

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS - FRIENDS OF GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

Gift Fund - Financial Year Contributions

1997 Established the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund as a Public Ancillary Fund, registered with the Australian Tax Office, with an initial deposit of \$1,500: this enables the public to make tax deductible donations to benefit Geelong Botanic Gardens, or to leave bequests to benefit the Gardens. The Friends are Trustees of this Gift Fund. Each financial year a percentage of the fund [currently 4%] is required to be distributed, to be used solely for projects and programs, within and initiated by Geelong Botanic Gardens. It may not be used to support the Friends or Friends activities.

Payments are made for the Financial Year.

The Gift Fund has, since 2010, made the following distributions for the benefit of the Geelong Botanic Gardens:

2021-2022	Printer for GBG	\$2,189
	Hansen Gates Refurbishment	\$1,298
	Hansen Gates Arch Refurbishment	\$1,355
	Stonework Around Conservatory Pond	\$1,572
	Restoration of Urns	\$4,620
	Conservatory Pond Capping	\$235
	Purchase of 30 chairs for Visitor Facility	\$3,399
	Automatic Door for Visitor Facility	\$5,885
2020-2021	10/07/2020- Furphy Restoration	\$1,985
	24/07/2020 - Phase 2 Hitchcock Fountain Restoration	\$4,765
	March 2021 - Phase 3 Hitchcock Fountain Restoration	\$9,500
	May 2021 - Cobblestones around Hitchcock Fountain	\$170
	Bronze Apple and Pear Sculptures for GBG Produce Garden- with donated chicken	\$13,200
2019-2020 1	03/02/2020 - GBG Plant Label Machine	\$1,550
	24/06/2020 - Phase 1 Conservation of Hitchcock Fountain	\$12,249
2018-2019	GBG Plant Label Machine	\$10,000

2017-2018	GBG Education Program 03/05/2018	\$5,000
	Furphy Restoration	\$700
2016-2017	Furphy Water Tank Restoration Stage 1	\$1,000
	GBG Education Program 10/07/2016	\$5,000
	Acquisition of Plants for Conservatory	\$1,000
2015-2016	Repair and Restoration of the Bronze Cranes	\$6,480
	GBG Education Program	\$5000
2014-2015	GBG Education Program	\$5,000
2013-20014	GBG Education Program	\$5,000
2012-2013	Landscape Design Concept for Conservatory Restoration	\$4,100
2010-2011	Provision of Heritage Seating in the Gardens	\$6,758
		TOTAL \$104,010

Financial Contributions to Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park by the Friends – From General Funds, including subscriptions and fund raising from events.

2022	Professional development for GBG staff to attend the Melbourne International Congress in October 2022	\$3000
2022	Wadawurrung Labels	\$248
2016	Scope for the Sustainable Visitor Facility	\$10,000
2015	Restoration of the Ladies Kiosk (1904) in Eastern Park	\$36,548
2013-17	CoGG/GBG Education Program \$10,000 pa for 5 years plus \$15,000 from Gift Fund	\$35,000
2011	Development of Central “Flag Bed”	\$6,245
2010-2015	Restoration documentation for the Ladies Kiosk (1904) in Eastern Park	\$17,000
2005-2007	Acquisition Project of rare plant material including Araucarias and Chilean plants for revegetation of Eastern Park and the Gardens	\$15,000
2007	Review 1995 Conservation Management Plan of Geelong Botanic Gardens	

