

Jubaea



FRIENDS OF
GEELONG
BOTANIC
GARDENS

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc Newsletter

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Magnolia x soulangeana Vulcan 2015 Watercolour : John Pastoriza Piñol

John Pastoriza Piñol, Artist and Tutor

*"The more rare, unusual and macabre the plant is the more enduring the influence," says Melbourne based botanical artist John Pastoriza-Piñol. His work explores the connection between centuries-old botanical drawings and contemporary art practice and John has been teaching botanical art at the Geelong Botanic Gardens now for almost 14 years. With a 'neo-conservative meets preppy punk' style and a penchant for strange plants, John is our kind of guy!" (words by Lucy Munro from *The Planthunter*)*

John Pastoriza-Piñol is a Melbourne based artist who is an accurate realist who specialises in natural history, primarily botanical subjects; his practice bridges contemporary botanical art and contemporary art practice. Though some may see his work as pure documentation, he in fact explores

an elaborate narrative in the deliberate choice and composition of his subject matter. The more rare, unusual and macabre the plant is, the more enduring the influence.

Botanical art has been described as the meeting place between the arts and the sciences; however, many contemporary art practitioners describe the genre as 'pure documentation devoid of any social context or narrative'. Contrary to critique, we are witnessing an increasing interest in this art form and more established galleries are showing interest in displaying this art. John employs techniques from both the centuries-old tradition of botanical drawing as well as contemporary art. While his watercolours are executed with the precision and verisimilitude of a botanical artist,

his recurrent use of iconography, floating objects, lack of shadow, use of negative space, and pointedly, often broken or disturbed specimens, would disarm the purist. His works exist in a realm somewhere between the hyper-real and literal and the surreal and fantastical.



'TULIP'
Tulipa x hybrida 2016
By John Pastoriza Piñol

"So many of us lead fast paced dynamic lives and this is more the slow-art movement. Most artists don't have the patience for this pursuit. That said, surprisingly there is a resurgence of realism in contemporary art practice which has inspired many prominent artists to adopt more contemporary interpretations and therefore push the boundaries of this art form into mainstream."

His artworks have taken him all over the world; it sounds so predictable but New York is a favourite destination of his, as he always finds something new. Last year John was awarded an Australia Arts Council Grant that incorporated a two-month residency in New York City.

John also had the amazing opportunity to travel to Transylvania and stay at Viscri and Zalanpatak, small but busy Saxon villages of about 500 people, owned by His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales. The artwork John created from this residency has been selected for inclusion in the Transylvania Florilegium presently being created under the umbrella of the Prince of Wales's Foundation Romania to record in a permanent way, the flora of Transylvania.

"I have been teaching intermediate/advanced classes for almost 14 years at the Geelong Botanic Gardens and I have been fortunate to share my unique approach to the art form. I am constantly amazed to see how people interpret my teaching and am honoured to witness the development of their own visual language."
John Pastoriza-Piñol

John wins Flanagan Art Prize

Now in its tenth year, the Flanagan Art Prize, hosted by St Patrick's College, Ballarat has continued to grow into one of the region's most sought after and respected awards. This year's exhibition was held at the St Patrick's College Old Collegians Association Pavilion from Friday August 25 until Sunday September 3. There were a significant number of entries from around Australia from which only 70 entries were selected and **John's work 'Tulip' has won this year's Flanagan Art Prize.**



Gordon Morrison, Director of the Art Gallery of Ballarat with 2017 winner John Pastoriza- Piñol. Photo supplied by St Patrick's College.

Inspired by Nature 5 Exhibition at art@wintergarden



Nepenthes mixta x maxima
Pitcher Plant by Wendy Foster

The Committee of the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens is pleased to announce final planning for this exhibition *Inspired by Nature 5*. All artists who are members of the Friends and have been students at classes of the Geelong School of Botanical Art during the last two years have been invited to submit works for consideration. This exhibition is a great opportunity for members of the Geelong community to learn more about the role of botanical art in the botanic, scientific and horticultural worlds.

This biennial exhibition, *Inspired by Nature*, also offers our community a chance to engage with one of the most important activities managed by the Friends beyond the precinct of the Geelong Botanic Gardens. The exhibition will be held at art@wintergarden, from 30 September to 29 October 2017, open daily from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

The Exhibition Opening, by Geelong Art Gallery Director Jason Smith, will be held on Sunday 1 October at 3.00 pm. Tickets available from the Friends' office.

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Trip – 7 July 2017

On a cold but sunny wintry Friday, 14 garden enthusiasts made their way to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. We were met by equally enthusiastic Guides who were keen to highlight all the best features of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne.

First, a coffee break at the café was followed by a walk to the Friends' nursery where their co-ordinator met us and informed us about the procedure all plants needed to follow before they were allowed to be sold. It was interesting to find out that only the official gardeners were allowed to take cuttings from the gardens for propagation and stringent weed control was implemented before sale. They specialised in Vireya plants with a system of labels which highlighted the natives. Most plants were at ground level with some under cover in the shade house. There were many small constructions for various plants which were at risk from possums and other predators; a truly interesting experience with a small contingent having discussions regarding management etc.



The Pod at Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

Secondly, we were taken on a guided walk around the gardens on the way to Guilfoyle's Volcano which was originally built for water storage. The design of the succulents and other dry tolerant plants looked quite spectacular from various angles and the floating gardens in the water were fascinating in their design. The Guides presented information which was quite amazing and informative. We finally had a chance to have lunch in the restaurant near the lake. The vista from the restaurant was representative of the style throughout the gardens.

