

KINGS PARK FESTIVAL

**808. Mr P. ABETZ to the Minister for Environment:**

I understand that the Kings Park Festival is on. I am interested to learn whether there are any free events for families to visit as part of this festival. I like freebies!

**Mr A.P. JACOB replied:**

It is a particularly exciting time to be in Western Australia as we head into the spring–summer holidays.

**Dr K.D. Hames** interjected.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** That is right, Deputy Premier. Not only is there the excitement around finals season, but also for those Western Australians who are not making their way across the Nullarbor next week to try to get to Melbourne—hopefully, that is people who support both Western Australian teams—there is the Perth Royal Show, which will be getting underway. In addition, there is the Kings Park Festival, which is a mainstay on the Western Australian social events calendar.

**Mr B.J. Grylls** interjected.

**Mr A.P. JACOB:** Thanks, member for Pilbara.

The Kings Park Festival kicked off on 5 September this year, and has already attracted 400 000 visitors to the park. Combined with Kings Park’s annual visitation to this point, we have seen more than 5.8 million visits to Kings Park; it is the most popularly visited site within Western Australia.

This year is a particularly important year for the Kings Park Festival because it is the fiftieth anniversary of the Kings Park botanical garden. In line with that, member for Southern River, the theme for this year’s festival is “Beauty Rich and Rare”, which is obviously a line taken from our national anthem but one which celebrates the beauty and diversity of our plant species in Western Australia. It is particularly appropriate given that the south west of Western Australia is one of only 34 global biodiversity hotspots and the only global biodiversity hotspot on the Australian continent. Within that botanic garden in the coming weeks, there will be over 3 000 species of Western Australian plants on display. To celebrate this 50-year milestone, the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority has released a new variety of kangaroo paw, which is our state emblem. This kangaroo paw is appropriately named Anniversary Gold. It is a yellow cultivar and it will be on sale over this weekend and throughout the festival. I encourage anyone who is looking at developing a waterwise garden to take advantage of the opportunity to purchase this new Anniversary Gold kangaroo paw.

I would like to thank our sponsors, because this festival does not happen with the support of just the state government. Santos is a key sponsor and the Friends of Kings Park put a lot of support behind this event. *The West Australian* is a key sponsor of the Kings Park Festival and, of course, so is Lotterywest. I encourage members to take the opportunity to have a look over the next couple of weeks and to also have a sneak peek at the soon-to-be-opened botanical staircase and botanical pavilion, which will be a permanent installation in celebration of 50 years of having a botanic garden in Kings Park. That will be officially opened on 4 October this year.