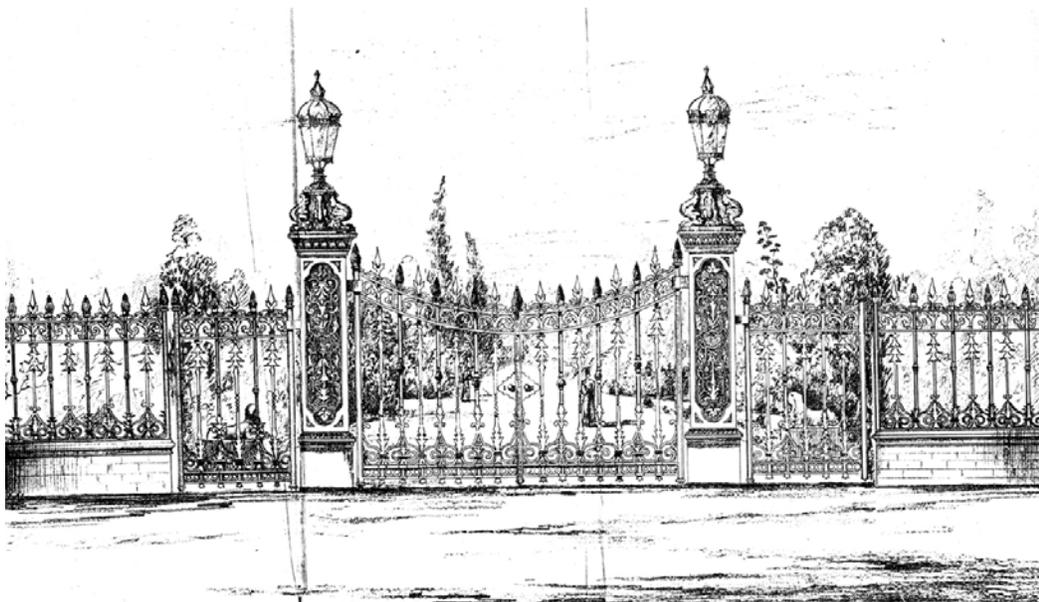


**Section 1.0**  
**INTRODUCTION**



## 1.1 BACKGROUND

### 1.1.1 Project brief

This Conservation Study was commissioned in May 2003 in accordance with a project brief dated February 2003. The project brief stated that the Conservation Study will include a review of:

- (a) Existing natural, archaeological, and cultural heritage sources, and a bibliography relating to the Gardens estates;*
- (b) Plans that illustrate the history of significant changes to the Gardens estates;*
- (c) Principles and guidelines for the conservation of cultural heritage (including buildings, buildings, paths, hard landscape elements, living collections, and landscape) in the context of the Gardens as a contemporary scientific and cultural institution;*

*and result in the preparation of:*

- (d) A Statement of Significance for each Garden identifying (and prioritising) heritage values in the context of the Gardens' role as a scientific and cultural institution;*
- (e) Recommendations for conservaton works and management (or further conservation studies) for individual elements (e.g. Victoria house, significant trees) and collections (e.g. statuary, botanical collections);*
- (f) Documentation of the constraints and opportunities arising from the Statement of Sinificance and their impact on current operations and the Site Master Plans; and,*
- (g) Possible funding opportunities and partnerships*

### 1.1.2 Authorship

Overall management of this Conservation Study has been undertaken by Dr David Jones through Adelaide Research and Innovation Ltd, a research consulting arm of the University of Adelaide.

The Conservation Study has been prepared by Richard Aitken (Director, Richard Aitken Pty Ltd), Dr David Jones (Associate Professor in Landscape Architecture, School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Urban Design, the University of Adelaide), and Colleen Morris (landscape heritage consultant), as consultants in association. Dr Peter Bell (Historical Research Pty Ltd), Jamie Nancarrow (University of Adelaide), Dr Pauline Payne (University of Adelaide), Michael Queale and Nicolette Di Lernia (Grieve Gillett Architects), and Tony Whitehill (Tree Advisory Services) have acted as sub-consultants.

