



> Waterlily (top right) with glass features

> Wrap around interpretive panels

What is it about lily?

> Beetles' nightclub

The much anticipated blooms of *Victoria amazonica* unfurled in their new home in early summer.

When the giant waterlily first went on show at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens 140 years ago, about 30,000 people (one-fifth of Adelaide's population) turned out over five weeks to see some of the 152 flowers and 176 leaves on display.

And locals and visitors from interstate and overseas have flocked to see the lily (and its new glass pavilion) in 2008, fascinated by the plant's bizarre and exotic features, which make it such a feature of the Garden's charismatic plants collection.

The lily grows cabbage-size flowers and its leaves, which grow up to 3 metres in diameter, can be strong enough to support the weight of a small child.

The spectacular flowers, which rise and fall from the centre of the plant, have been likened to a 'nightclub for beetles'.

White and fragrant, the flowers open late afternoon and early evening—an invitation to beetles to come inside. When they do, the flower closes and gradually submerges, effectively trapping the beetles overnight in a hothouse climate ideal for mating.

The petals, which merge to pink, resurface the next morning and open, releasing the beetles to take their pollen-covered bodies to other plants and, consequently, cross-fertilise.

Lily's new pad

> A jewel-like temple

Just as Paxton drew inspiration from the structure of the lily's giant leaves to design the Crystal Palace for the Great Exhibition in London in 1851, so too did Stephen Duddy of Flightpath Architects with the G150 Amazon Waterlily Pavilion.

The Crystal Palace's influence can also be seen in the Palm House, Bicentennial Conservatory and the Schomburgk Pavilion.

The contemporary pavilion is built entirely of structural glass—roof and walls—with minimal metal framing providing maximum light and transparency.

The principles of ecologically sustainable development dictate the pavilion's orientation, layout, heating and ventilation.

Entirely white at first glance, the supports cleverly modulate to pink as they get closer to the lily, reflecting its colour.

South Australian jewellers Kath Inglis and Naomi Schwartz created the pink-toned glass doorknobs and the large 'wall brooches'. Their inspiration came also from the Crystal Palace and French glass artist and jeweller, Rene Lalique (1860-1945), known for his 'opulent glass gems'.

The Blue Nile Waterlily (*Nymphaea cerulea*), is planted alongside the waterlily. In keeping with Schomburgk's original gardens, plantings from the terrestrial bromeliads collection, regarded as one of the best in the world, surround the pavilion.

All about lily

> Interpreting the story

The themes colourfully wrapped around the supports in the outer pavilion:

- > Botanical Buccaneers
- > A Window on the World
- > Seeds of Empire
- > Planting Palaces
- > Sex and the Lily.

Through the themes, visitors to the pavilion can find out about:

- > intriguing and charismatic plants
- > the role of plant hunters in trade and the development of empires
- > stories about discovery and botanical exploration
- > more about Dr Richard Schomburgk
- > German influences on botanical exploration and links with South Australia
- > how the Amazon Waterlily and other plants have influenced design and architecture
- > propagation and cross fertilisation.



Other G150 projects

> Garden's new heart

> Schomburgk Pavilion—completed
The Schomburgk Pavilion, which houses Café Fibonacci and the Botanic Shop, is a feature of the new heart of the Gardens. Architecturally, it links the neo-classical Museum of Economic Botany with the new Amazon Waterlily Pavilion—the green shaded roof cover, patterned with leaves, shifts subtly in colour to pink as it draws close to the new glasshouse.

> SA Water Mediterranean Garden—completed
The SA Water Mediterranean Garden is playing a role in helping South Australian gardeners save water, especially in time of continuing drought. The focus of both plants and information is to broaden awareness of water-efficient plants best suited to South Australia's Mediterranean climate.

> Western Entrance—design in progress
Behind-the-scenes work for a new Western Entrance (and the associated Medicinal Garden), creating a link between the Gardens and the city via Frome Road, continues. Watch this space!

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Be there where the cycads cast their shadows!

Hospitality and making guests welcome are part and parcel of Moroccan culture . . . and this year the Garden Party of the Board of the Botanic Gardens in the shape of a Moroccan Bazaar. Brass lamps, chaises, screens and rose-petal scattered tables will provide the backdrop for belly dancers, a snake charmer, henna tattoo artist and much, much more as the scent of orange blossom wafts in the air along with just a whiff of cuisine-rich cinnamon, cumin and coriander.

All proceeds go to the Gardens. For more information or to book, telephone 8222 9311 or go to: www.onenightinthegarden.com.au

G150News

Botanic Gardens of Adelaide celebrating 150 years



Autumn–Winter 2008

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Premier Mike Rann officially opened the \$4.3 million Amazon Waterlily Pavilion on 7 November 2007.

Inspired by the structure of the lily's giant leaves, the all-glass energy-efficient pavilion completes the trio of Gardens 150 (G150) icon projects. The new structure is bkatroadly in the footprint of the 19th century Victoria House built for the first lily. The original heritage-listed elliptical pond has been retained.

Interpretive panels inside the pavilion explain and explore the waterlily's remarkable biology, influence on art and architecture and its kinship with the state.

The opening coincided with the launch of an exhibition centred on the lily's history and cultivation in the adjacent Museum of Economic Botany.

Adelaide Botanic Garden was one of the first in the world to cultivate *Victoria amazonica* and it remains the only botanic garden in Australia to showcase its impressive display.

'The completion of this impressive architectural inclusion to the heart of our Gardens marks a stunning job by South Australian designers and builders, which will help grow the Garden's 1.3 million visitors a year', Mr Rann said.

> Above: Hon. Mike Rann, Premier; Hon. Gail Gago, Minister for Environment and Conservation; and Stephen Forbes, Director, Adelaide Botanic Gardens



> Peter De Cure, KPMG



> Dr Tim Cooper, Coopers Brewery



> Vicki and David Minear with Premier Rann



> Daniel Moore, Perpetual Investments



> Ian Little, Chair, Adelaide Botanic Gardens



> Adam Thomson, RAA

Lily's appeal

> The ultimate compliment to the lily

'In anybody's terms, the G150 Appeal has been immensely successful. As well as helping to sustain the Gardens as a compelling place to visit, G150 projects contribute to the community's understanding of plants and the wonderful connectivity between people, plants and culture. The projects could only be realised through the generosity of the South Australian Government, the Board of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium and the G150 Foundation.'

Stephen Forbes
Director of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide

'Just as Victoria amazonica intrigued mid-19th century Europe and its colonies, its 21st century display in the new pavilion is expected to breathe new life into the history, traditions and heart of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens thanks to donations received from the corporate and private community.'

Ian Little
Chair, The Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium.

The Botanic Gardens thanks the following corporate and private community donors for their dedicated support for the pavilion.



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With your support, the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide—through the G150 projects—has been transformed, adding immeasurable richness to the recreational, scientific and educational life of the state. Your generosity has helped plant a brighter greener future for our children, as the magnificent and rejuvenated Garden takes its rightful place among the institutions of the North Terrace cultural boulevard.

- * a place to visit
- * a quiet repose
- * a place of learning
- * an ark for plant species
- * a joy to behold.