	and Eastern Park	\$10,000
2006	Restoration of Florence Clarke Pelargonium House	\$6500
	Restoration of Eastern Park Rotunda (c 1916) plus grant \$32,000	\$6,000
2005	Development of Concept Plan: Conversion of Walter Conservatory to cafe	\$20,000
	Installation of the Mosaic Seat at the PlaySpace	\$2,500
	Landscaping at the Temperate Garden	\$9,900
2004	Development of Stage 2 of GBG Café Feasibility Study	\$12,000
	Acquisition of sculptures for the Fern Gully	\$1,100
2003	Further Development of 21st Century Garden	\$20,000
	Development of Concept Plan - Temperate Garden	\$3,000
2002	Conservation of the Pit Glass House (1860s) plus grant \$9,100	\$2,250
	Development of 21st Century Garden	\$20,000
2001	Development of Stage 1 of 1995 Master Plan - 21st Century Garden	\$20,000
1999	Installation of Bunce Bollards plus public subscription \$10,000	\$3,000
	Provision of Covered Growing House (GBG Nursery)	\$5,700
	Rejuvenation of Camellia Collection	\$700
1997	Restoration of Japanese Bronze Cranes	\$14,000
	Restoration of the Cabmen's Shelter plus grant \$10,000	\$4,000
1994	Development of Master Plan: Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park	\$10,000
1992	Purchase Seed Fridge (GBG Nursery)	\$2,300
	Purchase Photocopier (GBG office)	\$3,058
		TOTAL \$299,049

Contributions to Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park by Member Donations, Sponsorship or Public Subscription:

2021	Four Furphy Garden Seats purchased with funds donated by Geelong Garden Club	\$4,950
2005	Development of Heritage Trail Interpretive Signage (sponsor)	\$6,000
2002	Computerised Plant Labelling Machine (member donation)	\$15,000

1999	Bunce Bollards (public subscriptions)	\$10,000
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TOTAL \$35,950

Financial Contributions to the GBG Reference Library, Art Collection and Meeting Room by the Friends:

2018	Refrigerator for Meeting Room	\$547
2017	60 Replacement Meeting Room Chairs	
2016	Display Boards	\$48
2014	Storage Cupboards	\$900
2012	Storage Cupboards	\$473
2010/11	Tables	\$475
2004	Lectern plus grant \$2,012	\$330
2003	Projection screen	\$350
2001	Purchase of artworks: Pelargonium x hortorum; Ginkgo biloba; Ginkgo biloba (detail); Geranium sp	\$4,400
2000	Published reprint of Daniel Bunce Manual of Practical Gardening	\$1,660
1997 – 2004	Fit out and equip GBG Meeting Room	\$10,473
1997-2004	GBG Library development, shelving, cataloguing, database setup, librarian wages	\$16,534
	Additions to Library resources	\$5,500

TOTAL \$41,217

Financial Contributions to Interpretation and Promotion of Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park by the Friends (not including CoGG/GBG Education Program and Grants):

2012	' A' Frames	\$732
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2002	Purchase 3 'A' frame signs	\$2,100
2000	Development and publication of Tree Discovery Walk brochure	\$1,800
1999	Development and publication of the Schools' Education Package'	\$2,100
	Development and publication of the Heritage Rose Gardens Leaflet	\$1,500
	Printing of GBG postcards	\$4,000
1997	Development of Promotional Video for the Botanic Gardens	\$9,100
1996	Professional photographs of Geelong Botanic Gardens	\$350
		TOTAL \$21,682

Funds / Grants Obtained for the Benefit of Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park (applications written / supported by the Friends):

2015	CoGG (Capital bid) Restoration of the Ladies Kiosk Ladies Kiosk Project – a funding partnership of the three organisations: City, Friends and Heritage Victoria	\$30,000
2014 - 2016	Heritage Victoria Restoration Fund – Restoration of the Ladies Kiosk (1904) in Eastern Park	\$80,000
2014	CoGG Community Concepts- Capital Budget Grant – Interpretive Signage and labelling	\$35,000
2006	Heritage Victoria Grant - Restoration of c1916 Eastern Park Rotunda	\$32,000
2004	Volunteers Small Equipment Grant – Lectern	\$2,012
2003-4	Catholic Education Grant - Develop Education Program for schools	\$2,000
2002	Parks Vic Conservation & Heritage Projects Grant – 1860s Pit Glass House conservation	\$9,100
2001	Federation Community Project Grant - Restoration of Hitchcock and Trail Fountains	\$20,000
2001	Volunteers Small Equipment Grant - Audio system, projector, digital camera	\$3,500
2000	CoGG Arts and Festivals Grant - GBG 150th Anniversary Historic Photos Exhibition	\$3,500
1998	Parks Vic Heritage Conservation Grant - Restoration of the Cabmen's Shelter	\$10,000
1997	City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) Community Concepts - Computer for cataloguing GBG Reference Library	\$2,000
		TOTAL \$229,112

