

AN AGREEMENT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL LINKS BETWEEN THE ANBG JERVIS BAY AND THE ANBG CANBERRA

Preamble

Following a successful claim by the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community, the Australian National Botanic Gardens Jervis Bay (referred to as the JB Gardens *) has been incorporated into the management structure of the Jervis Bay National Park (JBNP).

A Plan of Management (the Plan) for the ANBG, including both Canberra and JB Gardens is currently in place and is due to run until 1999. It includes goals and strategies that guide the function and development of both sites. The mission stated in the Plan is **"To grow, study and promote Australia's flora"** and it is anticipated that the basic mission of the two Gardens will remain the same. On the expiry of the current ANBG Plan of Management, a plan of management specific to the JB Gardens will be prepared and incorporated as part of the JBNP Plan of Management. This situation may change as advice becomes available on the legal status of the Plans.

It is expected the JB Gardens is to remain a member of the ANBG network within the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the collection at JB Gardens will continue to be part of the ANBG national collection of the Australian flora. The JB Gardens will continue to co-ordinate its strategies with those of the Canberra Gardens in order to meet network objectives. The JB Gardens should develop a major theme interpreting Aboriginal culture using expertise on staff and as available locally, in tandem with continuing its development of a strong regional focus, particularly relating to the coastal flora, and ecology of vegetation adapted to soils of low fertility.

For the JB and Canberra Gardens to work towards common goals as well as maintain scientific integrity of its collection, it is essential that links are maintained and further developed with the the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research (CPBR) including the National Herbarium of Australia (the Herbarium), and that scientific and technical support continue to be provided . Given that it is an integral part of the ANBG network, a functional area of NPWS and one of the direct partners in the CPBR agreement, the JB Gardens should be regarded, for the purpose of obtaining scientific services and support, as a party to that agreement. The JB Gardens for its part will be able to reciprocate by developing a specialised collection of living plants available as a research resource to the CPBR and in providing voucher specimens for the Herbarium collection.

* also known as Jervis Bay Botanic Gardens, or Jervis Bay Annexe of the Australian National Botanic Gardens

Ongoing arrangements

To formalise ongoing interactive arrangements the following points are agreed :

- **Supply of and access to living plant material and reciprocal collecting arrangements between the Canberra and JB Gardens will continue**

The current exchange of plant material between the Canberra and JB Gardens is to continue. In the future the JB Gardens should be in a position to reciprocate with the supply to Canberra of thematically appropriate plant material. Both Canberra and JB Gardens will have full access to the living material on the respective sites for propagation or research purposes.

- **Plant records services to continue at current levels**

Currently ANBG plant records team visits the JB Gardens for stocktake purposes three or four times each year, and in co-operation with local staff, update plant records in the field and subsequently the IBIS database. It is important for the sake of the needs of both the JB collection and the national collection that this service continues at current levels. Travel costs associated with this will be borne by JBNP&BG Section.

The Plant Records team has experience in both outdoor stocktaking and computer work necessary to maintain the records of the living collections on IBIS. An opportunity exists for training of the JB Gardens staff in maintaining the records system so that updating required between the visits from Canberra staff can be done, as well as keeping the records for the JB part of the national collection current. This is important where future contingencies may reduce the number of staff hours that Canberra can provide.

- **Access by the JB Gardens to the Integrated Botanical Information System (IBIS) to continue**

IBIS is the primary source of information on the ANBG plant collections as a whole, integrating living, herbarium and photographic collections and plant name databases. It is critically important that IBIS is maintained as the central, controlling database of the national collection. JB Gardens' continued access to IBIS is thus vital for the sake of the national collection and to give it access to the wide range of information needed for collection curation. NPWS Information Technology will not be responsible for resourcing the computer hardware or software, but will need to have control of system configuration and hardware/software compatibility to ensure effective operation of this network.

- **Collection vouchering and accession will continue including:**

- Determination of field collections
- Processing of voucher collections
- Provision of Collecting permits

Each living collection is represented in the Herbarium with a specimen either collected in the wild at the same time as the propagation material, or from flowering/fruiting of plants in the gardens; photographs may also be taken at such stages. Determinations are made initially, either fully, partially, or tentatively depending on the level of expertise and confidence of the staff at the time of collection in the field. More critical determination of the taxon identity will be made later using the voucher and the reference resources of the Herbarium. Living plants, vouchers, photographs and data entries are linked by a common accession number facilitating all queries on accessions

and input of, eg, updating of determinations or verifications of identity, and any subsequent name changes resulting from taxonomic research. This practice would obviously continue with the JB Gardens applying accession numbers to its field collections and depositing vouchers in the Herbarium for processing.

In common with the Canberra Gardens, the JB Gardens has a Public Reference Herbarium that will continue to develop and exchange duplicates as appropriate, with the Canberra Gardens Public Reference Herbarium. Support from the CPBR in taxon determination and verification, and specimen processing will continue.

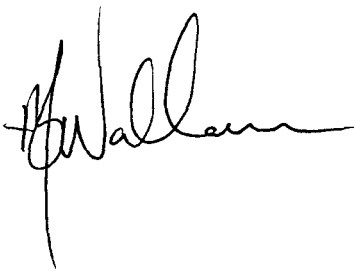
Currently the CPBR has responsibility for annually obtaining permits for ANBG and CPBR staff to collect plant material from the wild in various areas/authorities such as NSW, ACT, Qld, and Victoria. JB Gardens will continue to be catered for in this process.

- **Interpretive input**

There is a need for botanical/scientific input to interpretation and education programs in the JB Gardens. This can be achieved as part of the development working group function (see below).

- **JB Gardens development working group**

A working group with nominal membership consisting of senior JBNP management, Manager JB Gardens, Director of Living Collections ANBG, Asst Dir Living Collections (Collections & Horticulture), Curator ANH, Interpretation Officers and Education Officers, will meet triannually. The role of the group will be to provide advice to the JB Board of Management on the development and scientific management of the JB Gardens and the provision of advice to JBNP&BG management on general botanic gardens management issues. Ad hoc meetings of subgroups may be convened to deal with particular issues as needs arise.



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