawn to its function.

This plan identifies, as a high priority, the need for a service area to be developed on the end of the site identified for the future Visitors Centre. We are likely to need an electrical substation near the main building.

Car park

We plan to redesign the car park. The current configuration wastes space and is not as safe as it might be. Moreover, it is not reflective of the standards to which we aspire for the garden.



Photo of.....?

Outdoor event area

Plant sales, fairs, celebrations, films and festivals will all benefit from an identified area within the garden.

The plan has identified the area south of the Gazebo to be discreetly groomed to better cater for these events.

Roads, paths and lighting

We recognise that we need to upgrade and better maintain our roads and paths. We will consider the installation of more lighting so we can use the gardens more easily in the evenings.

A large rectangular box with a thin black border, containing the text "Photo of.....?". The box is positioned on the right side of the page, below the "Roads, paths and lighting" section. A large, light grey "DRAFT" watermark is visible diagonally across the page, overlapping the box.

Appendix 1.

The final Master Plan will refer to a completed list of policies and procedures which will help guide the direction and work of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden.

That list, yet to be complete, will include:

- mapping procedures

- events management policy and procedures
- nursery propagation procedures
- collection policy
- collection plan
- annual risk management analysis
- horticulture action plan
- style manual

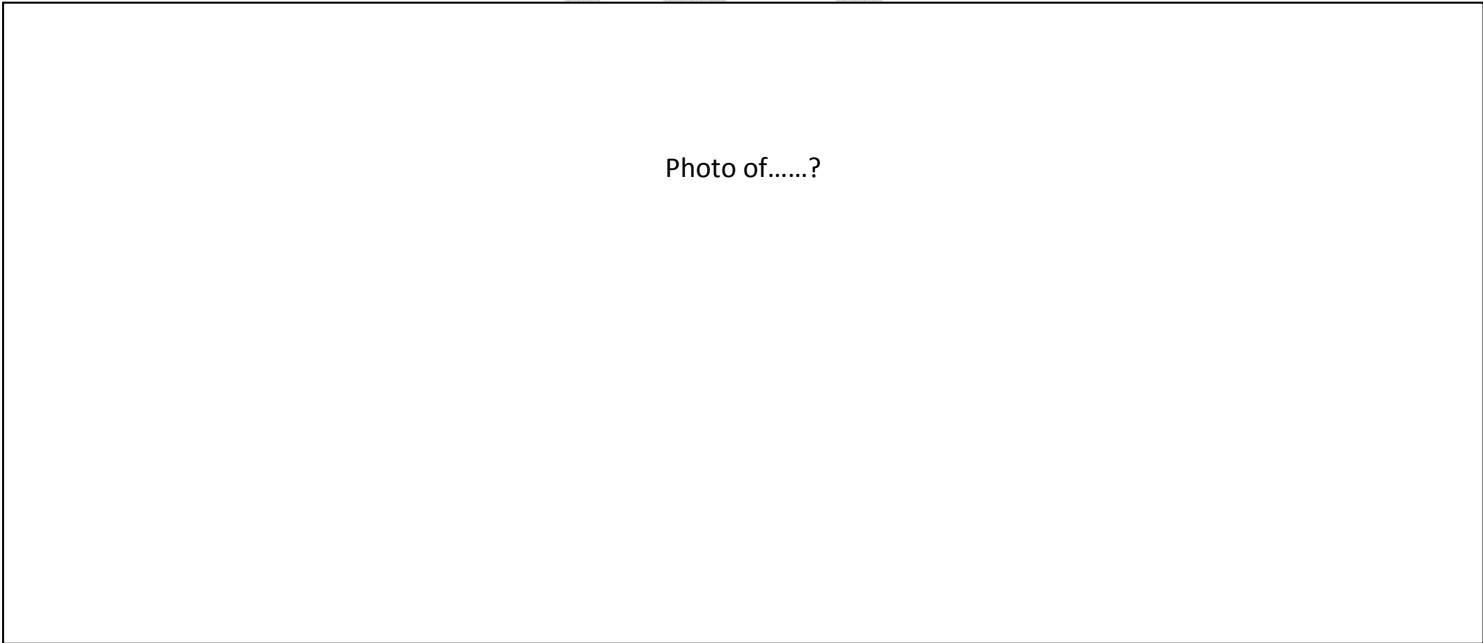


Photo of.....?

Appendix 2

OLIVE PINK BOTANIC GARDEN - Infrastructure Analysis

NB: OPBG is restricted by existing infrastructure and very limited funds. The Infrastructure Plan needs to be driven by the Garden Plan and the Interpretation and Information Plan.

