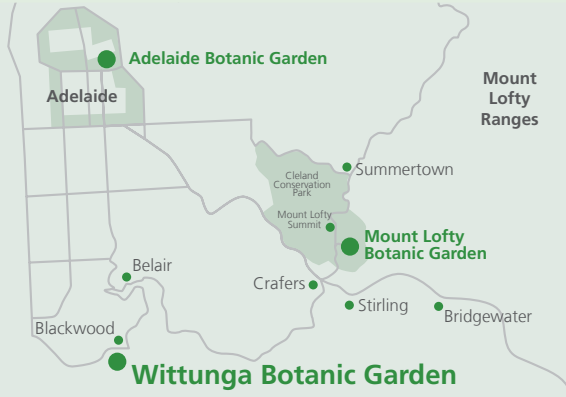


Contrasting against suburban Blackwood, the 13 hectare Wittunga Botanic Garden is a hidden oasis.

Discover the extensive collection of water-wise plants from Australia and South Africa, brilliant displays of ericas and proteas in spring, and an extensive collection of plants from Kangaroo Island and the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Traverse one of the many garden trails and look out over the Garden from the viewing platform. Spot the huge variety of native bird and animal life that are attracted to the indigenous flora. Listen to the songs of the birds as they instantly drown out the noises of suburbia.

The Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium acknowledges the Kaurna people as the traditional custodians of the Adelaide region. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with Country. We also pay our respects to the Kaurna people living today and pay respects to Elders past, present and future.



Plan your visit

**Admission is free,
365 days a year**

Entrances

Shepherds Hill Road
or Sherbourne Road.
(See map inside).

Parking

Parking is free and
can be accessed from
Shepherds Hill Road.

Public transport

Check Adelaide Metro for
bus services to Blackwood
and train services to
Coromandel Station. Visit
adelaidemetro.com.au

Want to see more?

Wittunga Botanic Garden
is one of three sites that
together comprise the Botanic
Gardens of South Australia.
For more information about
Gardens at Mount Lofty and
Adelaide visit our website
for more information.



**Botanic Gardens and
State Herbarium**

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Email: botanicgardens@sa.gov.au

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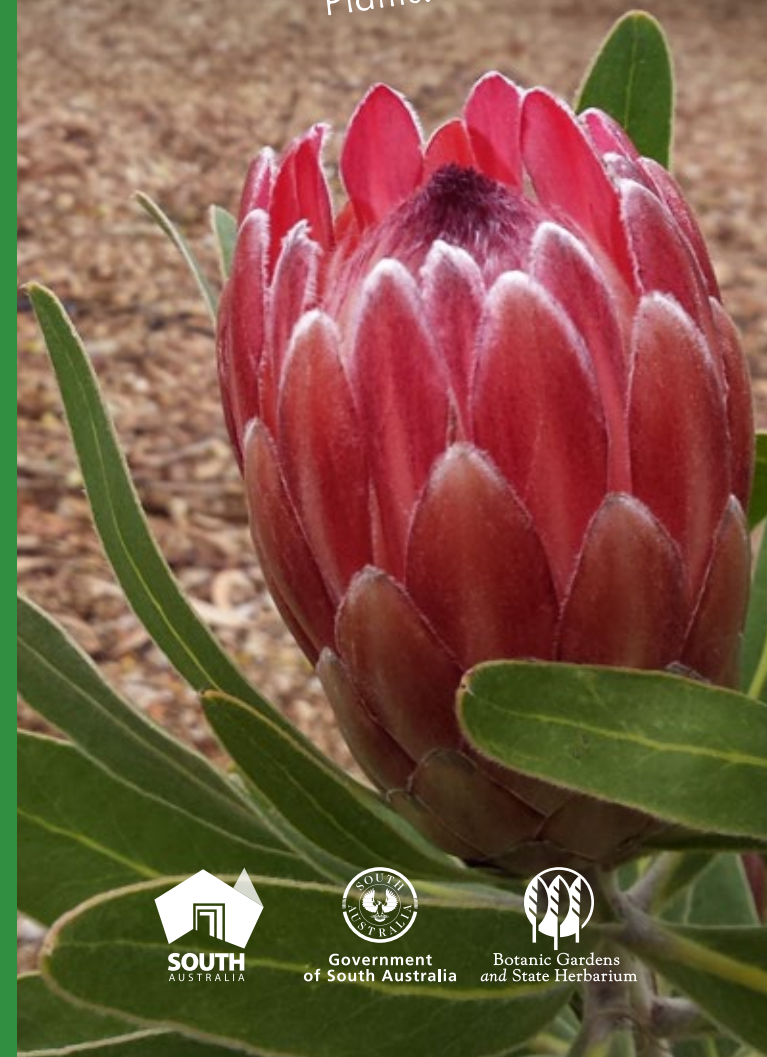
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botanicgardens.sa.gov.au

