

# Jubaea

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc. Newsletter

October 2022 Volume 22 Issue



New waterfall installation in the conservatory

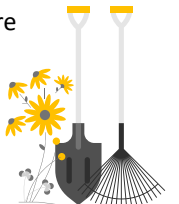
## SPRING PROJECTS IN THE GARDENS

At last Spring is here! After a long and cold Winter, the days are beginning to stretch out and feel a little warmer. Day by day, the gardens are coming to life. Soon enough, the landscape will explode with colour and the air will fill with birdsong. It's a season of change that reminds us of new beginnings. It has been a very busy winter with many projects completed in all areas of the gardens.

The conservatory has had a beautiful waterfall installation completed by our passionate staff. This project has been in our vision since the reopening of the conservatory. It has been very rewarding for everyone involved to see the finished

project. This highlight will bring new visitors into the gardens and already we have had a lot of positive community feedback. Thank you to all involved in this fabulous display!

The Nursery space has had improvements completed over the past few months. The propagation heat beds have been replaced with a brand-new structure incorporating accurate regulated heat mat technology to ensure we are giving the cuttings the best chance. The removal of the sand has also improved the nursery hygiene.







Propagation heat beds

We have installed new hose reels which are more practical and safer for users. It is rewarding to know we have improved safety for the entire user group at Geelong Botanic Gardens.

The Geelong Botanic Gardens team worked together to upgrade the landscape to the entrance of the Gardens. Two Xanthorrhoeas over 100 years old were sourced for the garden bed. The rock border has also provided a natural space for visitors to meet and sit at the entrance.

We are relaunching our education program with the appointment of our new Education Officer Kim Whittaker.



Upgraded landscape at the front entrance

The new education program will initially focus on Primary age students with the plan to branch out to Preschool and Secondary school in the future. We will be facilitating enjoyable and exciting school holiday programs to encourage the community to visit the gardens more regularly. Six programs have been developed for Primary levels with links to the Victorian Curriculum. The programs have been professionally designed and clearly outline the session with added resources for the teachers to take back to the classroom.

We look forward to the future of this program and being able to connect students with plants and horticulture in meaningful ways that foster a lifelong connection to nature.

*Renee Matthews, Acting GBG Director*

## WATER – SOAK OR FOUNTAIN?

The last thing Ashley Filipovski (former GBG Director) did on Friday 25 June, before he left us for his new appointment at Mt Tomar in NSW, was to get down and dirty.

'I want to finish as I began!' he told his colleagues. He pulled on his work clothes and personally installed the new fountain in the pond at the entrance to the Twenty-first Century Garden. It certainly makes a splash. The sound of rushing water has already drawn in numbers of passers-by to visit the gardens. The sight changes the ambience in the space, the movement of water contrasting with the echoes of desert and dryness that this section of the Gardens depicts.

'It is meant to be a soak!' some have objected, disagreeing with even a small fountain being installed there.

Has the purity of the original design been compromised? It is certainly different from what was originally envisaged. That was to represent an outback soak, where the water comes and goes, evaporating in dry times, drying completely during drought, to receive restorative flooding occasionally. The reddish sands around our pond in the Twenty-first Century Garden represent desert.

But has the concept of a desert soak ever been truly achievable in the Geelong district? We *are not* actually a desert. Even in dry times we receive a little rain. In our region, will not a soak left to itself always become a stagnant pond?

Experience over the last twenty years has shown that this is so. Our pond requires attention: to be cleaned out occasionally, to be refilled regularly, and to be oxygenated continually. This means that it remains a life-filled place that always provides for insects, frogs and birds, and in the process refreshes the human spirit. The new fountain provides the oxygen and movement that is attracting people to the gardens.

When I first saw it, I was reminded of an incident that I observed in Africa, when I lived there about ten years ago.

We were visiting the district of Mvumi in central Tanzania, which was once covered in rich jungle. Over the years it has been cut down to provide more space for villagers' crops, to make charcoal to use as fuel and to sell to provide for such things as children's school fees. When I drove through, all the hills were denuded, the river had run dry, less rain was falling and crops were chancy. It was well on the way to becoming desert.





New fountain at the entrance of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Garden

That day, a tremendous downpour occurred. Water was streaming down the Mvumi hills.

The young man travelling with us was in awe. 'It is the most beautiful thing I have ever seen since I was born!' he exclaimed. He had never seen a waterfall before in his life but instinctively responded to its beauty and promise. How the human spirit responds to the blessing of water. We all love it: it comforts and replenishes us, not only in body but in spirit. Even the tragic power of destructive floods is nevertheless followed by

replenishment of underground aquifers, renewal of rivers and all the life which surrounds them, as we are seeing across inland Australia at present.

No wonder passers-by have been attracted by our new fountain near the gate. It oxygenates the water and renews the biomass. Its pattern can be adjusted, bringing more interest and variety. I think it will remind us that together with being a land of drought, we are also a place of flooding rains, bringing life, joy and blessing.

*Lynne Clarke*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

On August 29, we were privileged to gather in person for our Annual General Meeting. Thanks to the many members who came out in the cold to attend.