Although the study and report have been a collaborative effort, the following sections have been principally drafted as follows:

#### *Introduction*

- Richard Aitken

#### *Development of Adelaide Botanic Garden*

- Peter Bell (former lunatic asylum and hospital, tramways land, and showgrounds; Morley and Forbes)
- David Jones (Francis, Holtze, Greaves, Lothian, Morley and Forbes)
- Pauline Payne (Francis, Schomburgk, Holtze, Bailey, and Lothian)

#### *Thematic analysis and assessment*

- Richard Aitken (role of botanic gardens)
- Colleen Morris (landscape design)

#### *Analysis and assessment of garden components and collections*

- Richard Aitken and Colleen Morris
- David Jones (services and landscape furniture)
- Colleen Morris (significant trees and historic living collections)
- Michael Queale and Nicolette Di Lernia (buildings and structures)
- Tony Whitehill (living collections)

#### *Assessment of cultural significance*

- Richard Aitken, Colleen Morris and David Jones

#### *Conservation policy and conservation actions*

- Richard Aitken, Colleen Morris and David Jones

#### *Mapping and report production*

- Jamie Nancarrow

#### *Report editing*

- Richard Aitken and David Jones

1.1.3 Study area





- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Araucaria Avenue (1868)  | 24 Mallee Garden (1953)                              |
| 2 Australian Forest (1868)   | 25 Morgue (1882)                                     |
| 3 Bailey Lawns   | 26 Museum of Economic Botany (1879)                  |
| 4 Bicentennial Conservatory (1987-89)                              | 27 Nelumbo Pond (1859)                               |
| 5 Bridges  | 28 North Lodge (1866)                                |
| 6 Class Ground (former Experimental Garden) (1867)                 | 29 North Terrace Gates (1880)                        |
| 7 Conifer Lawns (1864)   | 30 North Terrace wall                                |
| 8 Creek (1856)   | 31 Palm Garden (1870)                                |
| 9 Eastern Lawns (1938)   | 32 Palm House (1876)                                 |
| 10 East Lodge and Gates (1865)                                     | 33 Plane Tree Drive gates and fences                 |
| 11 Economic Garden (1872)  | 34 Schomburgk Range and former Victoria House (1954) |
| 12 Fig Tree Avenue and flanking lawns (1866)                       | 35 Simpson Kiosk (1906)                              |
| 13 First Creek (upper section)                                     | 36 A.M. Simpson Shadehouse (1918-19)                 |
| 14 First Creek (middle section)                                    | 37 Statuary and fountains                            |
| 15 First Creek (lower section)                                     | 38 Store (former Ladies lavatories) (1917-18)        |
| 16 Francis Lawn (1857)   | 39 Summer-house and former Trellis Walk (c.1861)     |
| 17 Francis Pavilion/arbours (early 1860s)                          | 40 Sunken Garden (1939)                              |
| 18 Horticultural Garden (1968)                                     | 41 Toilets   |
| 19 Hospital boundary   | 42 Top Lake (1855)                                   |
| 20 Former Italianate Garden (1974) now Mediterranean Garden (2006) | 43 Western Pinetum remnant (1870s)                   |
| 21 Main Lake (1855)  | 44 Western Wild Garden (1964)                        |
| 22 Main Lake Lawn  | 45 Works Depot (1999)                                |
| 23 Main Walk (1855)  |  |

### 1.1.4 Acknowledgements

Staff of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide have provided great assistance in the preparation of this Conservation Study. We especially desire to thank Stephen Forbes (Director - Adelaide Botanic Gardens, and Director – Science & Conservation of the Department of Environment & Heritage) and Trevor Christensen (Manager - Scientific Services) for their advice and comments. Karen Dankiw (Information Services Manager) provided invaluable support, especially through unrestricted access to the Library with its great wealth of documentary collections, which was vital to the preparation of this Conservation Study. We are also grateful to Project Officers Neville Byrne (2003) and Russell Starr (2004-06) for their assistance. As well we desire to thank Tracey Bateman (Administrative Officer), David Forwood and Gemma Bevis (Communications Coordinators), Robert Hatcher (Horticultural staff), Stephen Kingdon (Technical staff), Thekla Reichtstein (Technical staff), John Sandham (Collections Development Officer), Holly Schleyer (Customer Services Officer), Chris Schutz (Manager, Hills Gardens), and John Schutz (Head of Gardens) for their assistance.

Thanks also to former Directors, Noel Lothian and Dr Brian Morley, and former staff members Brian McCallister, Tony Whitehill, Nigel Turner, Barry Dangerfield, Allan Correy, Graham Jones and Doug ‘Mick’ Field for their assistance.