Wittunga BOTANIC Garden

Plants. People. Culture.





Visitor Information

Tours and Trails

The Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide conduct free walks departing every Tuesday from 10.30am from the carpark off Shepherds Hill Road. Booked walks can be arranged at a cost by calling 08 8226 8803.

The Wittunga Naming Walk is a self-guided walk that demonstrates how plants are named scientifically, and the origins of their names - whether from a person or characteristic of the plant. 24 signs are installed throughout the Garden, stationed alongside the relevant plant.

Alternatively, use the map above and explore the Garden at your own pace!

Visitor Facilities

Wittunga Botanic Garden is conveniently located close to Blackwood centre, with cafés and shops only a short walk away. Toilets are located adjacent to the car park (G3) and by the Sherbourne Road gate (A12).

Large lawn areas are available for small family and friend gatherings. Wheelchair and pram-friendly paths, picnic tables and rotundas are available.

Accessibility

Garden entrances from the car park are wheelchair accessible for visitors who arrive in a vehicle. For wheelchair access from the street, the Sherbourne Road entrance on the eastern boundary is the most convenient as it has flat surfaces and bitumen paths.

There is also access from the footpath off Shepherds Hill Road that leads to the nature playspace, however visitors are advised there is a air-lock child safety gate; some people may require assistance to unlatch this gate. This pathway is compacted gravel and has a gentle gradient.

The nature playspace has a wheelchair accessible in-ground trampoline.

Wittunga: A Family Home

Wittunga, meaning 'beside water', was established as a private home by Edwin Ashby in 1902 and was based on a formal English design. The property originally had extensive apple and pear orchards along with livestock.

Edwin Ashby was passionate about raising public awareness of the beauty and importance of Australian flora. He regularly wrote and spoke publicly on the topic.

In the 1930s, Edwin developed the Ashby System of watering. This system involves deep soaking plants every three-to-four weeks instead of the usual light surface watering. His experiments, south of the Maluka Beds (B5), showed impressive results. The method has gone on to influence how current horticulturists at Wittunga and around Australia care for our native vegetation and was a forerunner to today's sustainable watering practices.

Ashby was an avid collector of birds, butterflies and other insects, shells and plants. He published over 80 papers on birds, and named or discovered several new species. The Bird Garden (D10) and Butterfly Garden (H6) are great tributes to this passion.

Wittunga was bequeathed to the Board of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium by Edwin's

son Keith Ashby in 1965 and was opened to the public as a botanic garden in 1975. Since taking ownership, the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium has significantly extended Wittunga to the beautiful botanic garden we see today.

Many remnants of the Ashby family's history can still be found at Wittunga.

Wittunga House (B4)

The original Ashby family residence can be seen overlooking the terrace beds. It was built in 1902 and then rebuilt in 1934 after it was unfortunately destroyed by a bushfire. It is easy to imagine Edwin Ashby standing on his porch, overlooking the garden and planning his next project. The house and grounds are not open to the public.