The Garden Explorer, which is the hop on and off bus available at the gardens, was enjoyed by all with a live commentary absorbing the stunning views and winding our way around the gardens for an hour. Well worth it.

We then hurried back to Southern Cross Station for our trip home on the last off-peak train. What an enjoyable, fun, interesting and informative day it was. Thanks Jayne Salmon for organising the day for us.

Lucy Pope



Members of FGBG during the visit to RBG, Melbourne

2017 Winter Lunch at Royal Geelong Yacht Club

Royal Geelong Yacht Club was the venue for the 2017 Friends' Winter Lunch on 7 August. Inside, crisp white linen table cloths were decorated with freshly picked camellia blossoms from the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Outside, the view over Corio Bay was equally stunning. The staff at the Yacht Club had set up the room with two large TV screens in anticipation of our Guest Speaker's presentation and assisted with the audio visual equipment.

On arrival, guests were the first to view the freshly printed Friends Recipe Book, which was available for sale. An impressive array of raffle prizes including potted plants, gardening books and French champagne were also on show. After a warm welcome by President Allison Martland, the main course was served and all agreed that both the French cut chicken and the slow cooked beef brisket were delicious! Our Guest Speaker, Simon Rickard was then introduced.



Simon Rickard in a Japanese Garden

Simon has two parallel careers; as a gardener and as a musician. He has worked for 20 years as a musician playing renaissance, baroque and classical music on historical bassoons. His other career as a gardener included working hands on for 13 years as head gardener at the Diggers Club at both Heronswood and the Garden of St Erth. He now runs his

own garden consultancy and coaching business based at Trentham and is a guide for Botanica Tours.

Simon's presentation was on Japanese garden style and clearly explained the philosophy behind the restful, restrained and elegant look of Japanese gardens. Two luscious dessert options were served before the various raffle prizes were drawn. The happy buzz in the room was evidence of Friends catching up and others enjoying the cosy atmosphere over coffee and chocolates.

Anthea Williams

Garden Highlight: *Sophora howinsula* Lignum Vitea

Sophora howinsula, commonly known as Lignum Vitae (named by early English settlers because its timber durability is similar to that of the Caribbean tree of that name) or Lord Howe kōwhai, is a flowering plant in the legume family. The specific name refers to the island to which the species is endemic (how and insula meaning island). It is locally common, scattered distribution through the island's lowland hills and is situated in the 21st Century Garden in the Geelong Botanic Gardens.



Also, there is a *Sophora macrocarpa* from Chile near the Cork Oak, a *Sophora microphylla* from NZ in the Shrubbery and a *Sophora toromiro* (which is extinct in its native Rapa Nui (Easter Island) in the 21st Century Garden.

Kōwhai (*Sophora*) is New Zealand's National Flower (kōwhai meaning yellow in Maori). There are 61 species of *Sophora* accepted by the Plant List.

The seeds of *Sophora* can survive in sea water for at least 3 years which allows them to move between islands in the south Pacific.

There are 17 closely related species (or subspecies) in Lord Howe Island, New Zealand (with 8 endemic species), the Chatham Island, Raivavae, Rapa, Marquesas, Masafuera, Masaitierra, Chile, Easter Island, Gough Island and Reunion. All these are in the southern hemisphere.

Many of these islands are part of the submerged continent of Zealandia. This continent includes New Zealand and its islands, Lord Howe, Norfolk as well as others.

The seeds of *S. howinsula* are eaten by rats that were introduced to Lord Howe Island via ships and their cargo; rats are a major problem for the survival of the rare and endemic flora.



Description

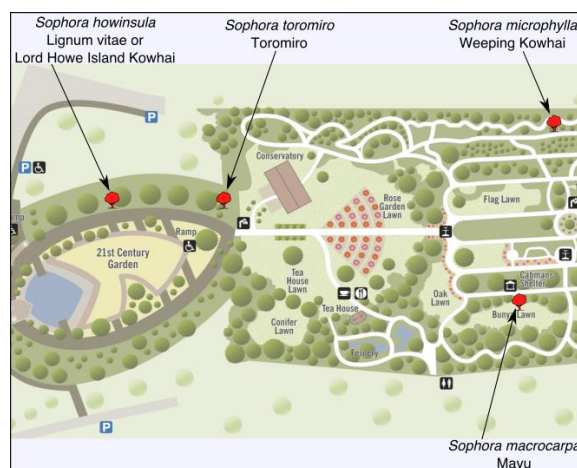
It is a tree, growing to 10 m, sometimes 15 m, in height. The pinnate leaves are 5–10 cm long. The 1.5 - 2 cm long yellow pea flowers are produced on racemose inflorescences (meaning the flowers develop in a cluster on short stalks of equal length along a central stem). The 7 -12 cm long pods each contain 5 -10 smooth, orange-brown, ellipsoidal, 7 mm

long seeds. The flowering season is from mid-July to mid-September.

The timber is protected by oils that remain after the tree has been felled. These oils protect the timber from attack by insects and fungi. In fact, there are houses on Lord Howe Island with stumps made from this tree, still supporting the floor after 100 years. In addition to house stumps, the hard, durable wood was used for fence posts.

