

Jubaea



FRIENDS OF
GEELONG
BOTANIC
GARDENS

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc. Newsletter

Volume 19 Issue 3

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Luanne Thornton, Kate Kirkhope, Jayne Salmon, Stuart Macintyre, Annie McGeachy, Cr Jim Mason and Friends' President Allison Martland.

HERITAGE COUNCIL of VICTORIA AWARD

The Heritage Council of Victoria is an independent statutory body appointed by the Governor-in-Council. This expert group has a broad range of functions under the Heritage Act 2017, including deciding which places and objects are added to the Victorian Heritage Register. The Council identifies and protects places and objects of cultural heritage significance to the state. Their role is to help people understand, value, care for and enjoy Victoria's rich cultural heritage.

Recently the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens were surprised and delighted to be notified by the Heritage Council that they were to receive an award for their work over three decades supporting the Geelong Botanic Gardens. The award recognises the Friends guiding and educating visitors to the gardens and supporting the school education program, as well as financially supporting various projects, including building restoration, by raising funds from the Friends'

Nursery and other members' activities including events, botanic art classes and workshops, talks and trips.

The award was presented in person at the gardens by the chair of the Council, Professor Stuart Macintyre on 26 August, prior to the AGM. In addition to the framed certificate the Friends received a cheque for \$2000. "The Heritage Council was impressed by the vibrancy of the Friends and its wide scope of activities", Mr Macintyre said.

The Heritage Council of Victoria recognises community organisations that have made outstanding contributions to the preservation of the heritage of the state and this award is given on merit. Previous winners include the See Yup Temple in South Melbourne, the Chewton Domain Society and the Dimboola Historical Society.

Luanne Thornton

GEELONG'S PELARGONIUM COLLECTION

Families and communities from all walks of life have passed through the gates of the Geelong Botanic Gardens and been captivated by the living collections around them. Of those collections few rival the proud history of the Geraniaceae collection. From many corners of the world, and the diligent hands of excellent horticulturalists, this collection has resolutely stood the test of time.

The staff at Geelong Botanic Gardens leapt at the opportunity to revitalise this collection. Enthusiasm did not wane through long hours, late finishes and tiring work. Some of the improvements include:

- Reinstallation of new hanging baskets
- Improvement of safety standards beyond compliance
- Modernisation of the irrigation system
- Installation of seating and display urns
- An intense round of maintenance to the entire collection

The Geraniaceae collection is now tiered beautifully within the Pelargonium house, seemingly resting in its new state of repair. Rest it may while the staff would not - eagerly setting out for the next challenge.

What is a Botanic Gardens without sculptures of grandeur to draw out and compliment the living art that surrounds it? Well, it would certainly not be Geelong Botanic Gardens! We have now proudly re-erected the Raphael Romanelli Italian marble sculpture of 'Ruth' in the re-designed Pelargonium House.



Created in the early 1920's, the sculpture was purchased by James H McPhillimy and gifted to the Geelong Art Gallery in 1925. It was relocated to a new home in the Walter Conservatory when it was opened in 1964. 'Ruth' measures 2.5 metres in height and weighs 2.7 tonnes. It was with bated breath that such a valuable piece was installed. Cranes were too large to clear the roof line and it was the great skill and dedication of professionals that brought success.

'Ruth' was inspired by a young woman in the bible, who after tragedy befell her husband and all his brothers, followed her mother-in-law to her home-land. She committed herself in deepest friendship to her mother in law, even converting to her religion, living in a foreign country and working on the land admirably. Her integrity and loyalty won the attention and favour of the people and a good man who was able to restore the family and all their fortunes. In the culture of the time, Ruth's actions restored her whole family and she is still esteemed as the example of faithfulness and friendship throughout history and the world.



Our 'Ruth' sits peacefully in the Pelargonium House overlooking the foliage, and to us, is indeed an example of all the integrity, hard work and friendship amongst staff and friends that enables this Botanic Garden to continue.

Presently you will find Regal Pelargoniums on display. These fascinating cultivars are well known for their prolific floral show, and with their flowering season just beginning, visitors will find the house in an abundance of colour for the coming months.



Ashley Filipovski, Acting Coordinator GBG

THE CONSERVATORY



The last update to share is without doubt, the most impressive: **The Opening of the Conservatory.** Closed for little less than a decade, this precious member of the Gardens had long been missed, banished in a myriad of structural faults and red tape.

Yet the seemingly unachievable was managed with dogged persistence, skill and elbow grease. The Conservatory now boasts a wide variety of tropical plant species, epiphytes, water features, plant towers and hanging baskets. Other Conservatory improvements include:

- Upgraded technology that measures the climate and humidity, modifying accordingly
- A hydronic floor heater
- Exhaust fans
- High pressure misting humidifier that does not over water plants...or people!
- New and improved plant towers



The orchids are ecstatic in their new living arrangement and have been blossoming fragrantly since being installed. Running water serenades visitors and you can hear children delighting in the goldfish. It has been a full house since opening its doors.



Many different departments and contractors were involved on this project, with far too many to list. However, this offered a great example of what can be achieved when everyone works together for a thriving community, to achieve a common goal.



It brings staff great pride to see so many guests appreciating these longstanding relics. Their innovation and devotion to their trade has shown a new light on these collections, bringing with it new looks and experiences. Staff remain confident that we will continue to captivate the public, leaving a positive legacy for the generations to come.

Ashley Filipovski, Acting Coordinator GBG

The Conservatory opens from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm
Monday to Friday.

