

Jubaea



Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc Newsletter
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Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Annual Report to members 2015-16

The year 2015-16 has been very busy and rewarding for the Geelong Friends. It has seen several long term projects come to fruition and several new ones initiated. The Annual Report notes the significant achievements that have resulted from the continued commitment and endeavour of the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens.

AAFBG Conference

The Friends were honoured to host the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens [AAFBG] National Conference in Geelong 29 April to 3 May 2016. The meticulous organisation, beautiful venue and welcoming atmosphere were commented on by many of the visitors to Geelong. The Geelong Friends have now hosted three conferences on behalf of the Association and a COGG Community Grant of \$1,000

to assist with costs of the Conference was gratefully received. The Conference was officially opened by the Hon Lisa Neville and the Geelong Friend's patron, Dr Philip Moors, generously agreed to MC much of the program.

The Geelong Friends applied for, and were successful in receiving, a \$2000 grant from Geelong Connected Communities to assist our members and GBG staff to attend the Conference. Nineteen Geelong Friends attended and we are proud that our Friend's Professional Development Policy could also assist these members, as well as four GBG staff members, to attend. The organising Committee was thrilled to have achieved such a successful outcome and their decision to take collective responsibility for the organisation of the Conference was one of the main drivers of its

Annual Report 2015-16 cont'd

success, resulting in a truly collaborative, enriching experience for all those involved.

Ladies Kiosk, Eastern Park - Restoration

This began in 2010 when the Friends committed \$16,000 to initiate the project. 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 City is the Project Manager and is currently working with the builder to finalise the complete restoration of this historic and arresting Geelong landmark.

In May 2016 the National Trust, in partnership with the City of Geelong's Heritage Committee, awarded a joint certificate to the Friends and Geelong City, recognizing the historical significance of the Ladies Kiosk restoration project. The Friends and the City will organize celebratory heritage activities when the project is completed.

Repairs to the GBG Cranes from Gift Fund

In 2015 vandalism caused a great deal of damage to the bronze cranes in the Gardens. The Friends offered to fund the repairs and contributed \$6,480. The repairs took many months to carry out, being completed just in time for the Conference in late April 2016.

Grow @ GBG Multi-function Facility

A multi-function shelter and storage facility for use by the GBG Education program, private weddings, small community functions and to provide proper toilets for visitors has been considered for the Gardens for some time.

In late 2015 the GBG Director again applied for a Capital Grant for the design stage of the facility. The Friends submitted a supporting letter, with a commitment of \$10,000 to assist funding. A successful outcome is anticipated.

Learn @ GBG and Gardens Contributions

In 2015-16 the Friends have continued to support the GBG Education Program with \$10,000, committed annually since 2013.

Signage Project at GBG

In 2014 the Friends made a successful submission, through the Council's Community Concepts process, for new signage and plant labeling in the Gardens. Geelong Council allocated \$35,000 to the GBG Capital budget. In 2015-16 a plant labeling machine, which connects to the plant data base, was purchased and considerable planning and designing has enabled the project to progress. We will see the rollout of interpretive signage, plant labeling, brochure boxes, location maps,

events A-frames and directional signage, as well as a grand sign at the entrance of the Gardens.

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 and which will complement the existing Events and Education MOUs. In June 2016 the Friends began preparing a draft document, which is currently being considered by both parties. A formal recognition of the relationship between the Friends and the City will be a very important milestone for the Friends.

Meeting Room Refurbishment

The Friends continue to contribute to projects which make the Meeting Room more amenable for users. In April 2016 we installed attractive new covered pin board and the City has recently installed internal steel supports to allow the construction of a low gabled roof to mitigate the leaks which occur after rain.

Friends' School of Botanical Art

The Geelong Friends' 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 that we have been able to offer this year, as well as an increase in student intake.

An exciting coup for the Friends was our acceptance by the Geelong Art Gallery to hold an exhibition of works by members of our School of Botanical Art from April- June 2016. This is the first time that the Geelong Friends have exhibited at this most prestigious gallery. Forty works by students and tutors were selected by the Gallery for the exhibition, entitled 'Geelong Botanic Gardens Revealed'. Delegates from the Conference were treated to a tour and were delighted at the beauty and standard of the artworks. The six week exhibition was a wonderful showcase for our Botanical Art School and all of the talented artists.