Cultivation/Propagation:

S. howinsula is a slow growing, small tree. It is relatively easy to propagate from semi-ripe shoot material taken from the top-most part of the tree. If propagating from seed, it must be noted that the seed-coat is very hard and needs to be chipped with a file or knife. Seeds should then be soaked in warm water overnight and sown in equal mix of moist coir and sharp grit, positioned vertically and kept moist. If fresh, germination should occur within 21 days. It is best to plant them out into their final positions as soon as possible so as not to check their growth. This plant is relatively pest-free in cultivation.



Family: Fabaceae

Subfamily: Faboideae

Tribe: Sophoreae

Genus: *Sophora*

Species: *Sophora howinsula*

Synonym: *Sophora tetraptera* var. *howinsula*

Common names: Lord Howe Kowhai, Lord Howe's 'ironwood', Lignum Vitae

References:

1. wikipedia.org
2. Lord Howe Island Rodent Eradication Project, EPBC Public Environment Report December 2016, Appendix H – Biodiversity Benefits Monitoring Package, Lord Howe Island Board
3. Lignum Vitae (*Sophora howinsula*), Lord Howe Island Museum, <http://www.lkimuseum.com/species/view/130>
4. www.theplantlist.org
5. Evidence for the recent dispersal of *Sophora* (Leguminosae) around the Southern Oceans: molecular date, Kathryn A. Hurr, et al, Journal of Biogeography, 26, 565-577.
6. Plant Heritage New Zealand, Tony Foster, 2012
7. Plate 453 *Sophora howinsula* Leguminosae, Peter Green, Ian Hutton and David Cooke, RBG Kew, 2002, for Curtis's Botanical Magazine, Wiley, Nov. 2002.
8. TERRAIN (Taranaki Educational Resource: Research, Analysis and Information Network)

Lucy Pope and David Johnson (FGBG Volunteer Guides)

New Guides!

The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Volunteer Guides were delighted with the interest shown in the 2017 Guide Training Course. Eight new people indicated that they would like to participate, and some existing guides chose to refresh their knowledge. The U3A Course which has run for the last two years inspired some of our trainees, while others came from the ranks of existing volunteers. The training course ran for six weekly sessions, covering the following topics:

Guiding skills
History
Eastern Park
Heritage Trees
The Garden of the 21st Century
Special Collections, Borders, Fernery
Conservatory
Stormwater harvesting and irrigation
Basic Botany
Resources for guiding.



These group sessions were all taken by members of the FGBG Volunteer Guides team in quite difficult circumstances, as the meeting rooms were being renovated. Some sessions were taken outside, in whatever shelter we could find. GBG office personnel were very helpful in finding alternative venues for the formal sessions, but the uncertainty of venue and weather certainly complicated matters. Clearly, this course was very intensive, but all trainees persevered. At the

first session, each trainee was allocated a “mentor guide”, to help navigate the complex requirements for guiding. The mentor guide suggested opportunities for the trainee to observe a range of guided walks and to help evaluate different guiding styles and to learn from them.

At the end of the formal training period, over the next 6-8 weeks there was a requirement for observation of walks, preparation of notes for an introductory guided walk,

followed by a ‘practice’ walk and preparation of a Discovery Walk. Mentors are there to help with all of this, but most of all, their role is to encourage and inspire! Guiding can be very daunting at first, and we all remember being terrified, but once those initial nerves are overcome, it is incredibly satisfying and enjoyable. We meet so many interesting people who are all impressed by Geelong Botanic Gardens. It is a pleasure to be able to show them around and to enhance their

appreciation. Trainees are yet to complete their practical requirement but are progressing well and will soon be ready to undertake their practice walks and join the team of FGBG Volunteer Guides.

We will be delighted to welcome the new guides and hope that with this boost in numbers, we may be able to extend the services we offer. Thank you so much to trainees and tutors for completing the course cheerfully under difficult circumstances.

Liz Bennetto

Annual General Meeting Report

The Friends’ 2017 Annual General Meeting, held on 28 August, was attended by 34 members and our guests, Peter Godfrey, Acting Manager of City Services and Rod Lowther, President of the Geelong Field Naturalists Club. Grant Baverstock, Manager of Parks and Gardens, and Craig Morley, FGBG member Field Naturalist attended as our guest speakers.

After a very pleasant light supper, the Annual general Meeting commenced with the President presenting the Annual Report and the Treasurer speaking to the Financial Report. These two reports noted an impressive list of achievements and prudent financial management for the 2016/17 year. Former Friends President, Helena Buxton, chaired the election of the new committee. We welcomed three new members, Ro Richards (Treasurer), Libby Hogg and Kate Kirkhope and welcomed back President Allison Martland, Vice Presidents Anthea Williams and Judy Lavery, Secretary Helen Rodd and general members Lawrie Baker, Gwelda Owen and Lucy Pope. This is the first time in some years that we have the full complement of ten Committee members and this is wonderful for the future of the Friends.

Two Honorary Life Memberships were then recommended by Helena, who gave citations for Judy Fyfe and Helen Rodd, acknowledging their very significant contributions to the Friends over ten years, particularly their combined seventeen years on Committee, much of it in executive positions. Congratulations on jobs very well done.

Following the Annual General Meeting, retiring long serving Committee members, Susanna Keith and Judy Fyfe, were presented with bouquets of flowers in recognition of their outstanding service to the Committee and to the Friends. The Friends are indeed fortunate to have such dedicated members as Susanna, Helen and Judy.