INSPIRED BY NATURE 6 EXHIBITION @ EXHIBITION GALLERY

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY, GEELONG WATERFRONT

HANGING THE ART WORK IN THE DEAKIN GALLERY

Installing an art exhibition is a challenging and rewarding task. A group exhibition is something tutors and students have worked toward for a year or more. Tutors have a substantial emotional investment in its success. If the exhibition is in a museum or commercial gallery, installing the works will most likely be the responsibility of the museum curator or gallery director. But if the exhibition is in a university gallery (free to community groups) all of the responsibility for arranging and hanging the work will fall to those volunteers who have agreed to 'hang' the exhibition.

When I heard that Amanda Ahmed, Deb Chirside and Judy Lavery were to 'hang the exhibition' I was in awe. These artists/tutors were to hang the works from 29 artists who produced 79 framed works.

Gradually information about the hanging process filtered through! Deb's husband had to come in with an extra tall ladder!

Hanging took nearly 3 days. What about Amanda's job? Judy has recently had hip surgery! The equipment included spirit levels and measuring tapes. What a herculean task.

Considerations when hanging included size of work, colour of frame, compatible works, and how pleasing the hung works were to the eye. So diligent was our hanging group that at times good was not enough, the works were taken down and a reworking began.

From the entry announcing *Inspired by Nature 6* to the circumnavigation of the whole, the exhibition on display was highly professional. From the feedback it was unanimous that the artists felt their art was valued and respected by the process. On behalf of the artists and the Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens we give our heartfelt thanks to the Amanda, Deb and Judy for their impeccable work. Also a special thank you to Helena Buxton for coming in for half a day to help with the hanging process.

Denise Feldman



Day 1: Artwork delivery and first placement



Day 2: Assessing placement.
Amanda Ahmed, Helena Buxton,
Deb Chirside and Judy Lavery



Day 3: The end of three long days and we have an exhibition!

INSPIRED BY NATURE 6 OVERVIEW

The Geelong School of Botanical Art held its biennial exhibition '*Inspired by Nature 6*', at Exhibition Gallery, Deakin University Waterfront Campus, 2 – 30 August 2019. Twenty-nine artists presented 79 works, all of which had been created during the last two years. Seven of these were sold during the exhibition, which was pleasing and met our expectations.

The Opening Night on Friday 2 August was attended by 140 people, and was a highly successful and enjoyable event. Allison Martland welcomed the guest speaker, Gordon Morrison, former Director of the Art Gallery of Ballarat, who opened the exhibition. After the prizes were awarded to successful artists, John Pastoriza-Piñol, a tutor in the School, presented an overview of the paintings in the exhibition and botanical art in general.



Opening Night speeches by Gordon Morrison, John Pastoriza-Piñol and Allison Martland

I am sure that all those people who attended the exhibition during the month would agree that it was a beautiful and visually very pleasing exhibition. All the artists exhibiting their work should be very proud of their achievements. But having beautiful paintings to display is only part of what makes an exhibition exceptional. The way those paintings are hung in the exhibition space is also most important. Therefore huge thanks have to go to Amanda Ahmed, Deb Chirnside and Helena Buxton for the time, effort and just plain hard work they took in presenting our works to their best advantage. Each painting had to be positioned so that it complemented those paintings around it, and each had to be spaced accurately. This process took the better part of three days, with lots of ladder climbing by Amanda and Deb. We are truly indebted to them for their efforts, as the end result could not have been better.

The winner of the Cavalier Art Prize for best painting in the exhibition was presented by Gordon Morrison to Niki Coates for her painting of the common fig *Ficus carica*. Helena Buxton and Jill Shalless had been given the task of judging the best painting.



Niki Coates, winner of the Cavalier Art Prize for Best Painting for the common fig *Ficus carica*

The Friends' Encouragement Award was chosen by Anthea Williams and Allison Martland and was presented by Jill Shalless and Allison Martland to relatively new artist Linda Fiddes for her painting of the Himalayan cedar *Cedrus deodara*.



Linda Fiddes, winner of The Friends' Encouragement Award for the Himalayan cedar *Cedrus deodara*

People attending the exhibition were encouraged to cast a vote for their favourite work in the exhibition. This People's Choice Award went to Joan Moncrieff for her work on the European white water lily *Nymphaea alba*.



Joan Moncrieff, winner of the People's Choice Award for the European white water lily *Nymphaea alba*

Another important aspect to presenting botanical art in exhibitions is the labelling that informs the viewer of the plants depicted in the paintings. This has to be botanically correct and getting this right is every artist's challenge. So here, our artists were helped by Jayne Salmon and Annie McGeachy, who checked every label provided by the artists. Judy Fyfe and Liz Bennetto also helped in this process, and so we owe them all our sincere thanks for the time and effort they took in ensuring that our labels were correct. Thanks also must go to Pammi Pryor and Bob Tilbury for creating the labels for us.

Students were responsible for 'manning' the exhibition during its opening hours, which they willingly did. We had a total of 390 visitors to the exhibition during the month, which was very pleasing, with many commenting on what a beautiful exhibition it was. Many left responses in our Visitors' Book and these can be viewed in the Office should anyone be interested.



Opening Night, 'Inspired by Nature 6' Exhibition

Currently all students in the School have been given the opportunity to respond to a survey of the exhibition and the information provided to them relating to taking part in it. With their comments we hope to make even greater improvements to our next exhibition in 2021, for which we will begin planning shortly.

Judy Lavery

FRIENDS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Nearly forty members attended the Friends' 2019 Annual General Meeting on 26 August, to receive the Annual Report, Financial Reports and to confer Honorary Life Memberships. Sincere thanks were given to out-going Committee members Anthea Williams, Ro Richards and Glenda Guest for so generously contributing to the management of Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens. A presentation of flowers was made, particularly acknowledging Anthea's seven years on Committee.