Staff of botanic gardens and other specialised collections, including John Hawker (Heritage Victoria), Ann Herraman (Mount Lofty District Historical Society), Rob Smith and Ross Ingram (Mount Tomah Botanic Garden), Ian Innes (Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney), Neil Jordan (Emu Valley Garden), David Roberts (Pirianda Garden and National Rhododendron Garden, Parks Victoria), and Ian Rossiter (Manager, Parks and Gardens, City of Ballarat), and Roger Spencer (Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne) have also provided assistance, especially with comparative aspects of cultural significance.

As well, we desire to thank Ian Barwick, Keith Davis, Lewis O’Brien, Fran De Garis, John Dwight, Helen Lloyd, Dr Andrew Lothian, Isobel Paton (Blue Gate Designs), Steve Duddy (Flightpath Architects), Barbara Maughan, Grant Lowe, Trevor Nottle, Pam Gurner-Hall, Jeannie Sim, Kevin Taylor and Simon Brown (Taylor Cullity Lethlean), Rob Thornton (City of Adelaide Archivist), and Nigel Turner for their assistance before and during the course of this study, as well as the support of the staff and students at Adelaide Research & Innovation Ltd (Melissa Coulthard, Mark Szolga) and the School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Urban Design (Professor Tony Radford, Ian Kowalick, Nicole Bailey, Darren Peter, David Gregory, Beth Mason, Velice Hazelwood) of the University of Adelaide.

## 1.2 METHOD

### 1.2.1 Terminology

This report uses terms which are widely accepted to those preparing conservation studies, but which may be unfamiliar to those involved with the Adelaide Botanic Garden and its management. These terms are defined here and then used throughout the report without further explanation:

- *Place* means site, area, building or other work, group of buildings or other works together with associated contents and surroundings.
- *Cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations.
- *Fabric* means all the physical material of the *place*.
- *Conservation* means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*. It includes *maintenance* and may according to circumstance include *preservation*, *restoration*, *reconstruction* and *adaptation* and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these.
- *Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of the *fabric* and setting of a *place*, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.
- *Preservation* means maintaining the *fabric* of a *place* and retarding deterioration.
- *Restoration* means returning the existing *fabric* of a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.
- *Reconstruction* means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material into the *fabric*.
- *Adaptation* means modifying a place to suit proposed *compatible uses*.
- *Compatible use* means a use that involves no change to the *culturally significant fabric*, changes that are substantially reversible, or changes which require minimum impact.

These definitions do not necessarily treat scientific or botanical significance in the same light as a scientist or botanist may approach the subject, but reflect the emphasis of this report on an assessment of cultural significance.

To these we have added several further definitions specific to the place:

- *Original fabric and design*, refers to the initial laying out of the garden in 1855–65 during the Francis directorship, including pre-existing features that were incorporated.
- *Early fabric and design*, refers to the *original fabric and design*, and subsequent development of the Garden to 1891 during the Schomburgk directorship.
- *Garden* includes the whole of Adelaide Botanic Garden but excludes Botanic Park, which due to its largely separate history and development is referred to by its separate name.

### 1.2.2 Understanding the Place

Part A (Sections 1.0 to 5.0) of this Conservation Study comprises an understanding of the Adelaide Botanic Garden through an assessment of the cultural significance of the place. The following information is typically collected in the assessment of cultural significance:

- Development sequence of the place and its relationship to the surviving fabric;
- Existence and nature of lost or obliterated fabric;
- Rarity and/or technical interest of all or any part of the place;
- Functions of the place and its parts;
- Relationship of the place and its parts with its setting;
- Cultural influences which have affected the form and fabric of the place;
- Significance of the place to people who use or have used the place, or descendants of such people;
- Historical content of the place with particular reference to the ways in which its fabric has been influenced by historical forces or has itself influenced the course of history;
- Scientific or research potential of the place;

- Relationship of the place to other places, for example in respect of design, technology, use, locality or origin;
- Any other outstanding factor relevant to an understanding of the place.

### 1.2.3 Rankings of cultural significance

In the analysis sections of this report (Sections 3.0 and 4.0) a detailed form of ranking using six categories has been adopted. This enables the various themes and components to be individually ranked to aid the overall assessment of the cultural significance of the place (summarised in Section 5.0) and also to assist in making future decisions about the place (see Sections 6.0 and 7.0). The 'Rankings of Cultural Significance' used are as follows:

- Exceptional cultural significance
- High cultural significance
- Contributory cultural significance
- No appreciable cultural significance
- Intrusive
- Alteration or loss which has jeopardised cultural significance

The main criteria have been the contribution a component makes to the development of Adelaide Botanic Garden and to the history of Australian botanic gardens generally, its association with significant people and events in South Australia, its intactness or integrity, its rarity, and its aesthetic qualities. Brief explanations of the six categories are as follows.