For the rest of the evening we were treated to two very informative illustrated talks which focused on some of the fauna of the Gardens and Eastern Park. Grant Baverstock gave a presentation on the bats, particularly micro bats, found in our locale while Craig Morley presented comprehensive data and information relating to the presence of birds in the vicinity since the 1970s. Everyone was absorbed by both talks as they gave fascinating insights into the movement and habits of the birds and bats of the Gardens and surrounding parkland. Many thanks to Helena and to our guest speakers for contributing to a most enjoyable evening.

Allison Martland FGBG President

.....see page 11 for a summary of Craig’s presentation....

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Annual Report 2016-17

The last twelve months have, as usual, been busy and rewarding for the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens and it has been pleasing to see long term projects come to fruition and new ones begin. It is particularly pleasing that our volunteer participation has significantly increased. Our general membership has also increased, ensuring a positive future for the Friends.

It is fitting that our Annual Report notes the passing of founding member and inaugural President George Jones in late 2016. George's vision, horticultural knowledge and mentoring role shaped the dynamic organization that the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens grew to become. It is with gratitude that we honour George Jones.

The Annual Report gives an opportunity to reflect on the purposes of the Friends, whose role is to advocate for, and support the Geelong Botanic Gardens (GBG). It also aims to provide opportunities for participation of its members.

This report notes the significant achievements, both for the Gardens and for the Friends, resulting from the continued commitment and endeavour of Members of the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens throughout 2016-17.



Ladies Kiosk - Eastern Park - Restoration

In 2010 the Friends committed \$16,000 to initiate, in partnership with the City of Geelong, the restoration of the historically significant Ladies Kiosk pavilion in Eastern Park. Our application to Heritage Victoria for an \$80,000 restoration grant was awarded in 2014 and in May 2015 the Friends secured a Community Concepts grant for a further \$30,000 to cover a significant overrun of the original estimate of costs. In September 2015 the Friends committed a further \$36,548 and in January 2016 the City commenced the project.

The complete restoration of this historic and arresting Geelong landmark was finally completed in September 2016. In April 2017, to celebrate the successful conclusion of this project, the Friends had the great pleasure of hosting a community celebration, complete with the mock re-enactment of the original opening. Brass, ukulele and jazz bands, heritage games run by the National Trust and a picnic atmosphere rounded off a very convivial occasion. The Friends are proud to have initiated this historic project.

Sustainable Visitor Facility

A multi-function shelter and storage facility, located in the Southern part of the Gardens, behind the fern garden, for use by the GBG Education program, private weddings, small community functions, scheduled Friends activities and the provision of proper toilets for visitors, had been considered necessary for the Gardens for some time. In 2015 the GBG Director Annette Zealley applied for a Capital Grant for the preliminary design stage of the facility. The Friends submitted a supporting letter, with a commitment of \$10,000 to assist funding. In July 2016 the City accepted the application and allocated funds for the design stage and plans for the necessary sewerage installation. This is a three year project and in 2017, once again, the Friends supported, in writing and in person at the Community Budget Submission hearing, the GBG's application for funding for the next stage. This will be a wonderful addition to the amenity of the Geelong Botanic Gardens and the Friends will consider future opportunities to support this important facility.

Learn @ GBG

In 2016-17 the Friends continued to support the Geelong Botanic Gardens Education Program with \$10,000, committed annually since 2013. This is the last year of the current five-year Education Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Friends and the GBG and we look forward to reviewing this important partnership. Education is an integral component of the purpose of Botanic Gardens.

Signage Project at GBG

In 2014 the Friends made a submission, through the Council's Community Concepts process, for new signage and plant labelling in the Gardens. This was successful and Geelong Council allocated \$35,000 to the GBG Capital budget. In 2015-16 a plant labelling machine which connects to the GBG plant data base was purchased. During the last twelve months, after extensive planning, the rollout of interpretive signage, plant labelling, brochure boxes, location maps, events A-frames and directional signage, as well as a grand sign at the entrance of the Gardens, have occurred. These create a striking and unified style throughout the Gardens. In 2016 the Friends logo was updated, moving to black and a fresher shade of green, which sits well next to the orange and black of the GBG logo.

Memorandum of Understanding

Since 2014 the Friends and City have been working towards a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to create a framework of co-operation and expectations between the two parties and which complements the existing Events and Education MOUs. In

2017 a formal recognition of the partnership between the Friends and the City – an MOU - was signed by the Friends and the City of Greater Geelong. This is an important milestone for the Friends and although non-binding, acknowledges the importance and parameters of the relationship between the Friends and the City.

Geelong School of Botanical Art

In late 2016 the Friends formally registered the trading name of Geelong School of Botanical Art – another significant milestone for the Friends. A Botanic Art Sub Committee has been formed, comprising Committee members, our office staff and a representative of the Botanic Art tutors and students. Whilst the Friends' Committee of Management has overall responsibility, the Botanic Art Sub Committee meets to carry out the organisational duties required for the School.

The Geelong School of Botanical Art provides the Friends with a significant source of income as well as an opportunity for members and the public to receive tuition from internationally recognized artists. It is very pleasing to report a significant increase in the number of Botanic Art workshops and classes that we have been able to offer in the last year, as well as an increase in student intake.

In 2017 our Botanic Art School welcomed new tutor, Amanda Ahmed after farewelling tutor Rita Parkinson late in 2016.