Committee 2019-20, Allison Martland, Kate Kirkhope, Denise Feldman, Judy Lavery, Barrie Satchell, Jane Laidlaw and Jan Cheyne. Absent: Libby Hogg, Tilly Brunton and Peggy Muntz.

Manager of Parks and Gardens, Heath Chasemore, chaired the Committee elections. Committee now comprises: President – Allison Martland; Secretary, Kate Kirkhope; Treasurer, Jane Laidlaw; Vice Presidents, Judy Lavery and Libby Hogg; returning general member Tilly Brunton; new general members Jan Cheyne, Denise Feldman, Peggy Muntz and Barrie Satchell.

Pleasingly most volunteer groups are now represented on Committee, including the Friends' Geelong School of Botanical Art.

Honorary Life Membership was conferred on two very worthy members who have volunteered with the Friends since 1998. It is with appreciation that Pauline Lynch (Perennial Border) and Margaret Ward [Teahouse and Heritage Rose Garden] were honoured for their dedication, supporting the Friends and Geelong Botanic Gardens for 21 years. A posthumous Honorary Membership was conferred on Gweldda Owen, for her many years of volunteering in the Friends Nursery and two final years on Committee. Her daughter, Penny, was proud to receive Gweldda's certificate on her behalf and spoke movingly about the impact that volunteering can have on people's lives.

This very pleasant evening commenced with a wonderful supper and concluded with a talk by guest speaker, Heath Chasemore. Heath gave members an insight into the scope of the Parks and Gardens portfolio, as well as the Geelong Botanic Gardens Strategic Plan. It was interesting to hear of the long-term vision for the Gardens and planned projects that are being progressively achieved. Many thanks to Heath and our members for participating in this important event.

Allison Martland

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

It is with pleasure that the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens (the Friends) present the 2018-2019 Annual Report. The Annual Report provides an opportunity to reflect on the main purposes of the Friends, to report on the ways in which the Friends have worked towards fulfilling these purposes over the last twelve months and to give an opportunity to express sincere appreciation and acknowledgement of those who have assisted along the way.

PURPOSE OF THE FRIENDS

- to act in partnership with Gardens Management and support the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park (The Gardens)
- to encourage community support and appreciation of Geelong Botanic Gardens
- to promote membership of the Friends and activities for the benefit of members
- to carry out activities to raise funds for the Friends and Geelong Botanic Gardens
- To act as Trustee of the Gift Fund

The Friends' primary purpose is to support Geelong Botanic Gardens. This report will put the Friends' current support of The Gardens into a perspective based on the City of Greater Geelong's long-term vision for The Gardens. Since the days of the first Curator each manager of Geelong Botanic Gardens has left their own mark on the development of the Gardens, within the context of the City of Geelong's vision for the Gardens, at that time.

In 2007 **Annette Zealley** commenced as Director of Geelong Botanic Gardens, having previously been Manager of Gardens in the Dandenong Ranges for Parks Victoria. In 2008 the **Strategic Plan** for The Gardens was signed off, after many years of planning. The Strategic Plan is a long-term action plan to guide the future direction of Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park. It includes

strategies to improve the quality of the landscape and recreational facilities, and to guide the conservation and management of the built form.

Annette's background, in Gardens Management with Parks Victoria and a Bachelor of Applied Science (Horticulture), made her well suited to the range of technical and horticultural projects that the Strategic Plan was committed to. Since 2007 many of the actions from the plan have been, or are in the process of being realised, and whilst the Strategic Plan was being implemented other projects relating to the conservation of heritage structures, directional signage and building maintenance were also carried out.

The following **milestones, since 2007**, provide a historical background that gives members an idea of the types of projects that the Friends support, either through grant applications, financially or through advocacy and education.

- The Gardens included on the Victorian Heritage Register
- 'Water for the Future' storm water harvesting project in Eastern Park
- Pedestrian and cyclist paths linking the City to the 'Tan' tracks
- Tree planting and restoration of original avenues of trees in Eastern Park
- Establishment of the educational Central Bed themed display garden
- Restoration, development and landscaping of the Walter Conservatory
- Automated watering systems throughout the Gardens
- On-going project with Greening Australia propagating indigenous grasses
- Visitor Facility/ Sewerage project for administration buildings and gardens
- Development of overall plant collection, with historical emphasis and bioclimates
- Heritage projects: restoration of the Ladies Kiosk and Raddenberry Fern Book; maintenance of the Cabmen's and Raddenberry Shelters;
- Re-roofing Meeting Room; establishment of Bunce private conference room
- Major signage at The Gardens front entrance and directional signage

It is extraordinary that so many infrastructure and horticultural projects of such significant scale have been carried out in a relatively short time. It is a testament to the capabilities of Director Annette Zealley and her staff, as some projects required specialist technical training and extended absences from regular duties. Managing all the constraints of major infrastructure work, on an on-going basis, whilst managing the day-to-day business of The Gardens, as well as Annette's commitment to external horticultural bodies such as the peak body for Botanic Gardens (BGANZ), deserves our admiration and sincere thanks.

In **2019** the Friends approached The Gardens Director and the Manager of Parks and Gardens, to initiate discussions regarding future Gardens projects that the Friends may be able to financially support. The extent to which the Friends may be able to contribute to significant projects is directly related to the Gift Fund.

