

KINGS PARK FESTIVAL

Statement by Minister for the Environment

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah - Minister for the Environment) [2.12 pm]: First of all, I acknowledge the year 11 students and their teachers from Mandurah Senior College who are here to watch proceedings.

I wish to inform the house of the great privilege I had in officially launching the Kings Park Festival 2007 last Saturday, 1 September, on our magnificent first day of spring. The festival, hosted by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, is the forty-third Annual Wildflower Festival to be held in Kings Park and Botanic Garden, and will run until Monday, 1 October. The annual Kings Park Wildflower Festival is an opportunity to celebrate the distinctive flora of Western Australia, and to marvel at some of the excellent work being done by the authority's horticultural staff and scientists. This year the event has taken on a new format. It has gone from a fenced, five-day, fee-for-entry event to a four-week series of mainly free activities focused on attracting a greater local audience and building interest from interstate and international visitors.

The 2007 Kings Park Festival will continue to showcase the ever-popular mass planting of Western Australian wildflowers. Rather than a one-off temporary display of mass flowers, there are enhanced displays through the planting of up to 27 000 plants in permanent beds. Another festival feature sure to attract a lot of attention is the Japanese Garden display. The concept for this garden was developed last year during the visit of Governor Ido to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the sister-state relationship between the state of Western Australia and Hyogo Prefecture in Japan. Since the agreement by Premier Carpenter and Governor Ido, BGPA staff have worked with Hyogo Prefecture's landscape specialists in developing a temporary Japanese garden display that integrates a range of Australian native plants. The garden aims to increase the understanding of Japanese culture, and to highlight the horticultural importance and the value of engaging with the natural environment. Other activities in the park over the festival will include a Father's Day Festival, Djilba Bush Day, Wildflower Market Place and special events for kids, including the Great Granny and Gramps Gumboots Gardening Day, and for the very small ones, the Wild Fairies Festival. For the gardening enthusiasts there will be hands-on demonstrations and special guest talks, gardening advice, guided walks and the ever popular Wildflower Market Place held over the Queen's birthday long weekend.

I congratulate the staff and volunteers of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority for the hard work and amazing commitment they have shown in delivering yet another superb Kings Park Festival.