The opening of the 'Gilded' exhibition at the Friends' 2016 Christmas Drinks showcased beautiful artworks by the Geelong School of Botanical Art. The very high standard of our students and tutors is widely regarded and admired.

Professional Development

The Friends have always had a strong commitment to encouraging and supporting the professional development and education of its members and GBG staff. This year nine volunteers undertook the one-day Level 1 First Aid training. It is very gratifying that so many members were willing to take on the responsibility of this training, which ensures that we have sufficiently trained people at our events and activities. In November 2016, five members attended a Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) network meeting at Ripponlea in Melbourne and five members attended a BGANZ network meeting at the Melbourne Zoo in 2017. These meetings allow our members not only the opportunity to keep abreast of contemporary issues related to botanic gardens, but are also invaluable in developing networking with Friends and others involved in horticulture and botanic gardens. In November 2016 Committee members met with the Geelong Administrators to familiarise them with the Geelong Botanic Gardens and the role of the Friends. It gave us an opportunity to advocate for the Gardens and the Sustainable Visitor Centre.

Jubaea

Our quarterly magazine *Jubaea* continues to be produced by the Gordon TAFE in vibrant colour and is also now received by most of our members electronically, dramatically reducing production costs associated with paper editions. We thank Luanne Thornton for agreeing to stay on as Editor after her retirement from committee last year.

Social Media

The Friend's Social Media presence on Instagram, Facebook and our very attractive and informative Website, continues to be extensively used and regularly updated. An 'Instagram Workshop' was held to assist members to learn about this relatively new technology. Thanks to Judy Fyfe and staff members Tracey Tilbury and Sally-Ann Bird for maintaining our website and regular Facebook and Instagram updates. These forms of technology have become essential means of communicating the Friends' role with the wider community.

Friends Volunteer Activities

Our Volunteers are the backbone of the Friends, providing opportunities for our members and the public to actively participate in Friends activities and affairs. The **Guides** continue to be a vibrant and innovative group. Cherry Collins took over from Liz Bennetto in January 2017 as Guides' Co-ordinator. Many thanks are due to Cherry and to Liz for their contributions as Co-ordinators. The very successful U3A Guiding course, initiated in 2016, continued with a second course being offered in 2017. In 2017 the Guides implemented a new training course which has attracted an impressive number of participants. The inclusion of regular professional development at the Guides' monthly meetings is another progressive strategy. The **Perennial Border**, **Heritage Rose** and **Silver Border** volunteers continue to work with GBG staff to maintain some of the most admired floral aspects of the Gardens. The stunning results of their toil over so many years are appreciated by all who visit the Gardens. Sales from the seasonal Plant Sales in the **Growers' Nursery** have been pleasingly high throughout the year and Co-ordinator Roz Hill and the team are to be congratulated.

There has been a significant emphasis on creating a safe and productive work place for volunteers and the public; volunteers are actively encouraged to keep safety as a priority in their workplace. A Growers' Working Group has been established to look at the footprint of the Nursery and to make recommendations regarding safety and efficiency requirements. Our **Library and Plant Data Base volunteers** carry out vital work to support our Nursery Growers and members. **Library volunteers** have been busy processing a large number of books that were donated for use by the GBG staff and the Friends by the family of well respected member George Jones, after he passed away in 2016. The Friends contributed an article to the BGANZ magazine to

acknowledge George's contribution, not only to the Friends and GBG, but to the broader horticultural community. **The Friends Committee** continues to meet monthly, being responsible for the smooth operation and governance of our Association. They are responsible for all areas of management and the administration of our Rules and Purposes.

Friends Events

The Friends' Events Team continues to organize events and activities for our members, their guests and the wider public. Their meticulous approach has ensured a wonderful variety for members to enjoy.

- August 2016 **Winter Lunch** at Jack Rabbit Winery, guest speaker Richard Allen, author of Gardens of the Western District.
- September 2016 **Spring Stroll** through the Gardens with volunteers and GBG staff, outlining their various roles within the Gardens.
- November 2016 **Through the Garden Gates** self-drive tour continued showcasing outstanding private gardens in Inverleigh and surrounds.
- December 2016 **Christmas Drinks** and '**Gilded**' **Art Exhibition** featuring artists from the Geelong School of Botanical Art.
- February 2017 **Supper and Film Night**, featuring 'A Little Chaos' at St Mary's theatre.
- Feb 2017 Walking Bus to the Wool Museum with GBG staff, to view the **International Wildlife Photographic Exhibition**.
- April 2017 **Bus Trip to Shepparton** visiting Noorilim Historic House and Garden and the Friends of the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton, who showcased their new botanic garden.
- April 2017 Ladies Kiosk re-opening, '**Echoes of the Past**' community event celebrating the complete restoration of this historic pavilion, initiated and part funded by the Friends, in partnership with the City of Geelong and Heritage Victoria.
- May 2017 **Volunteer Week Luncheon** with floral art demonstration by floral art judge and artist, Joy Benbow.
- May 2017 **Guest speaker - Professor Mardi Townsend** speaking about her experiences in the field of the Therapeutic Value of Gardens.
- June 2017 **Guided walk** along the walking tracks and **wetlands of the Warralily / Armstrong Creek** housing development.
- June 2017 **Cooking Demonstration** of Pies and Tarts by Gwen Anderson.