FRIENDS GIFT FUND

Donations made to the Friends are received into the Gift Fund, for which the Friends are the Trustees. This fund has statutory obligations. Funds can only be spent on projects for the benefit of the Geelong Botanic Gardens and a percentage of the fund (currently 4%) must be dispersed annually to Geelong Botanic Gardens. The Committee works with Gardens management to agree on appropriate projects for the dispersed funds. The Friends' role in the relationship with The Gardens is a supportive one. It is not the Friends' role to mandate how funds will be utilised.

In 2018-19 the Gift Fund funded the purchase of a new plant labelling machine to enable The Gardens staff to more efficiently produce labels linked to their plant data base.

The Gift Fund has grown considerably in recent years, due to the generosity of many donors, who we acknowledge with gratitude and thanks. In 2018 the Friends received a substantial gift (approx. \$289,000) from the estate of a Geelong resident. As this has significantly increased the Gift Fund, the Friends will work with Gardens Management, the Manager of Parks and Gardens and the City of Greater Geelong to consider funding projects that fit within the City's plans for The Gardens.

SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

In June 2019 the Friends were delighted to receive notification of an award from the **Heritage Council of Victoria**, in recognition of the Friends' advocacy and promotion of the heritage of Geelong Botanic Gardens and the Friends' support of conservation of heritage structures within The Gardens, over thirty-four years. A \$2,000 award was received and a certificate of appreciation will be presented prior to the 2019 AGM.

In May 2019 the Friends once again supported Geelong Botanic Gardens in BGANZ's national celebration of **Botanic Gardens Day**, promoting The Gardens and the diversity of volunteering opportunities offered by the Friends. The Gardens provided educational activities for children and their families, whilst all volunteer groups participated with activities that showcased their volunteer roles. Many thanks to The Gardens staff and Friends who participated so willingly on this successful occasion.

In July 2018 representatives of the Friends attended the **farewell** function for retiring Manager of Parks and Gardens, **Grant Baverstock**. The Friends have valued Grant's support and the collaborative relationship has been a very positive one for the Friends and Geelong Botanic Gardens.

It was with pleasure that the Friends **welcomed** incoming Manager of Parks and Gardens **Heath Chasemore**. The Friends look forward to a productive and collaborative relationship with Heath and wish him well in this role.

Representatives attended a morning tea, hosted by City of Greater Geelong, to acknowledge volunteer groups who held activities during **2018 Seniors Month** in October. The Friends had provided a Seniors morning tea and guided walk to promote the Gardens and the Friends.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE FRIENDS

Overall membership of the Friends has remained constant, with approximately 360 individuals, including a volunteer base of approximately 62 members. It is pleasing that, as our membership ages, new members and volunteers have been steadily joining the Friends.

With the demise of the Geelong Pelargonium Society our corporate membership now sits at four. The Friends continue to share the Meeting Room facilities with our remaining corporate members: Geelong Field Naturalists; Geelong Orchid and Indoor Plant Club, Geelong Organic Gardeners and the Herb Society.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To remain viable and relevant, organisations must regularly offer professional development and training to active members and staff.

During this financial year the Friends funded:

- the registration fees for five Guides to attend the biennial Guides Conference, to be held in Perth in late 2019.
- six volunteers to attend a First Aid update training course. Approximately twelve volunteer first aiders have their qualifications updated on a rotational basis.
- three volunteers to update their Responsible Serving of Alcohol certificates.

GEELONG SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL ART

The Geelong School of Botanical Art provides the Friends with a source of income and an opportunity for members and the public to receive tuition from nationally and internationally recognized artists.

The Geelong School of Botanical Art is a registered business governed by the Friends Committee. The School is administered by the Friends Office, working with a sub-committee comprising Representatives from the Friends Committee and from the School. For the last twelve months convener Judy Lavery and office manager Tracey Tilbury have worked with the Friends Committee and the sub-committee, preparing for the School's biennial art exhibition held in August 2019.

The exhibition of students' artwork, held at the Friends' 2018 Christmas Drinks, again showcased beautiful works created from the Geelong School of Botanical Art.

In November 2018 the School hosted eminent British artist Jess Shepherd to conduct a well-attended botanic workshop, which supplemented workshops provided by the School's tutors.

In January 2019 new contracts for the School's tutors were negotiated, which better reflect the value of their expertise and experience in the field of botanic art.

In January 2019 the School welcomed botanic art tutor Deb Chirnside. Deb joins John Pastoriza-Pinol, Amanda Ahmed and Dolores SK Malloni, forming a team of tutors with outstanding artistic and teaching ability.

The Friends would like to acknowledge the excellence of the courses offered by our tutors and thank them for their commitment to the Geelong School of Botanical Art.

PUBLICATIONS

One of the purposes of the Friends is to publish and disseminate, among members and the community, a newsletter relating to Friends activities. From 2018 Jubaea magazine is published three times a year instead of quarterly, to allow the production team, Editor Luanne Thornton and Tracey Tilbury, the ability to produce a more substantial magazine. It continues to be printed by Gordon TAFE and distributed electronically and by mail to members.

The History group, that formed to write a **History of the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens**, took the decision in 2018 to concentrate on completing an extensive timeline of events, rather than the exhaustive project of writing a book. Many thanks to Annie McGeachy, Jayne Salmon, Luanne Thornton and Meralyn Roberts for the painstaking task of recording and completing the documentation in 2019.

PROMOTION OF THE FRIENDS

The Friend's **Social Media** presence on Instagram, Facebook and Website continues to extensively promote activities and events related to the Friends and GBG. Thanks to Judy Fyfe and staff members Tracey Tilbury and Sally Bird for maintaining the website and regular Facebook and Instagram updates.