This year I tried to make the evening a little more interesting by adding a PowerPoint presentation which provided dot points and photos to enhance my report.

Barrie Satchell has done an amazing job as Treasurer. We are both new to our roles with the Friends and just getting into the swing of the tasks and responsibilities after one year.

We were honoured to have the company of Philip Moors, our Patron, and David Greaves, Acting Manager of Parks and Gardens with the City of Greater Geelong.

Two Honorary Life Memberships were presented:

- Lyn Lang - Margaret Ward delivered the citation which captured the incredible volunteer work which Lyn has put into the Rose Garden over more than 20 years
- Philip Moors – Allison Martland delivered the citation which outlined Philip's long association with us as a friend and mentor as well as our Patron since 2013. Philip has retired as Patron and was presented with a framed numbered print of *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* by Rita Parkinson.

Our guest speaker was Tracy Carter, Deputy Executive Director/Marketing and Communications Manager of *Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine*. Tracy has been very helpful with our marketing this year and she spoke very positively about the potential for tourism growth in our region.

*Denise Feldman, President*



# PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Custodians of the land, waterways and skies. We pay our respect to their Elders, past and present. We acknowledge all First Nations Peoples who are residents of the Greater Geelong Community.

*To commence my report, this is our new mission statement:*

The Friends support and promote the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park, by providing Garden Volunteers, the Guiding Program, the Nursery, the Botanic Art School, Library, Jubaea newsletter, and an annual program of events. The Gift Fund provides financial support for projects and programs within and initiated by the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Subscriptions, volunteering activities, events and the Friends Nursery provide the major source of funds for the Friends

## OUR VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS:

### **The Growers: Coordinated by Leanne Barnes**

This enthusiastic group recommenced attending weekly last year, after the huge interruption caused by Covid. The Growers have been very industrious propagating, weeding, creating plant labels and attending to plant sales. In addition to their weekly sales, they have had seasonal Saturday sales. Late 2021 Growers propagated many plants for a successful stall at the Through the Garden Gates. This year the nursery staff spent time increasing stock which was depleted during Covid. This was very successful and so they have had very profitable Wednesday and Saturday plant sales. New flags at the front gates announce to visitors that a sale is beckoning.

Leanne Barnes reports that there has been great liaison with the GBG Director and Supervisor. Liaising on issues such as propagating material and occupational health and safety also occurs regularly.



The Friends' Nursery

### **The Heritage Rose Growers: coordinated by Lyn Lang**

It was very difficult for these volunteers during the epidemic when volunteers were not permitted to attend their roles. During their absence the GBG staff attended to the roses. But for our volunteers this was a very difficult adjustment.

A new project for these volunteers this year is the creation of a Heritage Rose Growers Manual, with the assistance of Rosslyn Jablonsky. This volume will ensure that the collective knowledge of these experts is preserved for generations of future volunteers. Each type of rose in the collection has a unique care plan which is clearly outlined.

Lyn Lang, who has been part of this group for nearly 25 years, is looking at a succession plan to ensure the ongoing consistent care of the roses is maintained.

### **The Guides: Coordinated by Gwen Anderson**

The Covid 19 epidemic was quite a difficult time for the Guides. Guided walks were on hold and there were no booked walks for groups. There was no recruitment of volunteers to train as guides and no U3A. In addition, there were no Cruise Ship passengers requiring guided tours and of course no themed walks.

From January to June things gradually improved. A U3A course had good attendance. However, although there were themed walks and the monthly discovery table numbers were low. If there was no one at the front gate wanting a tour guides roamed the gardens being available for any visitors who might have questions about the GBG. The very wet and cold Winter weather this year also affected the Guides.

This year following the U3A course the guides' professional development commenced. This included lectures by Alistair Watt and David Johnson. Guides also contributed to the Friends Winter Lecture Series. In addition, the WorkSafe consultant advised that the Guides review the Occupational Health and Safety of their volunteers. This was completed and some changes made. Four new Guides are currently in training and will be ready for duty in 2023.

### **The Library: Coordinated by Luanne Thornton**

The library has 4 volunteers who are working harmoniously together to keep the collection and historical documents in an accessible and orderly system.

Their other work is to record the historic events in the GBG and with the Friends and to prepare a Jubaea index. Recent work includes the historical timeline from 1985 to present as well as recording the Honorary Life Members list and their citations. Our newest recruit, Dale Gordon, has brought her valuable editorial skills to the library team.

### **Events, Fundraising and Catering: Coordinated by Allison Martland**

The Events group has rebounded since the lockdowns, after two years of cancellations. This includes a new initiative such as the Winter Lecture series in both 2021 and 2022. In addition, the usual variety of regular events have been very successful in raising funds, such as the Winter Lunch, a self-drive tour, a Guest Speaker night, Coach Tour, and Through the Garden Gates.

The Events team has expanded to include a Fund Raising and Catering Group. The group accepts requests from Horticultural not for profit organisations for catering for their events held in the Gardens, thus raising funds for the Friends, and promoting the Geelong Botanic Gardens. The catering group has acquired new volunteers with much valued professional catering experience. In addition, this group has catered for several events of a more social nature: Ashley's farewell, the Conserving our Heritage lunch, Volunteers Day and two High Teas for new members. Thank you to all volunteers who assisted in making these events gastronomically pleasing. On Volunteers Day our guest was Vasili, who has agreed to be an Ambassador of the FGBG.

