

Two hundred years of the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, Australia's oldest continuing scientific institution.

In 2016 the Royal Society of New South Wales was 150 years old, but that year was also the 200 year anniversary of Australia's oldest continuing scientific institution, the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. Botany featured early in the young settlement, notably with Joseph Banks and Botany Bay. Plants were cultivated at Farm Cove from the first settlement of Sydney but the foundation of the Garden is marked as the 'particular and *auspicious* day' when Mrs Macquarie's Road was completed on 13 June 1816. Sydney is fortunate that infertile soils had already forced a move of farming to Parramatta, leaving Farm Cove to become Sydney's premier garden.

While much has changed over the decades, science at the Garden still has important roles in maintaining the National Herbarium of NSW, our archive of botanical specimens, and in providing botanical information in enquiry services, publications and on-line. Although the Garden dates from early in the settlement of Sydney, Barbara has been associated with it for more than a quarter of its existence. She has seen the development of DNA data as a powerful tool in botanical research, computerised data-analysis, on-line data bases and increased collaboration with botanists in other organisations and countries worldwide. The role of the Garden has expanded with two satellite gardens and education programs, and it is valued for its beauty, its attractive site, its horticulture and heritage, and as green space for the city.