	Priority	Status Exist/Planned	Condition A,B,C,D (where A is best condition and D is poorest.)	Revenue Earning Yes / No	Critical Issues and / or Budget
1. Buildings:					
a. Interpretation Centre	Low	E (P)	A	No	<i>Interlinked with Gallery area; and need to consider alternate when in use as Gallery i.e. Gazebo and or outside of building.</i>
b. Gallery Area	Low			Yes	<i>This function draws in people from community; and has capacity to raise revenue. Say 10 exhibitions per year. Encourage 'Artist in Residence". Gallery guidelines to be developed & approved by Board.</i>
c. Administration Area	High	E (P)	B	No	<i>Currently adequate for say 2 yrs if Grounds Manager office moved to current bathroom.</i>
d. Library	High		A	No	<i>Will be adequate if 2nd office is created.</i>

	Priority	Status Exist/Planned	Condition A,B,C,D (where A is best condition and D is poorest.)	Revenue Earning Yes / No	Critical Issues and / or Budget
e. Public Toilets	Medium	E (P)	C	No	<i>Minor upgrade of towel, repairs and maintenance etc.</i>
f. Staff Toilets	Low	E	C	no	
g. Cafe	Low	E	A	Yes	<i>Adequate for next 2 years. Storage is an immediate issue</i>
h. Retail Area	Low	P		Yes	<i>Part of future all encompassing Admin/Retail/ Library area.</i>
i. Caretaker Facility	Low	P		No	<i>Consideration in conjunction with Service Area/Admin/Entrance</i>

	Priority	Status Exist/Planned	Condition A,B,C,D (where A is best condition and D is poorest.)	Revenue Earning Yes / No	Critical Issues & or Budget
2. Outdoor / Garden					
a. Fences	Low	E	B	No	<i>Need to plan for 5 years +</i>
b. Children play area	Low	E	B	No	
c. John Blakeman Shelter	Low	E	B	No	
d. Gazebo	High	E	B	No	<i>On basis of potential interpretation area</i>
e. Service Area	High	P		No	<i>Currently inadequate and poorly designed; a high priority is an upgrade and new location in accordance with the Master Plan.</i>
f. Seating	Low	E	A	No	
g. Shelters and bubblers	Low	E / P	A	No	<i>Additional 2-3 areas (to be determined) to be added</i>
h. Irrigation systems	High	E	C	No	<i>Complete redesign needed - refer Garden Plan; including full documentation and mapping.</i>
i. Outdoor events area	High	E		Yes	<i>Area for: fairs, films, plant sales, festivals,</i>

	Priority	Status Exist/Planned	Condition A,B,C,D (where A is best condition and D is poorest.)	Revenue Earning Yes / No	Critical Issues & or Budget
					<i>celebrations. Require area with paving or laterite etc. This can also be a picnic area</i>
j. Donation Box	High	E/P	C	Yes	<i>Creative art opportunity.</i>

DRAFT

	Priority	Status Exist/Planned	Condition A,B,C,D (where A is best condition and D is poorest.)	Revenue Earning Yes / No	Critical Issues & or Budget
3. Services					
a. Water	Low	E	B	No	
b. Gas	Low	E	B	No	
c. Fire system	Medium	E	C	No	<i>Needs regulatory check</i>
d. Electrical systems	Low	E	B	No	
e. Telecommunications	Low	E	B	No	
f. Sewerage line	Low	E	B	No	
4. Roads/Paths/Lighting					
a. Entrance	High	E	B & C	No	<i>Statement of 'what we are' at entrance gate - interlinked with Garden Plan</i>
b. Paths	High	E	B,C & D	No	
c. Roads	Medium	E	C	No	<i>Dependent upon Master Plan</i>
d. Carpark	Medium	E	C	Indirectly	<i>Dependent upon Master Plan</i>

	Priority	Status Exist/Planned	Condition A,B,C,D (where A is best condition and D is poorest.)	Revenue Earning Yes / No	Critical Issues & or Budget
e. Lighting	Medium	P		Yes	<i>Entrance, carpark</i>

DRAFT

Code of Conduct

A Trustee should comply with the following standards of conduct. The code of conduct is as follows:

- 1) The Trustee should act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden as a whole.
- 2) The Trustee should have a duty to use care and diligence in fulfilling the functions of office and exercising the powers attached to that office.
- 3) The Trustee should use the powers of office for a proper purpose, in the best interests of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden as a whole.
- 4) The Trustee should recognise that the primary responsibility is to the Olive Pink Botanic Garden as a whole but may, where appropriate, have regard for the interest of all stakeholders of Olive Pink Botanic Garden.
- 5) The Trustee should not make improper use of information acquired as a Trustee.
- 6) The Trustee should not take improper advantage of the position of Trustee.
- 7) The Trustee should properly manage any conflict with the interests of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden.
- 8) The Trustee has an obligation to be independent in judgement and actions and to take all reasonable steps to be satisfied as to the soundness of all decisions taken by the Board of Trustees.
- 9) Confidential information received by the Trustee in the course of the exercise of duties remains the property of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden and it is improper to disclose it, or allow it to be disclosed, unless that disclosure has been authorised by the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, or the person from whom the information is provided, or is required by law.
- 10) The Trustee should not engage in conduct likely to bring discredit upon the Olive Pink Botanic Garden.
- 11) The Trustee has an obligation, at all times, to comply with the spirit, as well as the letter, of the law and with the principles of this Code.