5000 promotional DL cards have been printed and distributed to local businesses and Information Centres, along with colourful events flyers and regular advertising in Geelong 'What's On' magazine. These successfully promote Friends activities and events.

Interviews throughout the year on local radio have given the Friends opportunities to promote particular events that are of interest to the public

In 2018 the Friends' Guides initiated the production of **screen-printed fabric tote bags**, featuring the Friends' logo, for use during guided walks, to further promote the Friends.

FRIENDS VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Another of the Friends' purposes is to provide events and activities for members and the public.

Volunteers provide opportunities for members and the public to actively participate and engage in Friends events. Volunteering provides opportunities to advocate for the Gardens and strong participation is essential to generating income, which in turn allows the Friends to support the GBG. Sincere thanks to our amazing volunteers for their tireless work and valuable contributions to the Friends and to the advancement of Geelong Botanic Gardens.

The Friends Committee continues to meet monthly, being responsible for the smooth management and governance of the Friends. Two members meet monthly for briefings with the GBG Director. In 2018-19 Committee undertook a complete review of the insurance needs of the Friends, staff, the Geelong School of Botanical Art and the art tutors. A comprehensive suite of insurance now covers all Friends' affairs and events.

The Guides continue to be vibrant and innovative. In 2019 Cherry Collins passed the role of Guides Coordinator to Gwen Anderson. Many thanks for Cherry's invaluable contribution. The Guides' successful U3A course and Guides Training Course have continued in 2019. Professional development at meetings educates Guides to a very high standard of training.

Perennial Border, Heritage Rose and Silver Border volunteers work with GBG staff to maintain some of the most admired aspects of the Gardens. These groups have successfully increased their volunteer numbers this year and the beautiful results of their work are appreciated by all who visit the Gardens.

The Growers' Nursery continues to set record high sales at the seasonal Plant Sales. In 2018 Coordinator Leanne Barnes joined Roz Hill and Liz Moss to form a management team in the Nursery. Emphasis has been on creating a safe and productive workplace and a practical Growers Handbook has assisted volunteers. This year has seen greenhouse temperature monitoring and the purchase of new display shelves.

Library and Plant Data Base volunteers support Nursery Growers, members and GBG staff. Librarian Luanne Thornton has overseen the cataloguing and distribution of many books that have been donated to the library. Merilyn Roberts has managed the collation and archiving of hundreds of documents from founder George Jones' collection of horticultural notes and recorded Friends history.

SUB-GROUPS

- Finance Committee assists the Treasurer and Office Staff with financial matters and budgets, making financial recommendations to Committee.
- Publications Committee publishes the Friends magazine Jubaea
- Marketing and Promotions Committee makes recommendations to promote GBG and the Friends, and to attract membership and participation in Friends activities.
- The Botanic Art Sub-Committee manages the Geelong School of Botanical Art
- Events Committee organizes events and activities for members and the public. Events in 2018-19 have included a movie nights; guest speakers, featuring Dr Pina Milne, Liz Bennetto, Beth Ross, Lachlan Forbes and Alison Pouliot; cooking demonstration; permaculture workshop; bus trips to Colac and Werribee areas; Through the Garden Gate; Mt Rothwell Conservation Park tour; Winter Lunch; Volunteer Week lunch; Seniors' Week morning tea and guided walk; Annual Christmas Fair and members' Christmas Drinks.

WITH THANKS

The Annual Report acknowledges, with thanks, Friends administration staff members Tracey Tilbury and Sally-Ann Bird, who provide great support to the Committee, the members and the public. Their professionalism and welcoming dispositions are much appreciated by all.

The Friends would like to thank the Management team and staff of Geelong Botanic Gardens for their collaboration and assistance throughout the year.

After seven years Friends Vice President Anthea Williams is retiring from Committee. Ro Richards and Glenda Guest are also finishing their time on Committee. On behalf of the Friends we thank them for their outstanding contributions and wish them well.

Sincere thanks to all volunteers who have contributed to the Friends affairs, events and activities and to the members who have supported them. Active participation of members contributes not only to the advancement of Geelong Botanic Gardens but enhances the experience of being a member of the Friends.

It is a pleasure and privilege to report on and lead such a vibrant and diverse organization as Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Allison Martland, President FGBG, August 2019



Train Trip to the Herbarium. Melbourne



Coach Trip to Werribee and Lara

TREASURER'S REPORT 2018-19

The full audited annual reports are tabled at this meeting and are also available to members from the Friends' office. These reports are for: a) the not for profit Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens and b) the Gift Fund which is administered by the Friends.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Finance Committee (comprising Ro Richards, Judy Fyfe, Ian and Allison Martland and I) , meet regularly to discuss financial matters and make recommendations to the Committee of the Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Financial records are maintained by administration staff Tracey Tilbury and Sally-Ann Bird.

Regional Payroll (an outside company) manages the payroll for the Friends.

Davidsons Accounting provide professional accounting advice and complete the annual audit.

GIFT FUND

The Gift Fund is a separate business entity to the Friends and is reported separately. Revenue is raised from donations and a percentage of funds distributed to the Geelong Botanic Gardens annually.

Thank you to many members who have made "tax deductible donations "to the Gift Fund. This year we were fortunate to be gifted several large donations and bequests. The income for the year was \$293,366 and we spent \$11,550 on a plant labelling machine for the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Most of the funds remain in fixed deposit for future projects in the Botanic Gardens.