***Exceptional cultural significance*** means that the component or element in question contributes in a fundamental way to the understanding of the overall cultural significance of Australian botanic gardens. It is of individual significance in its own right and intact. This ranking denotes components of national cultural significance.

***High cultural significance*** means that the component or element in question contributes in a fundamental way to the understanding of the overall significance of Adelaide Botanic Garden. It may also be of individual significance in its own right, and substantially intact. This ranking denotes components of statewide cultural significance.

***Contributory cultural significance*** is assigned to components that are of minor merit in their right but nevertheless contribute to the overall composition and importance of the Adelaide Botanic Garden. It may also mean that the component has been altered so that contributes in only a diminished way to the overall significance of the Garden. This ranking denotes components of local cultural significance. This category allows wide latitude in assessment as it forms a continuum from items of no appreciable significance up to those that fall into the category of high cultural significance.

***No appreciable cultural significance*** means that the component does not contribute to the overall significance of the Gardens and nor does it have any appreciable cultural significance in its own right. It has been used where components do not jeopardise the cultural significance of the place (in which case they would be ranked as intrusive).

***Intrusive*** applies to components that downgrade the cultural significance of a component or of the site as a whole. This intrusive impact is clearly distinguished from the previous category, which denotes a more neutral category (neither intrusive nor culturally significant).

***Alteration or loss which jeopardises cultural significance*** is used to rank components which have undergone either major change or removal from Adelaide Botanic Garden, and this action has jeopardised the cultural significance of the Garden. Such components have a similar effect to items that are intrusive, however the distinction between the two categories is that items ranked as intrusive are still extant, whilst items in the 'jeopardised' category are no longer present (in any appreciable form), and it is their *loss* that has jeopardised cultural significance.

The rankings are based on the analysis and assessment contained in this report, and are the opinion of the authors.

### 1.2.4 Conservation Philosophy

A conservation philosophy appropriate to Adelaide Botanic Garden is developed (Section 6.0) and expressed through a Statement of Conservation Policy (Section 6.4). This is then translated into Conservation Actions (Section 7.0). The development of the Conservation Policy has canvassed the following issues:

- Establish or confirm the nature, extent, and degree of intactness of the significant fabric
- Investigate needs, aspirations, current proposals, available finance, etc., of owners and users
- Investigate other requirements and concerns likely to affect the future of the place and its setting including
  - (a) federal, state and local government acts, ordinances and planning controls;
  - (b) community needs and expectations;
  - (c) locational and social context
- Survey the fabric sufficient to establish how its physical state will affect options for the treatment of the fabric
- Collect information about uses, sufficient to determine whether or not such uses are compatible with the significance of the place and feasible
- Collect comparative information about the conservation of similar places (if appropriate)
- Identify information which has been sought and is unavailable and which may be critical to the determination of the conservation policy or to its implementation

As part of the development of this conservation policy, key stakeholders have provided input regarding aspects such as needs, aspirations and current proposals. Where appropriate these responses have been used in the development of the Conservation Policy.

The foregoing material forms the basis of the Statement of Conservation Policy (Section 6.4). The Conservation Policy addresses issues relevant to the conservation and future use of Adelaide Botanic Garden. These include:

- Level of significance
- Use
- Diversity and evolution of cultural significance
- Appropriate conservation processes

Section 7.0 contains a series of Conservation Actions that applying the Conservation Policy to the main themes (Sections 3.0) and Garden components and collections (Section 4.0). Each Conservation Action is given a priority as follows:

- Ongoing
- Short term (i.e. 1–5 years)
- Medium term (i.e. 5–10 years)
- Long term (i.e. over 10 years)

## 1.3 DEVELOPMENT OF ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDEN: A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY

**1836:** Colony of South Australia established

**1836–37:** Plan and survey of Adelaide undertaken on traditional land of the Kurna people; first site for a botanic garden included in plan (1837) on an island in the River Torrens (part of the west park lands)

**1837:** Second site for a botanic garden selected close to the earlier (abandoned) site; garden leased to Thomas Allen, site abandoned in 1840

