

WILD SORGHUM AT GRIFFITH WOODLAND

Wild sorghum is one of the special features of the Griffith Woodland (aka La Perouse Park), along with some very big, old yellow box trees and distinctive boulders.



Wild sorghum (*Sorghum leiocladum*) is a tall summer flowering grass that's often found growing with the equally striking kangaroo grass, which is the case at Griffith Woodland. It's considered a rare or uncommon species in urban areas, though widespread in the region, preferring hillsides and slopes, on poorer soils in woodlands and dry forest habitats, in the least disturbed areas.

At Griffith Woodland, wild sorghum has tended to hug the rocks. But, thanks to the windy, wet weather of the past few months, it's a bumper season, spreading to the edge of the main path down the middle of the park.



The native sorghum grows in Qld, NT, NSW, Vic and the ACT, providing food for adult butterflies and their larvae. The Australian National Botanical Gardens says the seeds were ground and baked for food by indigenous people.



Wild sorghum is at its peak now, so treat yourself to a walk through the Griffith Woodland. If entering from the top end (La Perouse St), follow the main central path. Over the rise as you head downhill, to your left, you can see a large patch of tall, rust-coloured seed heads swaying in the breeze. Alternative entry is available from Carstensz Street and Jansz Crescent.



The Griffith Narrabundah Community Association (GNCA) supports the Griffith Woodland Volunteer Group financially, as well as three other park groups. The GNCA has so far donated \$5000 to these four groups.

Working bees are held every 3rd Sunday of the month from 9am, followed by morning tea at 1030 am. Anyone is welcome to come along! Bring sturdy footwear, sun protection and a water bottle. Gloves and some tools are available on site, but you are welcome to bring your own gloves, trowel and secateurs.