Through the Garden Gates 2016



'Echoes of the Past' re-opening of the Ladies Kiosk



2016 Spring Stroll, rain, hail or shine



Happy Volunteers, Allison Martland and Jenny Dean

Thanks:

Many sincere thanks to all of the Friends who have contributed to the administration of Friends affairs, events and activities and to the members who have supported them. The active participation of all of these people contributes so much to the experience of being a member of FGBG. After many years Friends Vice President Susanna Keith and Treasure Judy Fyfe are not re-nominating for Committee. On behalf of the Friends I thank them for their outstanding contributions and wish them well. Thanks to our Administration staff for being the helpful 'first port of call' of the Friends and for supporting the Committee and members so willingly.

Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers for their tireless work and valuable contribution to the life of the Friends and the advancement of Geelong Botanic Gardens. The Friends' Committee of Management has worked energetically to promote the Geelong Botanic Gardens and provide an interesting program of events and good management and governance for our organisation. They have risen to challenges and have supported each other and our members whenever it has been needed. It has been a privilege to be part of such a committed team.

Allison Martland FGBG President August 2017

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Treasurer's Report 2016-17

The full audited annual reports are tabled at this meeting and are also available to members from the Friends' office – these are reports for the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens and also for the Gift Fund which is administered by the Friends.

Financial Management

- Davidsons continues to provide professional accounting advice and lodge IAS and PAYG returns when necessary.
- Financial records are maintained by administration staff – many thanks to our staff.
- Annual audit is completed by the Audit department of Davidsons.

Payroll

- Regional Payroll is the payroll manager for the Friends.

Gift Fund

- The Gift Fund is a separate business entity to the Friends and is reported separately.
- Many members have again taken the opportunity to make a 'tax deductible donation' to the Gift Fund – thank you for these contributions. During Membership renewals in June-July 2017, \$1,925 has been donated to the Gift Fund – sincere thanks to members who have taken this opportunity to make a donation at this time
- The Gift Fund has a balance of \$142,166.73 June 30, 2017 cf \$139,717.71 at June 30, 2016.
- \$6,000 has been distributed from the Gift Fund to the Geelong Botanic Gardens during 2016/2017:
 - \$5,000 to support the Education Program at the Geelong Botanic Gardens
 - \$1,000 to support the restoration project of the Furphy Tank.
- This distribution ensures that we are compliant with the Statutory requirement for distribution from a Public Ancillary Fund.

Contributions to Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park from Friends (excluding Gift Fund)

- This includes the Education Program, some Garden Beds, Projects and the Volunteer Guides - these contributions in 2015/2016 totaled \$16,189:
 - \$5,000 to support the Education Program
 - \$10,000 contribution for the design and plans of the Sustainable Visitor Facility
 - \$1,070 for maintenance of the Perennial Border and Rose Garden
 - \$120 to support the Volunteer Guides
- Another very significant annual contribution by the Friends is volunteer hours. This is not quantified or valued in exact dollar terms and can be considered in two ways:
 - Volunteers, such as the Gardeners (Perennial Border and Heritage Rose Bed), Librarians, Guides and assistants in Education are directly involved in projects and programs within the Gardens, and
 - Volunteers such as the Committee, Growers and Event volunteers provide incredible support to ensure that the Friends can exist as a very viable organisation to support its members and also to support the City, the Gardens and the community.

Annual Reports

- **Profit and Loss:**
 - The income of 'Subscriptions' is mainly received in June and July so spreads across two financial years. This is recorded on the date received and is consistently processed in this manner and approved by our accountants.
- **Balance Sheet:**
 - The Asset Register and Depreciation Schedule for June 30, 2017 lists the assets of Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc. The movement in the inventory of 'Growers' Nursery Plants' is shown as Other Expense in the Profit and Loss – this will continue in future years
 - The increase in Furniture and Equipment is the purchase of Computer accessories (router, hard drives for back-ups and anti-virus software) and six more tables for the Friends Nursery.
 - 'Provision for Annual Leave' and 'Provision for Long Service Leave' liabilities are recognized and allocated against the appropriate expense accounts of 'Annual Leave Provided' and 'Long Service Leave Provided'.
 - The Term Deposits are evidence of a long history of careful financial management since the Friends began. These funds ensure a secure future for the Friends and indicate the ability of the Friends to continue support, regardless of the annual return of any particular year.

Budget

- 2016/17 was the fifth year when Committee has drafted a budget based on recent Profit and Loss statements, including all actual income and expenses and the 'non-cash' expense of depreciation.
- We budgeted for a Net Loss of \$3,600 and returned a Net Profit of \$4,281.

