



**Alison Anderson**  
MINISTER FOR HERITAGE

22 March 2009

## **Olive Pink Botanic Gardens Given Heritage Protection**

Alice Springs' iconic Olive Pink Botanic Garden is now recognised as a place of historical value under the Heritage Conservation Act.

Anthropologist, writer and activist Olive Pink was the first curator of the garden. She was the catalyst for its initial establishment in 1954 when at the age of 70, Miss Pink pitched a tent on the site and determinedly lobbied Territory politicians of the day to declare it a flora reserve.

The reserve was gazetted in 1956, and became Australia's first botanic garden to showcase desert flora.

Heritage Minister Alison Anderson said she was pleased that the unique site was being preserved for Alice Springs residents and visitors to enjoy and admire for more years to come.

"It's also fitting that we're declaring this a place of significance today, on the date of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Miss Pink's birth, and I'm sure she would have been very happy to see this site afforded heritage protection," Ms Anderson said.

Miss Pink lived on the site for 22 years in an unlined army hut, until her death in July 1976.

During her years as curator, Miss Pink worked alongside Walpiri gardener Johnny Jambijima Yannarilyi to establish groves of mulga, avenues of redgums and Sturt bean trees, despite battling severe Central Australian drought conditions during that era.

After Miss Pink's death, the Territory Government built a visitor's centre on the site and constructed walking tracks and irrigation installations to support new plantings.

The site has since evolved into a thriving community hub which hosts walks, garden fairs, exhibitions and meetings.

The Territory Government provided a \$16,900 heritage grant to the site in 2007 to construct interpretive panels and produce an audio guide detailing Miss Pink's story.

Ms Anderson said the garden was a great example of a heritage place that had evolved in a positive way to become an asset to the community, while retaining its original charm.

"There will be at least seven different exhibitions in the visitor centre this year, there is a fantastic array of arts, and a great café, so these gardens are really a piece of living history that anyone can come and enjoy," she said.

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