

Premier's Awards  
Public Sector Commission  
2 Havelock St  
West Perth  
WA 6005

26th April 2016

To the 2016 Premier's Awards Judging Panel

The Rottnest Island Nursery was reopened by the RIA's Environment Team in 2011, after being inactive for 10 years, to grow native seedlings to assist in meeting revegetation, rehabilitation and amenity planting requirements for the Island.

Between 2012-15 over 64,000 seedlings have been propagated in the Nursery and approximately two thirds of these have been planted as part of the Wadjemup Walk Trail project.

The Nursery is run primarily by a group of passionate volunteers, of which there are currently 50 and approx. 10-15 volunteers provide a day in the Nursery each fortnight.

I have been volunteering at the Nursery since 2012 and have a rich horticultural background, including participation in, up to now, a six year long revegetation project at Lake Clifton, being a co-ordinator of the Lake Clifton-Herron Landcare Group and revegetation, over the last 12 years, of my 12 acre property at Herron through re-locating self seeded plants and growing my own from seed.

I have had the pleasure of working alongside passionate RIA staff who have been fundamental to the set up and continual operation of the Nursery, namely Sarah Nix (former RIA staff member) and Luke Wheat (current Environmental Operations Coordinator).

The RIA has paid for all of the nursery volunteers to undertake seed collection and propagation training from Apace Nursery and have also organised guest lecturers to come to the Island to speak about rehabilitation projects with us. The RIA has also enabled the nursery volunteers to visit Kings Park to visit their lab and nursery facilities. Later in the year, Kings Park nursery staff will be coming to Rottnest to conduct further training with us.

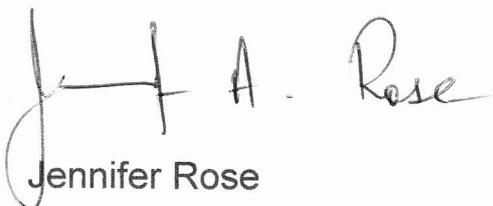
Seeds from native Rottnest plants are collected by volunteers and taken back to the Nursery where they are cleaned and treated to bring them out of dormancy, prior to sowing. Using seeds and cuttings from local plant species means the plants are more genetically suited to the conditions on the Island, compared to specimens imported from the mainland.

Over the last 12 months, the Nursery has been expanded to be able to house approx. 40,000 seedlings at one time, compared to half this amount previously and we have also constructed a new fenced area to help grow our mature stock. The RIA has plans to continue to expand the operations of the Nursery.

Propagating seedlings in the Rottnest Nursery decreases material & freight costs and increases biodiversity of the Island. Not having to import plants from the mainland significantly reduces the risk of introducing diseases that could be detrimental to the Island's flora & fauna. The Nursery and its volunteers play an important role in the delivery of the Wadjemup Walk Trail project and the conservation of the Rottnest A-Class reserve.

The nursery volunteers are very much in favour of the Rottnest Island Authority receiving an award from the Premier for the Wadjemup Walk Trail project under the 'Managing the Environment' category, as re-opening the Nursery is testament to their dedication and commitment to conserving the Island's natural assets.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer A. Rose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jennifer Rose

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