Grants to Assist the Friends in their Promotion of Geelong Botanic Gardens:

2022	CoGG Senior Week Grant to fund morning tea / walk	\$450
2021	Federal Govt Grant to purchase defibrillator and assist with First Aid Training	\$3,000
	Arts Grant to conduct Inspired by Nature 7 Botanic Art Exhibition	\$3000
2020	COGG Community Arts Grant to produce Friends' promotional Calendar	\$5,000
2020-2021	Commonwealth, State and Local Government Grants – Financial Covid Support	\$90,000
2018-2021	COGG Seniors' Week Grants, annually, to fund Seniors' Morning Tea/Walk	\$1600
2018	CoGG Infrastructure Grant - Nursery Greenhouse -pro rata payment	\$4,000
2015	Connected Communities Grant – FGBG Registrations to attend AAFBG Conference	\$2,000

TOTAL \$109,050

Support for Submissions to the City for Budget Considerations and Capital Bids

The Friends have given support for applications involving Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park, which have been submitted to CoGG for consideration in the Budget or Capital Bid processes. Some recent examples are:

- Restoration of the Walter Conservatory
- Restoration of the Ladies Kiosk, reopened in 2017
- Development of the Sustainable Visitor Facilities

Professional Development and Promotion

The Friends have been generous in their support of the GBG staff, with extensive contributions since 1997 to enable staff members to attend professional development and conferences, including international venues. It is estimated that \$5,500 was provided in the period 1997 – 2004.

The Friends regularly provide support for members and Friends volunteers to attend workshops, seminars, conferences, network meetings etc. to assist them in their promotion of Geelong Botanic Gardens.

The Friends funded the keynote speaker at the 2006 International Pelargonium and Geranium Conference, held in Geelong.

The Friends continue to promote Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park through subscriptions to Geelong and Bellarine Tourism, Geelong What's On monthly booklet, the Friends' website, Facebook, Instagram etc.

Friends Volunteer Activities / Programs:

◇ Guides

The establishment of The Friends' guiding program was the original purpose of the Friends. Since 1986, the Guides' twice weekly walks and associated activities have been instrumental in promoting public enjoyment of the Gardens. The Friends support these members with training opportunities, equipment, conference registrations etc.

Free weekly walks and special themed guided walks, booked walks, a monthly Discovery Table and virtual on-line walks, as well as self-guided walks, are all provided by the Friends' highly trained Guides.

◇ Horticultural Hands-on Volunteers

Friends Volunteers have many active roles in the Geelong Botanic Gardens:

- Perennial Border - members have actively worked in the Gardens since the late 1980s when the Friends and Gardens staff established this significant section of the Gardens. This area is still maintained and financially supported by the Friends.
- Heritage Rose Garden – these garden beds have been maintained by volunteers since 1998 (many volunteers originally belonged to the Western District branch of the Heritage Rose Society) and this garden is also financially supported by the Friends.
- Silver Border -to celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the Friends in 2010, the Gardens staff and Friends established these stunning garden beds near the Conservatory, financially supported by the Friends. The Perennial Border volunteers continue to help maintain this Border.
- Weeding – the volunteer weeding group was established early in 2022, with consultation with GBG garden staff. This group is highly appreciated, as their contribution allow staff to work on other areas of the garden. The group are guided by the GBG staff each week and allocated an area in need of work.
- GBG Reference Library–Friends volunteer to coordinate this library and other reference collections which are held at the Gardens.

◇ Friends Nursery

The Friends' plant Nursery was established in 1993, with \$2,100 for the initial equipment and fit-out. Members volunteer each week to raise plants, largely sourced from the Gardens, for sale to the public. Nursery sales are a core part of the Friends' business.

