

PTA Project News - August 2014

KENWICK ONLY

Connecting art and nature at Kenwick Station

The upgraded Kenwick Station will pop with colour with its public art linking back to the area's historic Brixton Street wetlands.

Artist Pamela Gaunt spent hours researching the more than 300 species of native plants which make up 20 per cent of the known flora in the Perth region.

"I find research adds a richness to the art," Pamela said.

"I like the ideas to come from something. It makes the artwork more meaningful and connects it to the local community."

To showcase the area's diverse plant life, Pamela enlarged close up images of the plants against a translucent background of bright pink, orange and yellow for the canopy of the platform shelter.

"From different angles and at different times of the day the passengers will be able to see the colours and shadows the artwork will cast onto the platform," she said.

For the sides of the platform shelters the known scientific, common and Indigenous names of the plants as playful text in grey, pink and orange respectively which follows the shape of the *Banksia Grandis* leaf.

The artwork is the result of collaboration between the artist, Public Transport Authority, City of Gosnells, Friends of the Brixton Street Wetlands and the Indigenous unit at DPAW (Department of Parks and Wildlife). Think we should also mention Armstrong Parkin Architects here.

Passengers will be able to engage with the artwork with QR codes embedded to direct them to more information on the native wetlands.

Breakout box

City of Gosnells officers Gordana Nestic-Simic and Wayne Van Lieven provided their thoughts on the Kenwick Station artwork.

What does the public art at Kenwick linking back to the long forgotten wetland mean to the Council?

W: The artwork complements the City's urban art in the Kenwick Village precinct, and other initiatives celebrating the wetlands. It is another important piece in the network of wetland acknowledgements as it links the built form with the natural, providing a reference to and acknowledgement of the Brixton Street Wetlands, which runs from Welshpool Road to the station, as an important part of Kenwick's fabric.

G: The public art heightens awareness of Kenwick's expansive natural setting, its unique sense of place and promotes engagement with nature in different ways. While the train ride provides dramatic, uninterrupted, bold views of the wetlands, the Station's elegant new platform shelters, landscape setting and richly layered artwork will complete the journey with detailing that supports a more refined appreciation of the wetlands.

How have you been involved?

W: I have assisted PTA in its early thoughts for the station art, and assisted the artist to refine her concept and to review proposals from a visual and technical perspective - importantly, ensuring the correct use of botanical nomenclature and common plant names.

G: My focus has been on making Kenwick Station an attractive, better integrated civic space. The wetlands art theme has been important to reinforcing Kenwick's sense of place. The station upgrade, with its new platforms, shelters, simplified movement system and consolidated landscape framework will better define Kenwick's urban core: a nucleus from which the future town centre can grow.