#### **The Perennial Border: Coordinator Jan Cheyne**

The Perennial Border has been spectacular in the last couple of years. This is achieved after years of research. It is maintained by a team of happy volunteers who have much experience and expertise. Many hours have been put in at nurseries, and online to source desirable plants to add to the collection. Consideration is given to the colour of blooms, height, time of flowering and whether it enhances the general look of the bed. However, mostly the team's role is weeding, feeding, and cutting back. The border is a much-photographed seasonal feature in the Gardens.

#### **The Weeders: Coordinated by Peter Jablonsky**

On the wish list for many years has been the idea of a Weeding Team. This group was a goal of both Gardens staff and the Friends. Early this year this group was finally formed. Its role is to go to a designated area each week and weed. All equipment is provided. The Weeders are very popular with Gardens staff. This long-anticipated group has had a productive season with good company, humour and regular participation. The main criteria for team members is that they know the difference between a weed and a desired plant, and that their back is sound.

#### **Geelong School of Botanical Art: Coordinated by Pammi Pryor**

The 2021 financial year commenced with classes being on Zoom due to the Covid 19 restraints. We are very thankful that Tutors took on the difficult task of teaching on Zoom during this time. Classes resumed face to face in term 4, with Covid 19 safe practices in place. Covid's impact could be seen in the fluctuating class numbers. We are grateful for the care, attention to protocols and diligence of the Friends' office staff and Tutors in keeping the school going during these difficult times. 2022 commenced with four face-to-face fortnightly classes. It was wonderful to see some new faces among those enrolled. Offered for the first time is a new approach for our school - large scale gouache botanic painting as a key medium. The accuracy of form, structure and detail remain true to the subject. But this style offers an exciting option. We are most thankful that we have retained our tutors John Pastoriza-Pinol, Amanda Ahmed, Craig Lidgerwood and Amanda Blake Sutterby, to tutor students so professionally.

Our *Inspired by Nature* Botanic Art exhibition was finally held in March at the Exhibition Gallery, Deakin University Waterfront Campus, for a month. Although the number of works exhibited was down, as were sales, the number attending was much higher. The exhibition is not only a way of showcasing the artworks by our established students but also a celebration of the emerging talents of our newer students. Of course, the works of Tutors and that of our professional students was again outstanding. Thank you to the Team, who ensured the pristine presentation of the exhibition and also to those who provided information and recorded data at the entrance.

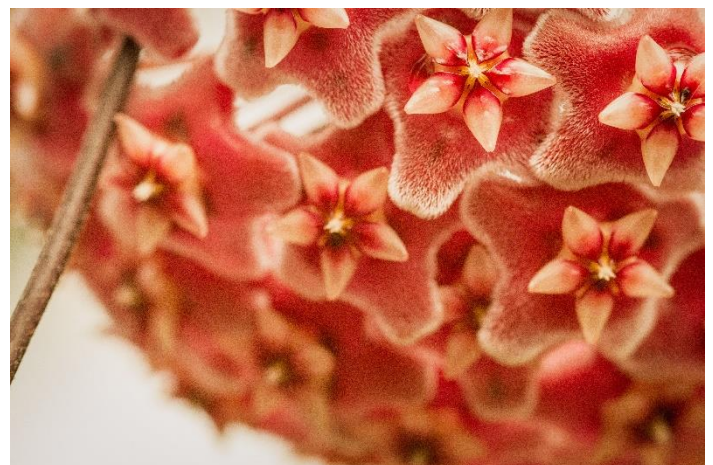
This year tutor Amanda Ahmed conducted two intensive workshops, graphite and coloured pencil, which were booked to capacity. Our Art school has earned the reputation of an exceptionally high standard thanks to the dedication and professionalism of our Tutors.

Special mention must be made of the role played by the retiring convenor of the Art School, Judy Lavery. We valued her leadership and contributions over the past years. Particularly valued were her compassion, diligence, and attention to detail. Pammi Pryor has graciously picked up the role as Botanic Art Coordinator in her stead.

#### **The Gift Fund: Coordinated by the Management Committee**

The Gift Fund, which can only be used for projects within the Geelong Botanic Gardens, has again funded projects referred to the Management Committee by the Gardens Director. These important works include the restoration of four urns and the Hansen Gates, extending and improving the pond in the Conservatory, and the purchase of a roller door and additional orange chairs for the Visitors Centre, and other items which are detailed in the Treasurers Report.

The Gift Fund continues its important work because members and the public have in the past donated funds. We acknowledge that the work of conserving the Gardens' historic assets and building on its current capacity and amenity, will only continue if the Gift Fund has the support it has had in the past. Our sincere thanks to all those who have already contributed or who plan to contribute to this important fund in the future.



