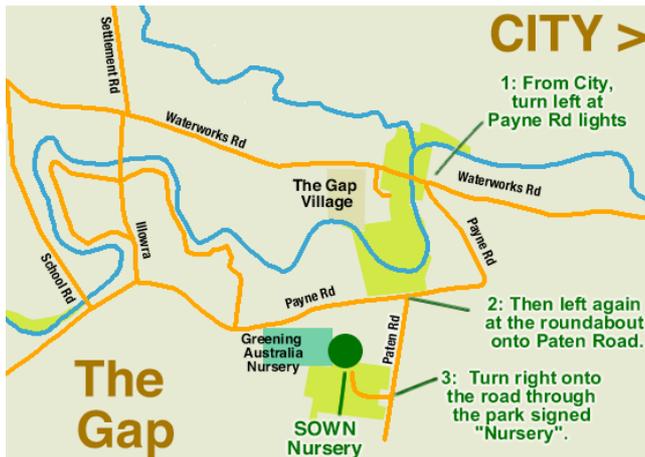


## How to get there

The SOWN Nursery is off Paten Road, The Gap. Coming from the City along Waterworks Road turn left at the Payne Road lights, follow Payne Road to Paten Road (roundabout). Turn right off Paten Road at the small road signed "Nursery". Park in the volunteers' area before the creek. **Do not park in the bitumened parking area** (it is reserved for people picking up plants).



## Opening up

Hours are 9am-11am on Saturdays, 8am-12noon Wednesdays. On Saturday (or any time you need access) you can get the keys from the Greening Australia Office, on the wall near the door of the admin office.

The keys are:

- shed roller door
- padlock on the nursery area
- poisons shed.

Open both roller doors fully. Open the swinging gates outwards so that the SOWN sign is clearly visible. Lock the padlock so that no-one can steal it. If it's hot, open the shutters at the back of the shed with the pole-hook, and turn on the fans (switch near the door). Put the keys somewhere so you can easily find them when you need to close up.

## A normal Saturday

Members typically come in a rush at 9am or even might be waiting at 9am. They often arrive in a rush at 11am just when you are trying to close the Nursery and go home. We discourage members from doing this but it doesn't seem to help.

People come for three main reasons:

- to get plants or equipment
- to join or inquire about membership, get advice
- to drop off empty tubes or equipment.

## Helping members get plants

Apart from lomandras, the plants are organised in alphabetical order by scientific name. Many have explanatory labels. Lomandras are on the first bench near the gate at the left as you enter. If people are unsure about what to get you can give them the planting guide. Some special plants, like shade lovers, have little sections where they are grouped together.

Experienced members will know what they want and won't need help, but often like to talk about what's available and what needs to be planted urgently.

## Recording plant movements

Plants outgoing need to be recorded in the plant movement book. This is a small exercise book, ruled up into columns: Date, Person or Group, numbers of plants.

## Recording equipment loans and poisons out

Even if the equipment is on permanent loan the item needs to be recorded in the equipment exercise book. This is especially important for items that are in high demand like spraysacks and brushcutters. The equipment is in various places in the shed, usually easy to find, as it is clearly labelled. If you can't find something, look in the book to see if it's on loan. **Outgoing glyphosate (Roundup) must be recorded. Note the litres taken in the book.**

## Helping new members join

Please encourage members to join through the web site and electronically. This saves double handling with administration.

New members should be given a tour of the nursery and any handouts on the shelves they might find useful, including the SOWN and BCC brochures.

They may be new to bushcare, in which case give them the planting guide and bushcare advice.

### ***Dealing with empty tubes and trays***

Members should be encouraged to wash their tubes and stack them. Clean tubes will be rinsed in anti-fungal at the nursery. It helps a lot if the tubes are clean.

If the tubes come in dirty remind members that it helps if they are washed before being returned and get them to help you stack them so they are stored compactly with the others to be washed.

### ***Herbicide***

Spraying should not be done with threat of rain for 6 hours and in still conditions to avoid drift. Do not spray where there will be runoff into waterways. Avoid using surfactant where there are frogs. Herbicide works better when it is diluted, because it is taken up by the plants more easily. There is extra surfactant and marker dye nearby.

Herbicide use:

- general 100:1
- grasses and weak plants 150:1
- madeira 50:1
- cut stump, neat or 1:1 (50%) with water.

Herbicide works by blocking the enzyme necessary for protein synthesis in plants, and has no effect on mammal physiology. It stops roots growing effectively starving the plant. That is why it takes a few days to start showing and several weeks to kill the plant.

Keep the poisons shed locked when not being accessed and make sure it is locked before you leave.

### ***In the quiet times***

When it's not busy look on the whiteboard in the shed for things to do.

Help new volunteers. You will need to take your time and explain things carefully, in small chunks that are easy to digest.

It takes a while to learn all the ins and outs of a new organisation and everyone is different with varying levels of knowledge, skills, experience and expectations, so be patient. Just wandering along the benches talking about the plants and how they are used is a good start.

### ***Seed collecting, plant ID***

Sometimes members will bring in plants to identify or seeds in bags. Make sure any seed is clearly labelled with the collector, place, date and name of the species. Leave it on the seed bench.

If you get a plant to identify and you don't know it, key it out with the Red Book or look it up in one of the other plant books. The books are in shelves with glass doors. If you don't know it, try keying it out anyway. If you still don't know it, take it to Greening Australia and see if they know it.

If that doesn't help, label it and leave it for the Nursery Volunteers with contact details for the member so they can be contacted with the ID.

### ***What if it's raining?***

Rejoice.

### ***Closing up.***

When you finally get rid of the members who have arrived late, you can close up.

- Check the poisons shed and the filing cabinet are locked.
- If one of the wheely bins are wheely wheely full take it outside.
- Check the nursery benches and propagation areas in case people have left something behind or in the wrong place.
- Put down your hours in the sign-on sheet.
- Close the Nursery Gate and lock it with the padlock.
- Check that there's nothing inside the shed that shouldn't be, and close the roller doors and lock them, and return the keys.
- If the wheely bin needs to be put on the footpath, take it there now. This is a long walk!

Then you're done. You can leave.

Wait! What about taking some plants yourself!

### ***Thanks***

The Nursery Roster is a chance to help members as well as to provide them access. We have many volunteers on the roster so your turn will only come around every six weeks or so. The members all appreciate the time you have taken to be there and help. Thank you!