**1839:** Third site for a botanic garden selected on a bend in the Torrens, north of the later site of Botanic Park; garden placed under the care of John Bailey, who had optimistically been appointed as Government Botanist

**1844:** First show of South Australian Agricultural and Horticultural Society on land between North terrace and Frome Bridge; exhibition building erected in 1859 and site used for show purposes until 1925

**1850:** Third site leased by George Francis (following earlier short-term leases) and run as a private botanic garden while Francis was working as a surveyor and valuator; site abandoned 1856

**1852:** Lunatic Asylum opened on Hackney Road (east of the subsequent Botanic Garden site)

**1853:** Fourth site for a botanic garden at the north-west corner of Frome Road and North Terrace approved by the colonial Governor following agitation by the Agricultural and Horticultural Society; site rapidly superseded by a fifth site

**1855:** Fifth (current) site for a botanic garden formalised following application by the Agricultural and Horticultural Society in 1854; boundaries of site surveyed and adjacent hospital land excluded from area sought; inaugural Committee of Management constituted

### FRANCIS DIRECTORSHIP

**1855:** George Francis (1800–1865) appointed inaugural superintendent of Adelaide Botanic Garden; rapid progress made by Francis in designing and laying out the Garden, including the Top and Main Lakes, and Main Walk; residence erected for director

**1857:** Garden opened to the public (4 October 1857); initial development focussed on southern section of the site

**1859:** Conservatory erected, commencing a rich tradition of horticultural buildings with the garden; Nelumbo Pond formed; catalogue of plants published

**1860:** *Botanic Gardens Act* enacted, placing the Garden under a Board of Governors and upgrading the position of superintendent to director

**1864:** Plan of garden prepared by Francis; conifer lawns established in vicinity of later Araucaria avenue

### SCHOMBURGK DIRECTORSHIP

**1865:** Richard Schomburgk (1811–1891) appointed director following experience in botanical exploration in British Guiana and farming in South Australia; Schomburgk's directorship coincides with a period of economic prosperity in the colony; Yarrabee House erected for the Resident Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum

**1866:** Fig Tree Avenue planted and North Lodge erected, consolidating the northern boundary of the Garden

**1867:** Experimental Garden established for trials of economic plants (currently the Class Ground); Rosary established (currently the Italianate Garden); Arboretum and Pinetum established, including the earliest plantings of the current Australian Forest

**1868:** Victoria House erected, successful flowering of the Giant Waterlily established a tradition within the Garden for this remarkable Amazonian plant; Araucaria Avenue planted

- 1870:** Palm Garden established on the north bank of First Creek
- 1871:** Catalogue of plants published; updated edition published 1878
- 1872:** System Garden (or Class Ground) established to display plants according to their botanical classification (currently the Economic Garden)
- 1873:** Botanic Park established and planted over ensuing years forming a complementary park-like space north of the Garden
- 1874:** Plan of Adelaide Botanic Garden (including Botanic Park) published, depicting existing conditions as well as several projected improvements; revised plan published 1890
- 1877:** Palm House officially opened (funding granted 1875)
- 1879:** Museum of Economic Botany erected; officially opened in 1881
- 1880:** New gates erected at North Terrace entrance
- 1883:** Zoological Gardens established in north-western portion of Botanic Park, progressive relocation of zoological exhibits from the Garden to new dedicated facility; additional strip of land ceded from Botanic Park to Zoological Gardens in 1886

### **HOLTZE DIRECTORSHIP**

- 1891:** Maurice Holtze (1840–1923) appointed director following tenure as curator of Darwin Botanic Gardens, Holtze's directorship coincides with depressed economic conditions and his work initially concentrates on consolidating and maintaining the developments of his predecessors
- 1893:** Kiosk erected at north end of Rosary (currently Italianate garden)
- 1894:** Botanic Park formally dedicated to Board of Adelaide Botanic Garden under new *Botanic Garden Act*
- 1893:** Causeway and bridge erected to carry the main north–south path over the main Lake, project completed in 1896
- 1902:** Closure of Lunatic Asylum releases land along Hackney Road adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Garden for new uses
- 1906:** Simpson Kiosk erected to provide enhanced refreshment facilities within the Garden
- 1907:** Jubilee of the opening of the Garden celebrated by the opening of the Simpson Kiosk and publication of an illustrated souvenir guide; Adelaide Demonstration Orchard established on Hackney Road
- 1909:** New Tram Depot (currently Plant Biodiversity Centre) and Goodman Building (currently administration building) on Hackney Road opened
- 1911:** New trellised summer-house erected in the southern portion of the Garden