Macro photography in the Gardens by member Natalie Jablonsky

## **Organizational Strengthening**

Over time the accountability and sustainability of Not-for-Profit organizations undergo change. Not consciously, but as society changes so do we. Not in changing the culture and traditions of the Friends, but how we operate, how we organize ourselves, how we care for our volunteers, and how we can sustain ourselves in an increasingly inflationary climate. A major change has been in the support of volunteers. According to Work Safe, Volunteers are now to be treated with the same care as employees.

Hence in the last financial year we have undertaken several strategies to ensure that we are prepared and capable of weathering these changes in the short term.

### **These are the areas we have reviewed:**

#### **Occupational Health and Safety**

A WorkSafe consultant visited the Friends in February to review our OHS status. An OHS Essentials Safety Action Plan was drawn up and helpful advice was given. We had six months to build on our policies and procedures which were identified as needing review.

In the intervening period regular OHS meetings were established and OHS is a permanent agenda item for the Committee of Management. The physical work environment for all volunteers has been reviewed. Volunteers are not able to undertake activities which necessitates them to use a step or ladder. We now have a Management Committee OHS representative. There is now a re-drafted Emergency Response Plan for serious accidents and illnesses, and a step-by-step process for reporting and responding to near misses and accidents/health incidents.

The half yearly review process by Work Safe was satisfactorily completed and it was confirmed that the volunteers had addressed and met the requirements outlined in the OHS Essential Safety Action Plan. The consultant was satisfied that the informal morning tea “toolbox meetings” were an effective alternative to a more formal monthly OHS meeting.

The Growers’ nursery OHS representative, Ian Martland, has produced a thorough and concise “return to work” document for volunteers, which can be included in the volunteers’ induction. The relationship and communication between the Committee OHS Officer, Charles Pond, and the Growers’ Nursery representative is working well, being open and transparent. An effective working relationship between the Committee’s OHS Officer and other working groups within the Gardens is developing well. The working relationship between the volunteers involved in OHS and the GBG staff is constructive and productive, with good two-way communication established between all parties.

#### **Nursery Master Plan**

Over the past few years there has been a lot of discussion about changes needed to make facilities in the Growers Nursery more amenable for volunteers and customers: providing shelter for volunteers, ensuring that plants are in the position to receive the most sunshine and providing an identifiable point of sale. In consultation with the Gardens Director, a strategy was

developed to work with a planning group with the skills required to create a Nursery Master Plan.

Meetings commenced in June, chaired by Renee Matthews, Acting Director, with the goal of creating a design which encompasses all the needs identified. This plan would then go to the Committee of Management for comment.

#### **Wadawurrung Project**

For some time, Guide Liz Bennetto, volunteer, and Horticulturist Sheree Parker, have had a shared dream of increasing First Nations’ representation in the Geelong Botanic Gardens. The Gardens Director strongly supported this initiative. Firstly, plant lists were created, including edible plants, and liaison with Wadawurrung representatives commenced.

The plan is to have a First Nation welcome sign at the Garden’s entrance, to add indigenous plant names to existing signage, to increase the variety of local native plants, to have regular guided walks focusing on First Nations planting and information brochures. The complete process will involve Wadawurrung input at every point to ensure the project is faithful and sensitive to their culture. We look forward to the implementation of this plan.

#### **Re-establishing Coordinators’ Meetings**

Last year it became apparent that the Volunteer teams working in the Gardens had no time together to be informed and to contribute to developments. Volunteering has developed in our society to become almost as exacting for organizations as employment. Hence our need to have formal meetings

In December, Coordinators meetings were reinstated. The plan is to hold these twice yearly. In this way the disparate groups can be fed information through their coordinators, and information from the teams can be fed back to the Committee of Management. Coordinators have had a say in the Friends’ Business Plan, and in looking at our strengths, weaknesses and possibilities for the future. The feedback from Coordinators has been that these meetings have been very helpful.



Butterfly Bush in the Gardens by member Sandy Jones

#### **Reviewing and writing new policies**

As part of the changing face of volunteering it became obvious to the Committee of Management that clear guidelines needed to be developed on many aspects of the functions of the Friends. This included a review of existing policies and creation of new ones. This is an ongoing process. Our goal is that these policies



will be placed on our website so that members can easily access them.

#### **Liaison with Geelong Botanic Gardens**

We are blessed to have a positive relationship with all Gardens Directors. They have listened, they respect the Friends and they are aware of the physical needs of our organization.

We have worked together collaboratively on many issues this year.

- Grants/Gift Fund for projects
- OHS support and advice
- Participating in the support of visiting Horticultural Tour Groups: catering and guided tours
- Monthly meetings the with Director
- Coordinated horticultural activities
- Sponsoring professional development for horticulturalists
- Sharing plants, propagating materials, potting mix, and access to glass houses and other horticultural resource.
- Joint social events: e.g Volunteer Day and Christmas Picnic

- Joint marketing ventures
- The Nursery Master Plan

#### **Challenges moving forward**

Our shared goals for the future are

- that the Friends of the Botanic Gardens remains a relevant, viable and productive organisation, able to continue its primary purpose of supporting the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park into the future.
- that the Friends strive to engage a vibrant membership to achieve our vision.

