



Key Achievements

EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE

We will build a world class education capability delivering programs to Australia and the world.

2017-18 results:

- Education: 25% growth on the previous year across the entire education program
- School programs: a 15% growth on the previous year
- The Calyx education and 'Sustainable Living' programs: a 69% increase on the previous year
- Community Greening: a 22% increase in participants.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND BRAND

We will deliver outstanding visitor experiences and build enduring relationships with visitors.

2017-18 results:

- visitation across all three Gardens reached record levels, surpassing six million visits -
 - Royal Botanic Garden Sydney: 5,437,902 — an increase of 215,438
 - Australian Botanic Garden: 441,325 — an increase of 31,628
 - Blue Mountains Botanic Garden: 226,033 — an increase of 30,654

Community:

- our social community grew by 40% over the previous year
- we engaged Australia and the world with our new plant science podcast, *Branch Out*
- we hosted and facilitated multiple events across our sites for the benefit of the community.

HORTICULTURE

We will deliver horticultural excellence with botanic gardens and parklands that are locally and globally relevant to our visitors and stakeholders.

Royal Botanic Garden and Domain results:

- the successful Calyx 'Pollination' exhibition attracted more than 200,000 visitors
- the magnificent Southern Africa Garden → was unveiled
- revegetation of the Woolloomooloo Bay escarpment continued with many Sydney Harbour native species.

Australian Botanic Garden results:

- more than 2,300 specimens were planted, in addition to 5,584 annuals
- the Garden's Growing Friends' (volunteers) plant sales increased to record levels
- the Garden hosted one of its most successful annual spring displays with signature paper daisies
- a five-year turf renovation plan was established, with two hectares of turf renovated in 2017-18
- a green waste treatment strategy was introduced
- strategic bush regeneration was conducted across six hectares of endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland, incorporating over 150 Bushcare volunteer hours and 80 Natural Areas and Open Spaces team hours
- 25 hectares of invasive African Olive areas were cleared.

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden 2017-18 results:

- the nursery propagated a number of rare and threatened plants in the collection for distribution to other botanic gardens as part of the living collection risk mitigation strategy
- the concept design for the Camellia garden was finalised
- refurbishment of the Brunet Lawn and surrounding beds was completed with the addition of a Lilac collection and hundreds of new bulbs
- more than 10,000 new bulbs were added to the living collection including 345 new daffodil cultivars and 300 species of African bulbs.

SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION

We will ensure our science and conservation activities are locally and globally relevant to the protection and preservation of our environment.

2017-18 results:

- the NSW government made a substantial investment in our vital scientific work, committing \$60 million to deliver a new purpose-built Centre for Innovation in Plant Sciences at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan – this will be the future home of the National Herbarium of NSW
- we provided scientific advice to facilitate major infrastructure activities across NSW
- growth continued in our plant disease diagnostic service, with recognition of our expertise at federal and state government levels
- our botanists described 20 new species
- our scientists made 22 presentations at national and international conferences

- 32 projects were awarded grants, amounting to more than \$1.6M in funding
- 7,640 new acquisitions were made to the National Herbarium of NSW
- seeds from 996 threatened species were banked in the Seedbank
- 10,079 specimens were databased in the National Herbarium of NSW
- we held open days for Science Week, PlantBank, botanical art exhibitions and 'herbarium after dark'
- our scientists were published in more than 60 highly-regarded national and international journals
- the Rainforest Seed Conservation Project saw the completion of several major research projects, consolidating our position as a leader in rainforest conservation.

ASSETS AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

We will efficiently and effectively manage our assets to ensure the integrity and accountability of our botanic gardens and parklands.

2017-18 results:

- the restoration of Victoria Lodge was unveiled, attracting high praise for the adaptive reuse of this heritage landmark

- the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan was announced as the future home of the National Herbarium of NSW, cementing the future of western Sydney as an international plant science hub.

BUILDING THE ORGANISATION

We will build a customer focused organisation with a high-performance culture by investing in our people, training and resources.

2017-18 results:

- introduced new executive team members
- improved staff training at all levels
- continued to improve work environments and equipment at all sites.

COMMERCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

We will grow and diversify our funding sources to ensure that the botanic gardens and parklands are financially sustainable and deliver value for money.

2017-18 results:

- the 18 leases and licenses across the three Gardens' contributed revenue of \$6.8M
- 'Connected Garden' was launched — a digital infrastructure project that delivers wi-fi across the Gardens.

STRATEGY AND PROJECTS

Through our strategies and projects we will prepare for the future and preserve our past.

2017-18 results:

Planning – Managing External Forces

- we continued to work collaboratively with other agencies to ensure the best outcomes for the wider community and the Royal Botanic Garden and Domain Trust.

Blue Mountains Botanic Garden

- works included the installation of solar Bigbelly waste and recycling stations to cut down collections and reduce carbon emissions
- a site audit was undertaken in November 2017 as part of the Low Carbon Living Blue Mountains initiative.

Australian Botanic Garden

- a water-saving initiative involving the installation of 35 automatic timers has resulted in a dramatic reduction in water consumption.

