



YARRALUMLA NURSERY

celebrating

90

years of landscaping Canberra



ACT Government



building our city
building our community



Yarralumla Nursery
ACT URBAN SERVICES

a potted history

It was identified very early in Canberra's history that trees and shrubs would have to be raised locally if the garden city concept was to be achieved. Following the establishment of the first Government nursery in 1911 in Acton on the site of the National Museum, Thomas Weston (whom Weston Park is named after) recommended the Nursery move to its current location in Yarralumla in 1914.

With over 53 million plants issued since it began operation, the Nursery deserves much of the credit for the charm of the city's streets, parks and private gardens.

The majority of trees and shrubs planted in Canberra's public areas were grown at the Nursery. These include the trees in the Parliamentary Triangle, Glebe Park and Weston Park.

The Nursery started the free plant issue scheme in 1930 to help turn Canberra into a garden city. By controlling the species available, the planners wanted to create a link between private gardens and the city's public landscapes. The scheme still runs today with \$110 worth of free plants available to those who buy a new residential block of land or a new house.

The Nursery has also played a significant role in horticultural research. It was used to trial what plants would be most likely to succeed in Canberra's harsh

climate and soil conditions. In the 1970s the Nursery pioneered the direct sowing of Australian natives, mainly eucalypts, in specially designed tubes to produce a stable, high-quality root system. It also propagates rare and endangered plants, as well as seedlings from Lone Pine to help schools throughout Australia to celebrate Anzac Day.

A number of historical buildings are located at the Nursery, including potting and propagation buildings constructed in the early 1900s and greenhouses dating back to the 1930s. Nearby Hobday's Cottage was built around 1923 and is currently used as a restaurant and gallery.

The original production nursery occupied more than 28 hectares, with a further 130 hectares used for permanent plantings. The Nursery now occupies two sites – 10 hectares in Weston Park, Yarralumla, and 21 hectares at Pialligo. The Pialligo site is used to propagate and grow deciduous trees in ground.

The Nursery now produces approximately 500,000 plants each year. About 1,500 species are propagated, of which 50% are Australian natives.

The Nursery supplies plants to private contractors, rural landholders, the ACT Government (for parks and gardens) and the general public.

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To celebrate its 90th birthday, Yarralumla Nursery will run special open days from 10 am until 4 pm on November 5, 6 and 7. The days will include:

- demonstrations of propagation, potting and plant production;
- heritage tours around the Nursery and English Garden highlighting significant trees and their stories; and
- tours behind the scenes

Location: Yarralumla Nursery, Weston Park, off Banks Street, Yarralumla.

For more details of the program go to www.yarralumlanursery.com or call 6207 2445 or 6207 2448.