Terrace Beds (C5)

Originally developed by Keith Ashby, this is a collection of hardy South African plants, including the Garden's principal collection of Proteaceae. The

only remaining old fruit trees in this area are two Japanese Persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*), a favourite food source for local wildlife and a Cherry Plum Tree (*Prunus cerasifera*).

Maluka Beds (B5)

Built in the early 1920s, Edwin Ashby developed the raised sandy garden beds to promote drainage and replicate growing conditions he had seen in Western Australia. While the Maluka Beds were initially developed to support Australian natives, other species that also benefited from these unique growing conditions were later added, including succulents and cacti. The original beds still exist and are of significant historical value.

Water-wise

Edwin Ashby was fascinated by the close relationship between the water-wise Australian and South African flora. In the dry South Australian climate, it is important to choose resilient plants that can survive with little water. Wittunga shows that water-wise gardens can be just as diverse and colourful as their water-dependent counterparts.

Get involved

Your support is invaluable

Although the Gardens receive annual funding from the South Australian Government, we also rely on the generous support of the community, individuals and business to contribute to the nurturing and growth of our iconic Gardens.

Support from you can come in many ways from donations, celebration seats to a gift in your will. To find out more please call our Foundation team on 08 8222 9359 or visit our website [Support Us](#) page. All donations above \$2 are fully tax-deductible.

Want to get involved on the ground?

The Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide are a vibrant organisation, whose members share a love of Adelaide, Mount Lofty and Wittunga Botanic Gardens. The Friends raise funds to support Garden projects and run a number of events, groups, publications and meetings. Volunteers are always welcome! Visit [friendsbgadelaide.com](#) or call 08 8222 9367 for more information.




Map guide

-  Information
-  Guided walks meeting point
-  Toilets
-  Parking
-  Wheelchair access
-  Drinking fountain
-  Bus stop
-  Wedding site
-  Picnic table
-  Fire evacuation assembly site
-  No public access

Regulations


Our gardens are filled with valuable living collections. Please help us to protect them.

-  Do not damage / remove plants or enter garden beds
-  No skateboarding, rollerskating, cycling, or scooter riding allowed.
-  No vehicles
-  No pets or animals
-  No alcohol
-  No BBQs
-  No ball or throwing games
-  No drones

E3 Administration (no public access) 

C11 Western Australian Health Garden

H5 Australian Native Cultivars


C11 Banksias 


E13 Billabong

D10 Bird Garden

H6 Butterfly Garden

G6 Duck Landing

B10 Fleurieu Peninsula Flora 

H9 Fynbos (South African Heathland) 

H10 Grey Box Woodland 

C12 Hakeas 

C7 Kangaroo Island Flora 

C10 Kangaroo Paws 

E7 Lake

G7 Lake viewing platform

D5 Leucadendron 

C5 Leucospermum 

B5 Maluka Beds

C12 Myrtaceae (Australian Myrtles)


I8 Nature playspace

D4 Protea 

H8 Red Hot Poker 

C5 Terrace Beds

B4 Wittunga House (no public access) 

 Wittunga Botanic Garden is closed on days that the fire danger rating is catastrophic. In the event of a fire emergency, immediately assemble at one of the marked fire assembly areas.



Garden highlights

Things to discover

Fynbos (H9)

Fynbos is the South African name for the diverse heathlands in the Cape region of South Africa. The fynbos (or “fine bush” in Afrikaans) display includes approximately 50 species and cultivars of ericas or ‘heaths’. Some of the plants in the fynbos collection, especially the Ericas, were introduced to the Garden by Edwin Ashby.

Hakeas and Banksias (C11-12)

The uniquely Australian Hakeas and Banksias can be found throughout Wittunga. There are over 140 species in the Hakea genus, including the Cauliflower Hakea (*Hakea corymbosa*) located along the western boundary and the unique Blue Flowered Hakea (*Hakea lehmanniana*), which flowers from July to September.

Kangaroo Island flora (C7)

Full of plants from the rugged Kangaroo Island, this collection includes the endangered Daisy Bush (*Olearia microdisca*), with leaves that give off a distinct curry aroma. It is endemic to Kangaroo Island.