FRIENDS OF THE GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

This year we have raised funds by running events, tours and workshops, botanic art classes and workshops, selling plants propagated from the Botanic Gardens, guiding activities, donations, subscriptions, sale of merchandise and interest on invested moneys. The total income was \$124,634, which is down almost \$28,000 on last year. This shortfall is due to: a) only a small grant received this year and: b) botanic art income down with the running of one less class.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2019 (Extract taken from the Auditors Report 2018-19)

NOTE 2 REVENUE	2019: \$	2018: \$
Operating activities		
Events, Tours & Workshops	20,553	16,502
Botanic Art	55,655	71,844
Growers Nursery	38,997	35,060
Guides	1,816	2,221
Grants	230	8000
Donations & Gifts	2,344	11,180
Subscriptions	5,143	11,180
Merchandise Sales	1,254	3,560
Services & Fees	57	105
Interest	5,203	5,658
Movement in Plant Inventory	(6,618)	(1,802)
	<u>124,634</u>	<u>152,543</u>

Our expenses are slightly down on last year. Costs include events, tours and workshops, Botanic Art, merchandise, general and administration, marketing, operating, and contributions to Geelong Botanic Gardens. Employing staff is a significant but very necessary expense.

(Extract taken from the Auditors Report 2018-19)

NOTE 3: EXPENSES	2019: \$	2018: \$
Other Expenses from ordinary activities		
Events, Tours & Workshops	13,715	9,415
Botanic Art	40,600	47,307
Merchandise Cost of Sales	4,810	5,198
General Administration	8,391	10,493
Marketing	6,898	7,393
Operating	10,105	8,679
Contribution to FGBG Gift Fund		
Contribution to GBG & Eastern Park	3,519	1,452
	<u>88,038</u>	<u>89,937</u>
	<u>2019: \$</u>	<u>2018: \$</u>
Administration Expenses	<u>49,011</u>	<u>46,205</u>

Although we have made a loss of \$16,420 this financial year, we are in a healthy financial position with a total equity of \$363,131. The Finance Committee will carry out a review of financial activities later this year and work towards a surplus to help fund works in the Geelong Botanic Gardens

Thank you to Ro Richards, Judy Fyfe, Ian and Allison Martland for encouragement, support, and suggestions, and to Tracey Tilbury and Sally-Ann Bird for all your hard work behind the scenes.

Jane Laidlaw, FGBG Treasurer, August 2019

VALE NETTA SCHEFFERLE

Netta joined the Friends in 1994 on her return to Geelong after working for many years as a scientist in Scotland and made a wonderful contribution to the Friends organisation. Netta joined the Voluntary Guides group and provided serious academic rigour for their projects including processing the Tree Discovery Brochure and researching Aboriginal plant use as related to the GBG. Netta assisted GBG resident Botanic illustrator Enid Mayfield with research for her 2 books on the Flora of the Otway Ranges

Netta gave a very generous donation to the FGBG Gift Fund which was used to purchase a Gravograph (engraving machine) which enabled the GBG staff to produce more durable and correct plant labels.

Thank you Netta for your friendship and very generous support

Jayne Salmon

BEAUTY RICH and RARE in WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In September, I travelled with four other Geelong volunteer guides, Annie, Liz, Tilly and Cherry, to the island of south western Australia for the Australasian Botanic Guides Conference. This was the 16th bi-annual conference, each hosted by the guides of one the larger botanic gardens in Australia or New Zealand.

Why do I refer to this region as an island? This is because it has the characteristics of an island: It is difficult for living things: plants, animals and fungi, to get there from elsewhere in Australia and the wider world. To the south and west there is sea and to the north and east there is desert. This isolation, like that of many islands, results in a large proportion of species being endemic, that is, they don't grow naturally anywhere else.



Royal Hakea *Hakea victoria* has vivid coloured leaves, and flowers of many white stamens, rather like a Grevillea. It grows in Fitzgerald National Park on the south coast of WA. UNESCO has listed the Fitzgerald Biosphere as one of the 25 biodiversity hot spots around the world. We visited on a post-conference tour.

Appropriately for the gathering in Perth, at the heart of this region, the focus was on the richly diverse and rare native plants. As the month of September is the peak of the wildflower season, the botanic gardens celebrate the floral abundance with beds filled with a riot of colour and form. In addition, they host a range of activities and events.



Colourful umbrellas shade visitors on very warm sunny days.

The conference began with an illustrated prose poem 'Where the wild flowers are' read by its author, Stephen Scourfield. The poem begins: *"First there is just the cracked earth. There is red bull-dust, fine as talc, finding its way into everything. Then there is a dark circle the size of a 10 cent piece, and another and another, and with it, salty air, as the land turns to blood-mud. Western Australia - just add water, and this trailing edge, of this ancient continent, leached and bleached, so often parched, becomes: The Wildflower State, this natural garden of 12,000 species. For this is Where the Wildflowers Are ..."*



Mass plantings of wildflowers and their cultivars display the diversity of the plants.

The conference was packed with so many interesting topic choices that I had trouble deciding which to go to. Here are some snippets.

Professor Kingsley Dixon talked about the wonder and diversity of the plants of the south-west. New species are still being discovered. Two new orchids were described in 2018. One is an underground orchid. This orchid is parasitic and is pollinated by insects attracted to its scent. They have found 2 orchid plants that use sexual imitation to attract wasps to carry pollen from one plant to another. Botanists could not tell them apart, but the wasps could! The wasps were only attracted to the orchids that had the scent of the female of their own species.



The WA Botanic Gardens guides provided walks during the conference. On this walk they described the history of the earth's geology, animals and plants. Here the guides are flanked by *Muttaborrasaurus* and her eggs. This dinosaur lived in what is now central Queensland about 100 million years ago.