Thank you to all Committee Members, to our amazing staff Tracey and Sally, volunteers and members. My sincere thanks for your contribution to the ongoing role of the Friends. Without you all doing your part, no matter how small, the Friends could not continue to be the positive benefit to the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Community that it is today.

*Denise Feldman, FGBG President*

## **TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022**

Before I present details of this financial year's report, I wish to thank Judy Fyfe for assisting me greatly in my role as Treasurer for the Friends. Thank you also for the assistance and great work of Sally and Tracey, our office staff. It has been a pleasure working with them all.

As you are aware we operate with two main funds: our working account for everyday income and expenditure and our Gift Fund of monies generously donated to the Friends and used for the purchasing of items which enhance the Gardens environment.



Photo by member Sandy Jones

Our general operations have resulted in a deficit of \$27,255.00. The main reason for this is the overall effect of Covid and its ramifications.

Last financial year we received a number of financial grants from the government to assist with lost income.

Our income this year is much lower due to fewer grants, less income from plant sales and limited profits from cancelled

activities. All of these have been due to Covid restrictions and inhibitions in our general community.

We expect income for this coming financial year to improve as we are able to resume fund raising activities. Details will be conveyed to members and community as they are organised, through the internet, What's On magazine and additional advertising.

Our Botanical Art classes have experienced a small drop in enrolments running with a small profit and as the cautious approach diminishes, it is anticipated there should be more growth.

The Gift Fund has enabled us, with the cooperation of Gardens' administration and staff, to finance a number of valuable improvements to the gardens at the total cost of \$20,552.00. Some of these have been touched on by Denise our President but they are:

○ A label printer for the Gardens	\$2189.00
○ Hansen Gate Refurbishment	\$1298.00
○ Hansen Gate Arch Refurbishment	\$1355.20
○ Stonework for Conservatory Pond	\$1571.70
○ Capping for pond	\$ 234.50
○ Chairs for Visitor Facility	\$3400.00
○ Automatic Door for visitor facility	\$5885.00
○ Restoration of the Urns	\$4620.00

Future restorations and programs currently in the pipeline will also be assisted by the Gift Fund as decided by Committee. Our 2021-2022 finances have been audited by our accountancy firm Davidsons. Audit documents may be inspected in our general office during open hours.

*Barrie Satchell, Treasurer 2021-22*

# NEW LIFE MEMBER CITATIONS

## CITATION FOR LYN LANG

Lyn has been part of the Rose Growers for many years, but like most of us, her pathway into the Friends was somewhat circuitous. Lyn joined the HRiA inc. (Heritage Roses in Australia Incorporated) in the mid 1990s. The HRiA was founded in 1979 with Trevor Nottle as one of the main drivers, and the Geelong and Western District Branch followed shortly afterward. Its aim was to promote and foster the knowledge of and interest in "Old Roses" (those that existed before modern roses appeared, c1867, with the first of the Hybrid Teas, "La France". Roses, of course are a very ancient species, with wild species found in Asia, especially China, Middle East (Persia) and America. A long history of introduction, cultivation and interbreeding followed and continues to this day.

In 1997, the biennial conference of the HRiA was to be held in Geelong, so in preparation for this event, it was proposed that the collection of Hybrid Teas be removed from the Botanic Gardens and Heritage Roses planted in their place, and in 1995/6 this indeed happened, but that is another story for another time.

So, most of us began as members of a rose society, and gradually our allegiance to and interest in that dwindled, and we became members of the Friends, as our focus changed to concentrate on the rose beds in the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Records show that Lyn became a member of the GBG Friends in 2010 and has been an active and vital member since that time. Lyn has been the coordinator of the Friends volunteer group, the Rose Growers, for twenty-two years, and as our active membership declined over the years, she has been unflagging in

keeping us going. She is an ideal person for this role, with wonderful attention to detail and a clear vision of what we should be doing and when.



Lyn Lang, coordinator of the Heritage Rose Growers

She has been involved in and the driver behind the constant tasks of labelling, renewing, organising fertiliser, and liaising with Gardens staff to ensure that tasks happen when they should. Throughout all this time, she has been a constant and supportive friend to us all, welcoming and including new members.

The sharing of all our trials and of course our joys has made her a special person in this group. I can think of no one more deserving of the honour of Life Membership of the Friends.

*Margaret Ward*

## CITATION FOR DR PHILIP MOORS

It is with very great pleasure and appreciation, that the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens acknowledge the contribution of our Patron since 2013, Dr Philip Moors AO, as he retires from that position.

Philip became our Patron after retiring the year before as the second longest serving Director, after William Guilfoyle, of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. Philip's achievements as Director and Chief Executive during that time included many projects that broke new ground. These include the creation of the Cranbourne Australian Garden, the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden, the landscaping and public access to Guilfoyle's Volcano, and the awarding of a gold medal to the Australian Garden at the 2011 Chelsea Flower Show, to name but a few.

In more recent years Philip has been Deputy Vice Chancellor at La Trobe University, as well as holding positions on other distinguished committees. All these achievements have contributed to a wonderful career and the Friends have been honoured to have had Philip as our Patron.

We greatly appreciate the advice and assistance that Philip has given us over the years. This includes participation in the 2016 Conference we hosted for the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens.

