

W-1 Living Collections Toolkit launch: making collections management easier

A.M. Proctor^{1,2}, T.S. Kum^{1,3,5}, and P.E. Symes^{4,6}

¹ Andrea Proctor Landscapes, Victoria, Australia

² University of Melbourne, Burnley, Victoria, Australia

³ Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Melbourne/Cranbourne Victoria, Australia

⁴ BGANZ (Botanic Gardens Australia New Zealand), Canberra, Australia

⁵ Climate Change Alliance of Botanic Gardens

⁶ Peter E Symes Botanical Horticulture Consultancy, Colac, Victoria, Australia

Duration: 60 minutes

Target audience: Botanic gardens managers, curators, mentors of smaller gardens, smaller gardens.

Objectives:

- Understand the applicability of the Toolkit for their gardens, or the gardens they support
- Understand the research and development behind the collections assessment tool and action modules
- Understand the applicability of different tools for large and small gardens
- Trial use of the toolkit
- Access details on accessing the Toolkit and technical support
- Build awareness of the availability of the toolkit to make collections management easier and stronger for all gardens

Abstract: The Living Collections Toolkit by Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand began with a workshop at the 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Melbourne. This Toolkit is a world-first web-based tool that allows any garden, no matter its size, to easily develop a best-practice informed Living Collections Plan for the assessment, management and development of their living collections. This is done by providing tools for the objective prioritisation and assessment of living collections, and through a series of questions and pre-supplied text produces a researched, graphically formatted and ready to publish, individual Living Collections Plan for any garden. The Toolkit has been developed to work for diverse organisations, from new botanic gardens and volunteer run institutions through to large gardens with international reach. It is especially helpful for gardens which are involved in mentoring roles within their region. It has also been designed so that even if a garden already has a detailed Living Collections Plan, it can still use the Assessment Tool to objectively review its collections. The proposed Workshop will launch the finished Toolkit to an international audience, discussing its development and the research that underpins it, and through an interactive format demonstrating the use of the collections Assessment Tool and the Living Collections Plan generator. Presented by the Toolkit's authors with support of the working group and BGANZ, it will answer any questions people may have on the applicability of the Toolkit and how to use it to strengthen and ease living collections management.