Over many eons, the soil and other conditions of the south-west have changed little. As a result, *Banksia* plants have had little reason to change in 50 million years. They have special cluster roots specifically for efficiently extracting nutrients, particularly phosphorus, from the soil. They are so efficient that, if grown in normal soil, they are poisoned by phosphorus.



Pink Fairy Orchid *Caladenia latifolia*. A few years ago, the WA Botanic Garden changed its watering system. Previously beds were sprayed from above. When they changed to drippers placed under the mulch, several species of native orchids appeared throughout the gardens. It is thought that the previous watering method caused the orchid tubers to rot. After the change, fine seed were blown in from the surrounding bush of Kings Park and readily germinated. As the minute orchid seed have no food reserves, they need a friendly fungus to provide them with nutrients to get started. The orchids germinate in spots inhabited by the fungus.

Professor Stephen Hopper talked about the fusion of aboriginal knowledge with western science. In WA many place names are those given by the local indigenous people. In the 19th century, the Surveyor-General instructed all his surveyors to ask for the Nyoongar place name so that European travellers could ask local people for directions. Prof. Hopper talked about how to talk with and consult aboriginal groups. He described his experiences on cultural awareness courses and the value of using all your senses to learn about country. He became alert to lizard traps scattered across the environment. These are made with a large flat stone resting on a small stone. Lizards like to hide in the shade they create. I had a direct experience of this on the way home. I was wheeling my suitcase when I came upon a skink basking in the morning sun. When I disturbed the skink it immediately ran into the shade under my case.



A troupe, dressed as flowers and birds, entertains the crowd with witticisms that cleverly teach about the life of plants.

Professor Byron Lamont talked about the ways plants adapted to the environment of the south-west of WA. This is a challenging environment for plants. Over millions of years, the soils have been leached of their nutrients and there have been no volcanoes or ice-sheets to replace those nutrients. There are hot summers with little or no rain for up to 8 months of the year and the coastal plain is a wide strip of deep, old sand-dunes that soaks up much of the water. The vegetation is fire-prone. Plants have evolved ways of thriving in these conditions. In addition to specialised roots, plants develop close (symbiotic) relationships with other organisms to aid capturing scarce nutrients (water, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and trace elements). In the south-west there is a wide range of parasitic plants; root parasites such as Sandalwood, Quandong, Christmas Tree and *Olix* in the Olive family; stem parasites such as Mistletoe and Dodder. There are also diverse carnivorous plants: Pitcher plant, Sundews and Bladderworts.

These, and other talks were complemented by walks within the botanic gardens and tours in the surrounding country. This was a most interesting and well-organised conference complemented by the beauty and diversity of plants in flower.

David Johnson

CHRISTMAS FAIR @ GBG



Unique Christmas Gifts for Sale

Saturday 30 November and Sunday 1 December
10.00 am to 4.00 pm

A Christmas Fair showcasing artwork and merchandise from the Geelong School of Botanical Art and the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens. Artwork, Prints, Books, Cards and general merchandise will be for sale.

Located in the meeting room at the rear of the gardens.

BOTANIC ART WORKSHOPS

Our latest workshop at the Botanic Gardens was the two day Gold Leaf Workshop, which was very successful. Students learned the skill of applying 23^{1/2} carat gold leaf on watercolour and parchment paper. The work was based on personal designs ranging from traditional medieval illustrations to capital letters or monograms with a distinctive stylised botanical themes. Some botanical designs were successfully adapted to gold leaf application.



Artwork by Joan Moncrief



Artwork by Joan Moncrief



Artwork by Margaret Kimball



Artwork by Helen Black

Stay tuned for more details of botanic art workshops scheduled for January.

Dolores Malloni, Tutor

SUPPORT THE GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS: JOIN THE FRIENDS

The Friends make significant financial contributions to the programs and projects at the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park each year, including plantings, and building restorations.

Our members receive discounts for all FGBG activities and events including participation in our Geelong School of Botanical Art Classes and Workshops, purchases at our Friends' Plant Nursery and our Bus Trips. Members also enjoy discounts upon presentation of a current membership card at Roraima Nursery, Valley Road Nursery and Diaco's Nursery. Members receive monthly updates and a seasonal newsletter *Jubaea*. Some members enjoy volunteering in a number of key support areas; Growers, Gardeners, Guides, Events Team, Library, *Jubaea Newsletter* and the Committee.

See the Friends' website for more information



GIFT FUND

The Gift Fund currently has \$429,586 and we look forward to continuing support for projects in the Geelong Botanic Gardens with these funds. Details of our past support are on the Friends' website.

Our continuing thanks for all donations; recent donations have been received from Pammi Pryor, Lyn Gadd, Peggy Muntz, Dawn Tait, Jennifer Heath, Elizabeth Pollock, Sue Bendel, Patricia Brideson, Liz & Rex Bills, Ian Williams, Patricia Harlock, Jenny Stein, Christine Nunn, Vicki Dorain, Rosemary Weatherly, Noeline Sandblom, Jo Gray, Robert Purnell, Robert Preston, Stephanie Bennett, Sarah King, Max Lowe, Diana Primrose, Barbara Ashby, Australian Plant Society Victoria, Ian Boyd, Ron Vernieux, Liz Gilbert, Joan Mackenzie, Heather Jones, Gail Thomas and six donations from members who wish to remain anonymous.

\$11,550 was spent in the last financial year on a new plant labelling machine that prints onto metal plates, plastic stickers and plastic labels, for use in the Gardens.