As well as travelling from Melbourne to chair elections at Friends' Annual General Meetings and joining the Committee for dinner afterwards, Philip has attended our Winter Lunch on several occasions, including in June this year. Those attending the events have enjoyed lively conversations with Philip on a range of interesting topics.

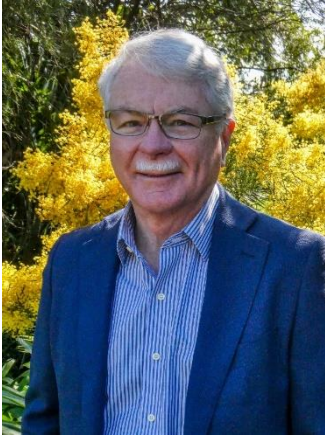
The Friends have been the fortunate beneficiaries of Philip's wisdom and thoughtful, considered approach to all matters, great and small. We sincerely thank him for his commitment to the Friends and wish Philip, and his wife Debbie, every good fortune and happiness in his retirement as Patron of the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

*Allison Martland*



## RETIREMENT AS FGBG PATRON

To everyone's delight the Annual General meeting of the Friends on 29 August was held as the first face-to-face AGM for several years. We all enjoyed the renewed personal contacts. It was also the occasion at which, after almost ten years in the role, I retired as Patron of the Friends.



Dr Philip Moors

Firstly, I sincerely thank the Friends for bestowing on me the honour of being your Patron. I have enjoyed and appreciated my involvement with you all and have seen how positive a difference the Friends have made to our magnificent Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Secondly, I was very touched to be awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Friends at the meeting. I greatly

appreciate this nomination by the Friends' Committee and also the citation prepared and delivered by Allison Martland. A community's engagement with its local botanic garden is always important, but in my mind the vital role of these public places has never been clearer than during our current covid times. During the last few years of lockdowns and 5-kilometre restrictions (and the need for virtual AGMs!) botanic gardens have been essential places for exercise, for mental refreshment, touching nature, and simply for staying optimistic. Geelong's botanic garden has amply fulfilled that role for many thousands

of locals during the past three years – and will undoubtedly continue doing so through the committed support of the Friends. Like you all, I've enjoyed the beauty of these Gardens many times, often accompanied by Friends or staff, sometimes with my family, and occasionally just on my own. As Friends you can all feel so proud of these landscapes and collections, their history, and the role you, alongside the staff, have played in their rejuvenation since the Friends were established in 1985.

The funds you have contributed - \$300,000 to date – the perseverance you've brought to successfully advocating for the Gardens, and the energy and skill volunteer members have given to horticultural and other work – these have all been essential factors in re-establishing the high reputation of the Geelong Botanic Gardens. I think the Friends' roles in advocating for the 1995 Master Plan, supporting the creation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Garden, and funding conservation works on various historical features have been especially significant. Indeed, I happily recall officially opening one of the first restorations, the Cabmen's Shelter, in 1997!

Through my Life Membership I look forward to remaining in touch with Friends' activities, and to new developments and collections at the Gardens. And it goes without saying that I'll continue to enjoy wandering along the paths in the Gardens – and hopefully meeting and chatting there with Friends and staff.

Thank you for your friendship, for the honour of being your Patron, and for your generous award of Honorary Life Membership.

*Philip Moors*

## FAREWELL ASHLEY FILIPOVSKI

On Wednesday 22 June, the meeting room was full of Friends and GBG staff. There was among guests a mixture of sorrow and anticipation. Ashley was to leave Geelong two days later to move to The Blue Mountains.



Former GBG Director, Ashley Filipovski

There were also some special guests, Alistair and Julie Watt and David Feldman (Ashley's former horticulture teacher).

Hot steaming and delicious casseroles and lots of sides weighed down the large table.

After the delicious lunch came the speeches. Alistair with his recollections of Ashley as a young apprentice and David with his recollections of Ashley the keen student and champion swimmer. This was followed by the presentation to Ashley of a waterproof coat from the FGBG. The coat was delightfully modelled by Ash. It was lovely to have Laura Beth and their children with us also.

Ashley promised to keep in touch. We all left with some sadness but recognised that this opened up a new adventure for the family and well-earned career opportunities for Ashley.

*Denise Feldman*

# 2023 BOTANICAL ARTISTS' CALENDAR

Presenting the First Botanical Artists' Calendar from the Geelong School of Botanical Art; a production of the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens.

The 2023 Botanical Artists' Calendar contains 58 Botanical artworks completed by the Tutors and Students of the School. The artists are both emerging and highly skilled; some are internationally recognised students and tutors.