- The Geelong School of Botanical Art has had a significant influence on the year's trading and we will continue to strongly support this vital part of our business.
- The Friends' contribution to the Gardens and Eastern Park was more than budgeted as we had not budgeted for the \$10,000 contribution for support for the Sustainable Visitor Facility.
- We have had involvement with local *Open Gardens Victoria* events and we look forward to continuing this partnership when opportunities arise.
- We will continue to strive to generate income and to contain our costs and investigate new strategies for managing both income and expenses, while also considering member benefits.
 - For the first time since July 2012, Subscriptions have been increased for 2017/18.
 - The Committee proposes that Subscription Fees remain the same for the 2018/2019 year.
 - Our Marketing target was achieved and is considered to be effective.
 - Prices for the Plant Nursery, Botanic Art and Events, Tours and Workshops are reviewed annually and at planning stages - all have member discounts.
- Staff and volunteer expenses continue to be monitored closely, resources will be used carefully and training opportunities will again be provided.
- Interest rates are low and this will continue to have an effect on revenue.
- We will be actively looking for sponsorship opportunities and also appropriate grant money.
- On behalf of the Committee, I do present a budget for the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens for the 2017/18 year of operation. Note:
 - 'Total Contribution to GBG and Eastern Park' at \$23,500 (from the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens and the Gift Fund)
 - Support will be offered to our Volunteer Guides who wish to attend the Guides Conference in Canberra in October 2017.
 - Replacement of chairs in the GBG Meeting Room \$6,000
 - Provision of facilities for the Friends Nursery \$10,000 includes more nursery tables, replacement of the igloo and installation of a hot house facility
 - Allowance for publication of the Recipe Book and the History Book

General Comments

- Sincere thanks to the Committee of the Friends for continual support through another busy and very productive year.
- Very sincere thanks to our two staff members in our office. Sally and Tracey manage all of the receipting of monies, preparation of all payments to our suppliers and also ensure that our record-keeping of all financial transactions are completed accurately and promptly.
 - This is a particularly significant thank you this year; our office was in temporary, off-site locations for several weeks during June and July at our busiest time with Membership renewals, start of a new term for Botanical Art and the End of the Financial Year.
 - Sally and Tracey were magnificent and showed complete professionalism, total dedication and flexibility to enable our office procedures to continue with minimum disruption....Thank you
- I am confident that procedures are in place that will ensure current and future financial management will be compliant and will be as straightforward as possible for future Committees.

Judy Fyfe FGBG Treasurer, August 2017

GIFT FUND

The Gift Fund currently has \$143,626.73 and we look forward to continuing support for projects in the Geelong Botanic Gardens with these funds. Details of past support are on our website.

Our continuing thanks for all donations: recent donations have been received from Ro Richards, Dawn Tait, Elizabeth Pollock, Jennifer Heath, Robert Preston, Shirley Southcombe, Liz Bills, Kate Kirkhope, Sarah King, Noeline Sandblom, Patricia Brideson, Chris Harris, Sue Bendel, Ben Hunt, Marjorie Nall, Jean Williams, Helen Henderson, Robert Purnell, Noele Cook, Jenny Acopian, Allison and Ian Martland, Marjorie Nall, Janine Bindokas, Joan Mackenzie, Phyllida McCann, Susie and John Agar, Lyn Gadd, Pammi Pryor, John Duncan, Jenny Stein, Cherry Collins, Jo Gray, June Minchin, Christine Nunn, Leanne Barnes, Ian Boyd, Ron Vernieux, Ann Galway, Gail Thomas and three anonymous donations.

FRIENDS' COMMITTEE 2017-18

President: Allison Martland **Vice Presidents:** Anthea Williams and Judy Lavery **Secretary:** Helen Rodd
Treasurer: Ro Richards **Committee Members:** Lucy Pope, Gwelda Owen, Lawrie Baker, Libby Hogg, Kate Kirkhope
 Welcome to the new Committee Members, Ro, Libby and Kate and many thanks to the returning Committee Members.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2017-18

Please remember to renew your membership for this financial year; your continued support is most appreciated.

You can request another renewal notice from the FGBG Office if needed. The membership fees are:

Individual	\$35
Family	\$50
Concession	\$25

The Story of my Local Patch: Eastern Park

It all started in late 1979. As a young teacher, I was looking for an end-of-year activity, that would be enjoyable and different, to engage some students for the last few days of the school year. At the time, I was involved in the first Atlas of Australian Birds, run by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union (now BirdLife Australia), and thought - let's do some bird surveys of Eastern Park and the Geelong Botanic Gardens for the Atlas, to find out what's there, and involve the students in, as we say today, some citizen science.

My interest in this urban parkland grew and I found myself spending many enjoyable hours wandering and surveying the birds, taking notes on numbers, distribution and behaviour including feeding and breeding.

At the time of writing (September 2017), I am thrilled to have contributed more than 900 lists to the worldwide database eBird Australia.

Details of birds observed over the years can be found at these links:

Eastern Park:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L2549826>

Stormwater Harvesting Lake:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L2965365>

Geelong Botanic Gardens:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L3637443>

Northern Section:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L3049017>

There have been many highlights! Finding Australian Hobbies successfully breeding when the adult male flew in from nowhere with prey to deliver for the female to feed voracious nestlings. And a similar experience, but more vivid and stunning, with an adult male Collared Sparrowhawk flying in to deliver prey to the female which came from the nest to greet him and accept the prey!

The Botanic Gardens certainly attract and support a different suite of birds to the playing fields and open spaces of the park. Brown Thornbills and White-browed Scrubwrens are resident in low numbers. Eastern Spinebills are autumn-winter visitors and for several years in the 1990s stayed to breed through spring-summer. Other autumn-winter highlights of the Botanic Gardens are Pink Robins, though never a coloured male and Rose Robins.

There have been many changes in the birdlife of the park.

Willie Wagtails and Yellow-rumped Thornbills were once numerous and widespread in the parkland but, over the years, both species have become less numerous and less widespread.

As the years have passed Rainbow Lorikeet (first recorded 1980), Galah (1980), Pied Currawong (1984), Eastern Rosella

(1991), Crested Pigeon (2009) and, more recently, Noisy Miner (2011) have arrived and stayed to breed and build up in numbers.