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES with the FRIENDS

FREE DISCOVERY WALKS

Every Wednesday at 11.00 am and Sunday at 2.00 pm.

THEMED WALKS

Second Sunday of every month at 2.00 pm. Meet your guide at the front steps. Gold coin Donation

Check the Friends' website for theme and date.

For more information, or to make a booking, contact the Friends' office on

5222 6053 between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm Monday to Friday.

DISCOVERY TABLE in the Gardens

Third Sunday of Every Month, 1.00 – 3.00 pm

Meet the Friends' Guides for interesting information and direction to key plants and seasonal change. Copies of the Self-guided Walks and information sheets are available at the Discovery Table and the Teahouse.

WEEKLY PLANT SALES *Closed on Wednesday 25 December and Wednesday 1 January.

The Friends' Plant Nursery is **open every Wednesday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm** showcasing a wide selection of plants sourced from the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Located at the rear of GBG.

FGBG Patron: Dr Philip Moors

FGBG Committee: Allison Martland - President, Liggy Hogg – Vice President, Judy Lavery – Vice President, Jane Laidlaw - Treasurer, Kate Kirkhope – Secretary, Tilly Brunton, Barrie Satchell, Denise Feldman, Jan Cheyne, Peggy Muntz.

Editorial Team: Luanne Thornton, Liz Bennetto, Judy Fyfe, Tracey Tilbury, Allison Martland, Peggy Muntz.

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Friends' Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 10.00 am – 1.00 pm.

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FGBG activities @GBG and beyond



JUBAEA SUBMISSIONS for the Summer Edition are due by 10 January 2020.
All articles including high resolution photos (jpeg files) can be sent to the FGBG Office via email or USB.

OCTOBER

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'PLANTS FROM CHINA'

Sunday October 13, 2.00 pm

China had the first Botanical Garden in 138 BC, an enormous park with 2,000 different plants and hot houses. 2,000 years of Chinese horticultural endeavour enrich gardens all over the world. Meet your Guide at the GBG front steps.

THROUGH the GARDEN GATES

Monday 14 October, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

This year the Friends offer a self-drive tour of four stunning garden locations in the Surf Coast area. BYO picnic lunch or choose from local cafés. Finishing with a delicious afternoon tea at Bellbrae Garden, along with a plant stall. NO tickets available on the day.

\$30 members, \$40 non-members. (afternoon tea included)
Payment for tickets at Friends Office by Thursday 10 October.

SENIORS FESTIVAL GUIDED WALK with MORNING TEA

Thursday 24 October, 10.00 am

A special Free Guided Walk exploring Geelong Botanic Gardens, to celebrate the Geelong Seniors Festival. Morning tea will be provided after the walk. Bookings are essential through the Friends Office. Maximum of 60.

SPRING WEEKEND PLANT SALE

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 October, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Our nursery features a wide selection of Australian plants, colourful perennials, hardy shrubs, pelargoniums and salvias, sourced from the Geelong Botanic Gardens. The Friends' Nursery and Carpark is located at the rear of the Gardens.

Please note: the gates of the rear carpark near the Nursery will close at 4.00 pm sharp.

NOVEMBER

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'A SPICE FILLED JOURNEY AROUND THE GARDENS' **Sunday 10 November, 2.00 pm.**

Spices and herbs have been used from earliest recorded history as aids to the health and wellbeing of humans. Since they were easy to collect and prepare every household had at hand simple remedies for illness, ways to provide a more interesting and wholesome diet, dyes for cloth and aids to crop growing. On this walk we will take a look at plants with a history of culinary value for rich and poor. If your appetite has been whetted, come and hear their stories. Meet your guide at the GBG front steps. Gold Coin Donation.

NOVEMBER

GUEST SPEAKER IAN ROGERS 'KANGAROO GRASSLAND TO GBG & EASTERN PARK'

Monday 11 November, 5.30 pm for a 6.00 pm start.

Ian Rogers, former Geelong Botanic Gardens Director, will provide an insight into the social and horticultural history of our Botanic Gardens, the fourth oldest in Australia. Ian's book will be for sale on the night. Talk entry including supper \$5 members or \$10 non-members. Bookings by Thursday 7 November.

FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS DRINKS and CHRISTMAS FAIR OPENING **Friday 29 November, 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm**

Celebrate Christmas and a successful year with like-minded people, delicious refreshments and fabulous artwork and merchandise. For current members or by invitation for non-members, bookings are essential. Please contact the Office to confirm attendance by Friday 22 November for catering purposes. Meeting room at the rear of the gardens.

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 30 Nov and Sunday 1 Dec, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

A Christmas Fair showcasing artwork and merchandise from the Geelong School of Botanical Art and Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens. Artwork, Prints, Books, Cards, general merchandise. Located in the meeting room at the rear of the gardens.

**No Guided Walk on Sunday 22 Dec or Wednesday 25 Dec.*

**The Friends' Nursery will be closed on Wednesday the 25 Dec and Wednesday 1 Jan.*

**The Friends' Office will close on Friday 20 Dec 2019 at 3 pm.*

JANUARY 2020

**The Office will re-open on Monday 6 Jan 2020 at 10 am.*

BOTANIC ART MASTERCLASS - TWO DAY WORKSHOP

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 January, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm

Tutor, John Pastoriza-Piñol

Details will be on the Friends' website soon.

BOTANICAL PERFORATIONS – THREE DAY WORKSHOP

Friday 17, Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 January

9.30 am to 4.30 pm

Tutor, Dolores Skowronski Malloni

Learn how to transfer a simple botanical drawing onto watercolour paper using perforating techniques. More details will be on the Friends' website soon.