Flourieu Peninsula flora (B10)

With a focus on local flora, native plants are featured from the region stretching between the southern Mount Lofty Ranges and Cape Jervis. The South Australian Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*) and the Grey Barked Eucalypts (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) naturally occur in the Blackwood area. Some in the Garden are remnants of the original flora before Wittunga was established.

WA Heath Beds (B13)

The Western Australian Heathlands, or ‘Kwongan’, is widely treasured for its magnificent displays of wildflowers. It contains some of Australia’s most spectacular flowering plants including Banksia, Hakea and Verticordia. Edwin Ashby made several early plant collecting trips to this region as he was a pioneer in promoting the beauty of Australian native plants and their use in horticulture.

South African Proteaceae (D4)

There are almost 400 species of South African Proteaceae, including the Pale Yellow Conebush (*Leucadendron eucalyptifolium*), the spiky-looking Pincushion (*Leucospermum cordifolium*) and impressive King Protea (*Protea cynaroides*). These and many other South African Proteaceae can be found in the Terrace Beds.

Ashby Trail

Weaving through the Terrace Beds (C5), the Ashby Trail highlights interesting facts about the Ashby family members, the property and how it has changed over time. The trail also acknowledges the Ashby family’s ongoing legacy in inspiring visitors with a knowledge of diverse and water-wise plants.

Gondwana Trail

The Gondwana Trail explores unique flora that remained in the areas from when Australia drifted away from Gondwana. Despite the physical separation, the plants that exist today are linked by their shared historical origin.

These trails have been generously supported by the Copland Foundation.

Conservation at Wittunga

Here at Wittunga, the botanical collection includes rare and threatened plants from Western Australia’s heathlands.

This vegetation type is called ‘Kwongan’ and it includes a variety of plants including Banksias, Grevilleas and Hakeas.

These plants were grown from wild-collected seed, making them an invaluable addition to our conservation collections.

A haven for wildlife

Chorus of birds

As you enter Wittunga Botanic Garden, you will instantly notice the calls of the amazing birds that call Wittunga home. Spend time spotting native birds which are attracted by the sweet nectar and fruit produced by native Australian plants found in the Bird Garden.

Eastern spinebills, New Holland honeyeaters and wattlebirds can be seen collecting nectar. In doing so they pollinate Australian Banksias, Hakeas and Grevilleas, as well as some South African Proteas.

Fluttering butterflies (H6)

The Butterfly Garden is a beautiful demonstration of the two types of plants required to attract butterflies – sweet nectar plants that provide butterflies with the energy they need to fly, and provide food for caterpillars. In return, butterflies act as important pollinators for native flora.

Down by the Billabong

The Billabong (E13) features Australian wetland plants, including Forest Oak (*Allocasuarina torulosa*). The Billabong is the perfect place for families to visit, with a large lawn area, plenty of shade and lots to see. Watch the purple swamphen, wood duck and black duck splashing and diving in the water and try to spot the honeyeaters, rosellas, lorikeets and other parrots that nest in the nearby Eucalyptus collection.

Woodland animals

The Grey Box Woodland (H10) is the predominant ecosystem in this part of the Adelaide Hills, but now occupies less than 3% of the area it once did before European settlement due to urban development. The Grey Box Woodland provides important natural habitat for native animals, and if you are lucky, you might spot a koala or two.

The role of botanic gardens

Plants are fundamental to Planet Earth. They bring life to our world and provide food, clothing, shelter, medicines and energy.

Botanic gardens have collected and displayed plants for scientific research, recreation and education since the 1500s.

As we have come to learn more about plants, we have realised their unique qualities and the ways in which they have shaped civilisation.

Today, botanic gardens address contemporary challenges as well as providing beautiful places for people to rest, play, connect with nature, and nurture their well-being. They are vital for plant conservation and to reconcile our relationship with the environment.

With the persistent threat of climate change and environmental degradation, the need to preserve the role of botanic gardens is essential to a sustainable future.