A roost of Nankeen Night-Herons in the parkland has been known since at least 1974, and the birds have occasionally bred. It is fascinating to note that both freshwater and marine fish species have been found under the nests, indicating a flight of at least 3km to the south (freshwater) and a flight of at least 1 km to the north (marine).

Since December 1979 the number of bird species recorded in this urban parkland has slowly risen to over 150 and around 52 species have bred or attempted to breed. This is an abridged version of an article published in *Geelong Naturalist* October 2016. A more detailed article to complement this story, with photographs and graphs, can be found at: <http://ebird.org/content/australia/news/37-years-of-counting-building-a-long-term-picture/>

With sincere thanks to Margaret Cameron, Elizabeth Macpherson and Richard Alcorn. With thanks to all the students of Geelong High School who assisted me. And the town planners of early Geelong who had the foresight and initiative to set aside Eastern Park and Geelong Botanic Gardens for all the residents of Geelong, then, now and well into the future to share and enjoy. Long may we value this special parkland and look after it!

Craig Morley



Collared Sparrowhawk, adult female in Eastern Park, October 2004
Photo by Craig Morley

FGBG activities @GBG and beyond



JUBAEA SUBMISSIONS for the Summer Edition are welcome by Tuesday 1 November 2017.
All articles including high resolution photos (jpeg files) can be sent to the FGBG Office via email or USB.

SEPTEMBER

DISCOVERY WALK – ‘What’s New at the GBG? Seeds, Hedges and History’

Sunday 10 September, 2.00 pm. Gold Coin Donation

See the Seed Production beds for the gradual reseedling of Eastern Park following weed eradication, admire the plants for hedging in the demonstration beds near the Conservatory, and discover a little history. Meet your Guide at the GBG main entrance steps.

CASTLEMAINE BUS TOUR

Thursday 28 September, 8.00 am to 5.45 pm

Join the Friends for an interesting and informative day. Castlemaine Botanic Gardens, Historic ‘Buda’ for a one hour tour of the house and garden. BYO picnic lunch in Buda grounds (no opportunity to buy lunch). Visit to ‘Shades of Gray’- internationally acclaimed sculpture studio and gallery. Munro Court, an Australian housing development. **\$65 members or \$75 non-members.** Bookings and payment by Friday 22 September.

OCTOBER

Inspired by Nature 5

30 September – 29 October Open daily 10.00 am to 4.00 pm
art@wintergarden 5/51 McKillop St, GEELONG

This is an exhibition of exquisite Botanical Art celebrating the Geelong School of Botanical Art. Enjoy a coffee in the cafe and the world of botanical art upstairs in the gallery.

Exhibition Opening Sunday 1 October at 3.00 pm with Jason Smith (Director, Geelong Gallery). This is not a public event; if members would like to attend, please contact the Friends’ Office by Monday 25 September to buy a ticket (\$5 per person)

Floor Talk Saturday 14 October 3.00 pm with John Pastoriza-Piñol (International Artist and Tutor)

DISCOVERY WALK – ‘Remarkable Trees and Shrubs of the Australian Border’

Sunday 8 October, 2.00 pm. Gold Coin Donation.

We have a wealth of unusual Australian trees and shrubs thriving in our Botanic Gardens.

This extraordinary collection will be explored and explained with your Guides. Meet your Guide at the GBG main entrance steps.

SPRING WEEKEND PLANT SALE

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 October, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Featuring a wide selection of plants sourced from the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

The Friends’ Nursery and car park is located at the rear of the Gardens.

NOVEMBER

THROUGH the GARDEN GATES

Monday 6 November,

For our members and their friends, a self-drive tour of interesting gardens on the Bellarine Peninsula. Garden entry and tour details are by pre-purchased ticket only - bookings from mid-October at the Friends’ Office. More details on the website and at the office.

DISCOVERY WALK – ‘Fern Fever’

Sunday 12 November, 2.00 pm. Gold Coin Donation.

Learn about fern fashion history and enjoy a walk through the 1980’s Fern Glade to encounter these fascinating plants and the stories behind them.

Meet your Guide at the GBG main entrance steps.

DECEMBER

FRIENDS’ CHRISTMAS DRINKS and EXHIBITION OPENING

Friday 1 December, 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm

Celebrate Christmas and a successful year with like-minded people, delicious refreshments and fabulous artwork. For current members or by invitation for non-members, bookings are essential. Please contact the Office to confirm attendance by Friday 24 November for catering purposes.

BOTANICAL ART EXHIBITION @ GBG

Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 December, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

An exhibition showcasing new artwork from the year 2017 created by the artists of the Geelong School of Botanical Art. Original artwork, prints, books, cards and general merchandise will be for sale. Located in the meeting room at the rear of the gardens.

DISCOVERY WALK – ‘Christmas Treats, Trees and Traditions’

Sunday 10 December, 2.00 pm. Gold Coin Donation.

Explore the Gardens from the perspective of the delicious foods of Christmas, the trees we decorate at this time and some of the traditions of the Christmas season.

Meet your Guide at the GBG main entrance steps.

Friends’ Office closed from Wednesday 20 December 2017 at 1.00 pm.

Open for Business Wednesday 3 January 2018 at 10.00 am.



Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens



Friendsgeelongbotanicgardens

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