The Friends provided \$5,600 for a permanent shelter in 2000 and \$9,000 in 2014 for the display tables in the Nursery. A further contribution of \$1,218 provided six more display tables for the Nursery in 2017. In 2018 the Friends received a \$4,000 grant to fund 50% of a greenhouse to replace the propagating igloo.

The Nursery is entirely managed and run by Friends volunteers, with over 5,000 volunteer hours involved every year in its operation.

◇ **Geelong School of Botanical Art**

This School was established in 2003 and the Friends took over the management in 2007. Classes are conducted during school terms and workshops are usually conducted in school holidays. The School engages highly skilled tutors, some of whom have exhibited internationally as well as nationally. An exhibition, “Inspired by Nature”, which features artworks by students and tutors, is held biennially:

- 2009 Inspired by Nature 1, The Gordon Gallery
- 2011 Inspired by Nature 2, The Gordon Gallery
- 2013 Inspired by Nature 3, art@wintergarden
- 2015 Inspired by Nature 4, art@wintergarden
- 2017 Inspired by Nature 5, art@wintergarden
- 2019 Inspired by Nature 6, Deakin Waterfront Exhibition Space
- 2022 Inspired by Nature 7, Deakin Waterfront Exhibition Space

NON-FRIENDS ART EXHIBITIONS MANAGED BY THE FRIENDS:

- 1995 It’s a Rare Thing; Rare and Threatened Flora - Helen Leitch: Friends of Adelaide Botanic Gardens travelling exhibition, Geelong Art Gallery
- 2001 Heritage and Botanic Art: in partnership with Geelong Art Gallery
- 2003 Nature Personified – Helen Leitch: Museum of South Australia travelling exhibition, Gordon Gallery
- 2008 Hidden in Plain View; The Forgotten Flora: National Herbarium of Victoria travelling exhibition, Gordon Gallery, plus CoGG Community Festivals and Event grant - \$2,000 – to host the exhibition.

◇ **Events, Tours and Other Activities**

The Friends provide an annual program of events and activities for members and the public –bus tours, speaker evenings, open gardens and many more activities to interest the wide membership. The Friends’ newsletter, Jubaea, was originally published quarterly but, since 2020, is published tri-annually.

◇ **Conferences Hosted by the Friends**

- 1994 National Conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens
- 2001 National Conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens
- 2016 National Conference of the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Garden

Programs and Activities No Longer Supported / Managed by the Friends:

◇ **The Friends Tea House – 1992 -2012**

The GBG Tea House opened in 1992, with the Friends providing \$17,000 towards building and establishing it. A further \$22,000 is estimated to have been provided by the Friends for equipment and improvements. The Friends employed staff to manage the Tea House until January 2012, with volunteers providing more than 60,000 volunteer hours. The Friends provided all equipment for the Tea House during its management. In 2012 the Friends ceased operating the Teahouse. Management of the Teahouse is now privately leased by CoGG.

◇ **Gardens Education Program - delivered by Friends 2002-2012; delivered by CoGG from 2012**

- 1999 The City employed a consultant to design an Education Kit. The Geelong Botanic Gardens Education Program was initially delivered by Volunteer Guides.
- 2002 - 2012 The Friends employed an Education Officer to provide programs for more than a thousand students visiting the Gardens.
- 2012 The delivery of the GBG Education Program was transferred to the City of Greater Geelong.
- 2013 – 2017 The Friends contributed \$10,000 each year over a five-year period to support the CoGG/GBG Education Program – total commitment of \$50,000. This was funded with contributions by the Friends and distributions from the Gift Fund.

From 2018 the Friends' financial commitment to the GBG Education Program has not been requested by CoGG or the GBG.

◇ **Music in the Gardens – 2000 - 2014**

Beginning on a small scale in 2000, this very popular summer music event, organised and managed by the Friends, brought thousands of people into the Gardens over 15 years. The last 'Music in the Gardens' was held in 2014, involving more than 1,000 volunteer hours and 150 Gardens Staff hours.

Updated 30 January 2023