### **BAILEY DIRECTORSHIP**

- 1917:** John Bailey (1866–1938) appointed director after controversy over transfer of the herbarium function to the University of Adelaide; Bailey's father and grandfather were botanists and horticulturists and he had previously been curator of Brisbane Botanic Gardens; first section of pergola erected for wisteria (plantings commenced by Holtze in 1912); roses relocated from Schomburgk's Rosary (to former System Garden) and replaced by dahlias
- 1919:** A.M. Simpson Shadehouse opened
- 1924:** New oval lawn created at the southern end of the main north–south path directing pedestrians to new side paths; original alignment of path reinstated during 1944–45
- 1928:** Plan of Garden published (the first issued since 1890) showing the simplification of the garden beds instituted during Bailey's directorship

### **GREAVES DIRECTORSHIP**

- 1932:** Harold Greaves (1882–1959) appointed curator (and subsequently director) following a lifetime working in the Garden

**1937:** Land excised from western side of the Garden (ceded to Adelaide Hospital and the Education Department) in exchange for adjoining land to the west (part of the former Lunatic Asylum) at the corner of Hackney Road and North Terrace; new land subsequently developed as a works depot and lawns; the pre-existing East Lodge and Gates (1865) provide a new entrance to the Garden

**1939:** Sunken Garden established

#### **LOTHIAN DIRECTORSHIP**

**1948:** Noel Lothian (1915-2004) appointed director following experience in gardens (interstate and overseas) and in horticultural education; botanical research reinvigorated, library collection repatriated (after its transfer by Greaves to the Public Library)

**1952:** Land lost along the eastern boundary (negotiated in 1937) finally resumed by Adelaide Hospital during 1951–52 necessitating demolition of the glasshouses and director's residence

**1953:** Plan of garden published; Mallee Garden established and subsequently extended

**1954:** State Herbarium created a separate entity, but remains located in the Garden; Schomburgk Range of plant houses erected

**1955:** Centenary of establishment of Garden marked by publication of new history, catalogue, and guide (keyed to 1953 plan)

**1958:** Land purchased in Mount Lofty ranges to create a cool-climate annexe; Mount Lofty Botanic Garden officially opened in 1977

**1961:** Power cables within Garden placed underground

**1964:** Western Wild Garden established

**1965:** Causeway and bridge across Main Lake removed

**1970:** Horticultural Garden established

**1971:** 'Wittunga' bequeathed to the Board as an annexe; Wittunga Botanic garden officially opened in 1976

**1973:** Italianate Garden established within former Rosary (by now planted with dahlias); eastern wisteria pergola erected in 1979

**1976:** New layout for Class Ground (formerly Experimental Garden), redeveloped over several years under the guidance of Brian Morley

#### **MORLEY DIRECTORSHIP**

**1981:** Brian Morley appointed director

**1988:** Bicentennial Conservatory opened (funding allocated in 1984), planting undertaken and completed project dedicated in 1989

**1991:** Extensive restoration of Palm House, work completed in 1995

**1997:** Control of land along Hackney Road assumed by Board

**1999:** Refurbished tramway buildings opened for use as administration (Goodman Building) and Plant Biodiversity Centre; National Wine Centre constructed, building opened in 2001

**2000:** International Rose Garden opened, pre-existing rose garden re-established as Economic Garden

#### **FORBES DIRECTORSHIP**

**2001:** Stephen Forbes appointed director

**2002:** Strategic Plan adopted

**2003:** *Adelaide Botanic Garden Conservation Study* and *Adelaide Botanic Gardens Master Plan* preparation initiated for Garden; planning commenced for sesquicentenary of Garden (2005–07)

**2004:** Noel Lothian dies; City of Adelaide commissions *Adelaide Parklands & Squares Cultural Landscape Assessment Study*

**2005:** Construction began on Schomburgk Pavilion and redevelopment of Italianate Garden into a Mediterranean Garden; approval sought to demolish Schomburgk Range and Victoria House in order to build new Amazon Waterlily Pavilion; works commence on the Western Entrance by the City of Adelaide

**2006:** *Adelaide Parklands Act 2005* approved