The botanical art school is set in the historic Geelong Botanic Gardens and provides the perfect setting for classes with a diverse array of subject matter to paint and

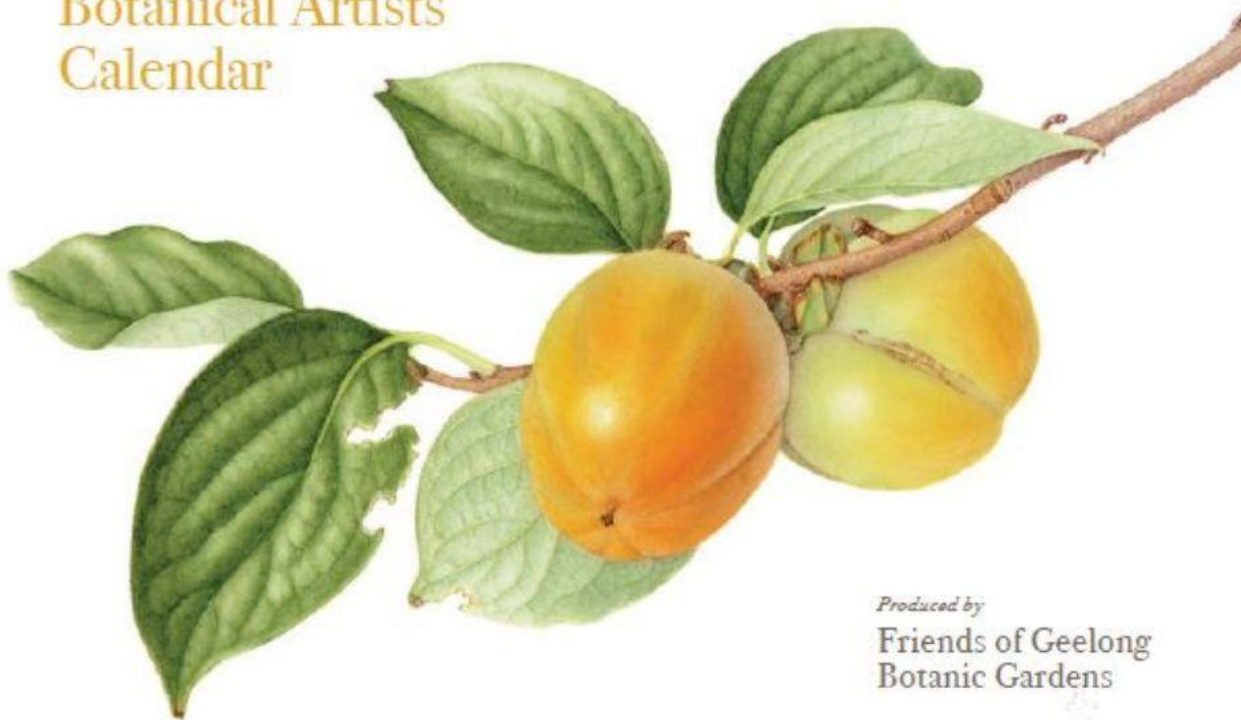
draw. Many of the beautiful artworks in this diary were from specimens grown in the gardens.

This beautiful calendar which can be used as a diary is formatted to a week to a page, with an individual artwork on the opposite page.

We hope you and your friends and family enjoy this publication as much as the artists enjoyed creating the artworks within.

Front cover artwork by Rosemary Donnolly.

## 2023 Botanical Artists' Calendar



*Produced by*  
Friends of Geelong  
Botanic Gardens



## 2023 BOTANICAL ARTISTS' CALENDAR

**AVAILABLE END OF OCTOBER  
FROM THE FGBG OFFICE**



**FGBG MEMBERS: \$18  
NON MEMBERS: \$22**



# VALE TO PAST MEMBERS

## VALE JUDY MCKECHNIE

Judy was a much-valued Friend in our formative years. Judy joined the Friends in 1986 and became a Volunteer Guide in 1988 when the second Guide training course was offered. As Guide Roster Officer in 1989/1991, Judy encouraged many groups to explore the Gardens with a guide. In 1992 Judy was FGBG Secretary and gave her typing duties to her husband Campbell.

In our early days we were busy raising funds to build the Teahouse and were most fortunate to have the enthusiastic support of energetic Friends. Thank you to Judy for a wonderful contribution to the Friends and Geelong Botanic Gardens.

*Jayne Salmon*

## VALE JUNE MINCHIN 1946-2022

June Minchin was a Geelong Botanic Gardens Guide for several years, retiring to take up other challenges in 2012.

We will remember her smiling face, and her kindness and care for all members of the Friends. She brought a genuine interest in plants as well as fun and enjoyment for all the people she guided through the Gardens. Her background as a primary teacher gave her a special affinity with children, and her later training as a nurse enhanced her natural care for all people.

June was a caring mother, especially for her daughter "Poppy", but also for her sons, husband Tony, siblings, elderly parents and wider family. She was also active in campaigning for better treatment of refugees.

In recent years, June's health declined. She died peacefully, with her family by her side on August 24, 2022. At her memorial service at Barwon Edge Boat House, her life was celebrated by many friends and family members, as "a life well lived and well loved". June will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. The celebration of June's life can be viewed at [Live Stream - Jonathan Hepner Funerals \(jhfunerals.com.au\)](#)

*Liz Bennetto*

## THE GIFT FUND

The Gift Fund currently has \$405,338.84. The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund is registered with the Australian Taxation Office to receive donations, which are tax-deductible. This Fund may only be used to support special projects and programs within, and initiated by, Geelong Botanic Gardens. It may not be used to support the Friends or Friends activities. The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens are very appreciative of your generous donations to the Gift Fund and would like to thank you.

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES with the FRIENDS

### GUIDED WALKS

Every Wednesday at 11.00 am and Sunday at 2.00 pm.  
Gold coin donation.  
Discovery Table every third Sunday of the month at 2.00 pm.  
Meet at the front steps.

### WEEKLY PLANT SALES

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.



### Editorial Team:

Luanne Thornton, Liz Bennetto, Judy Fyfe, Tracey Tilbury, Allison Martland

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### FGBG Committee:

President: Denise Feldman

Vice Presidents: Allison Martland and Jan Cheyne

Treasurer: Barrie Satchell

Secretary: Rosslyn Jablonsky

**Committee Members:** Tilly Brunton, Peggy Muntz, Charles Pond, Carol Richardson



**Friends' Office Hours:** Mon-Frid 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

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# DIARY DATES AT A GLANCE

JUBAEA SUBMISSIONS for the next Edition are due by 9 January 2023.  
All articles including high resolution photos. jpeg photos can be sent to the FGBG Office



## OCTOBER

### THEMED GUIDED WALK 'AUSTRALIAN PLANTS IN OUR GARDENS'

**Sunday 9 October, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates**

Many Australian plants are displaying their glorious best in spring. Pollinators are active then; seeds are set and the plants go into retirement mode for the heat of summer. October is a wonderful time to experience all the colourful and more delicate blooms of the Australian plants in our Gardens. Gold coin donation.

### THROUGH THE GARDEN GATES

**Monday 10 October, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm**

Join the Friends for their annual Self Drive tour of five private gardens in the Curlewis and Barwon Heads areas. Finishing with a delicious afternoon tea at the fifth garden in St Leonards which will include a Friends' Plant Sale.

\$30 members and \$40 non-members. Bookings through the website or at the Friends' Office.

### OPEN GARDENS VICTORIA – Ironbark House at Jan Juc Garden

**Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 October, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm**

The Friends will cater for this event and hold a plant stall, as a major fundraising event for the Friends.

This garden has stunning views as far as the Heads of Port Phillip Bay and is a labyrinth of many planted areas to explore. Tickets can be purchased through Open Gardens Victoria website.

## NOVEMBER

### THEMED GUIDED WALK 'GEELONG'S LONG GREEN SPINE'

**Sunday 13 November, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates**

Come for a guided walk through the centre of Geelong, to see mature trees and recently planted garden beds. Explore why a garden is sunken, visit pines from Gallipoli, see plants in full spring bloom, look at imaginative use of diverse, and some unusual, plants in the middle of the shopping area and enjoy the peak of the rose flowering season. Gold coin donation.

### YARRA VALLEY COACH TOUR

**Tuesday 15 November, 7.45 am to 5.45 pm**

A big day in the Yarra Valley with first stop at Antique Perennials, growers of garden collectables, rare and unusual perennials, grasses and alpinists. Then on to Alowyn Gardens with its amazing formal garden areas: a perennial border, a silver birch forest, an edible garden of generous proportions, a parterre garden built along 17thC design principles and a

number of Parterre Garden built along C17 design principles, a number of display gardens and a sunken garden. All are linked by wisteria and rose covered archway. There is a café here or BYO picnic lunch to enjoy.

\$75 members and \$85 non-members. **Bookings through the website or at the Friends' Office.**

## DECEMBER

### FRIENDS CHRISTMAS PICNIC & DRINKS

**Friday 2 December, 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm**

Picnic on the lawns at the Visitor Facility to celebrate another successful year with the Friends. BYO everything. Silent Plant Auction and light entertainment. This is a free event for FGBG Members, please RSVP to the Friends' Office.

- **No Guided Walk on Sun 25 Dec and Sun 1 Jan.**
- **The Nursery will be closed on Wed the 28 Dec.**
- **The Office will close on Wed 21 Dec at 1.00 pm.**

## JANUARY 2023

- **The Office will re-open on Thur 5 Jan at 10.00 am.**

### 'SEED PODS' BOTANICAL ART WORKSHOP

**Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 January 2023**

9.30 am to 4.00 pm

Tutor, Amanda Blake Sutterby

This 2-day workshop focuses on the simple seed pod. You will construct careful graphite drawings of varying compositions looking closely at the details. After considering the important elements of composition, we will transfer these drawings into watercolour paper and complete detailed paintings following the practise of botanical watercolour art. All students will go home with at least one completed painting. More details on the Friends' [website](#). \$180 members and \$210 non members

### 'INTRODUCTION TO BOTANIC ART' WORKSHOP

**20, 21, 22 January 2023**

9.30 am to 4.30 pm

Tutor, Craig Lidgerwood

This intensive 3-day workshop will focus on drawing from observation starting with graphite pencils and moving to watercolour to achieve realistic renderings of botanical subjects. This will incorporate developing skills such as tonal variation, different mark making techniques, understanding how basic geometric shapes can be found in nature and translating them into your painting. Suitable for beginners with little to no experience in botanical art. More details on the Friends' [website](#). \$290 members and \$320 non members