'Inspired by Nature 4', the title of our biennial Friends Botanic Art exhibition which was held at the Wintergarden in October 2015 and the 'Gilded' exhibition opening at the Friends' 2015 Christmas Drinks, also showcased artworks by the School of Botanical Art. The very high standard of our students and tutors is widely regarded and admired.

The Friends' Slick

In 2000 the Friends funded a GBG slick (a vertical retractable banner) to be used as a focal point by the Gardens and the Friends at their activities. In April 2016 the Friends unveiled one of their own – a celebration of the variety of activities offered by the Friends. Beautiful photographs of Friends at work ensured a colourful and eye catching promotional banner.

Annual Report 2015-16 cont'd

History of the Friends

For many years the Friends have discussed the idea of having a history of the Friends published as a book, to preserve our history and photographic records. In June 2016 a History Sub-committee was formed, bringing together interested members who have begun the task of making this project a reality. This will be a very exciting venture for the Friends and we thank the sub-committee for their commitment to this project.

Friends' Publications

Production of a Friends Cookbook commenced in late 2015, incorporating beautiful photographs of the Gardens taken by some of our Friends and recipes from our many talented cooks. The complex technical publishing details are nearing completion. This will be a beautiful keepsake, showcasing our talented members, with an emphasis on creating an artistic and beautiful book.

Our quarterly magazine, Jubaea, has undertaken some significant changes since September 2015– it is now produced by the Gordon TAFE in vibrant colour and is also now available to members electronically via email. Luanne Thornton will continue as production Editor.

The Friends have increased their Social Media presence, being now on Instagram as well as Facebook. Our very attractive and informative Website continues to be extensively used and regularly updated.

The monthly Committee Update emailed to members has been very positively received and is a great way to communicate the workings of the committee to everyone.

The reprinting of the Enid Mayfield designed screen printed Friends Tea Towels was a particularly pleasing project. Members who remembered the first printing were delighted to see the lovely design revived

Policy Updates

The review and updating of policies and procedures are essential aspects of good governance and in the past year the Committee has reviewed and updated the documentation of a number of policies and procedures:

- Gifts and Reimbursement
- Staff Position Descriptions /

Professional Development / Staff Reviews

- Botanic Art Fees and Reimbursement

Our Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination Policy was ratified in September 2015. This ensures that the Friends are now aligned to the policy requirements of the City and together with our Code of Conduct creates a positive message for all members.

• Helen Rodd has taken on the role of Volunteer Induction Officer and ensures a warm welcome to our new volunteers.

Friends' Events

- In September 2015 we enjoyed a bus trip to gardens in the Camperdown district.

- In November 2015 'Through the Garden Gates' self-drive tour continued showcasing interesting and beautiful private gardens in the Bellarine surrounds.

- In February 2016 we visited Heide Art Gallery and Garden in Melbourne.

- The March 2016 Open Garden and Friends Plant Sale at 'Arundel' was wonderfully successful and attracted many members and visitors.

- The three Conference bus tours in April/May 2016 were offered to Geelong Friends and all were very widely appreciated for their variety and the opportunity to experience gardens and places not usually available to the public.

- Our three Botanic Art Exhibitions have allowed Friends, guests and the public to enjoy events which celebrate our member's considerable talents.

- The May 2016 Volunteer Week Luncheon was another very happy occasion, with the presentation of certificates of Service to the Friends, awarded to members who have volunteered for 5 or more years.

- In late 2015 the Members' Christmas Drinks saw the cutting of a celebratory cake to mark the Friends' thirtieth anniversary.

Friends Volunteer Activities

The Guides are to be commended for the initiative of running a U3A course in March 2016, aimed at attracting new Guides and members, as well as showcasing the Gardens. As a successful means of attracting new Guides and members the course will be offered again.

Since August 2015 the Friends have significantly increased their contribution to the cost of plants for the Perennial Border, following extensive disruption from the installation of the much appreciated watering system, which also challenged the Heritage Rose Growers.

Sales from the seasonal Plant Sales in the Growers' Nursery have been significantly higher over the year. Many new volunteers have enthusiastically contributed to the team.

Our Library and Plant Data Base teams have attracted new members in recent times and this is wonderful for the continuance of these important Friends activities.

Congratulations to the Friends' Committee of Management and sincere thanks to all Friends who have helped with events and activities, as well as to the members who have supported them. We thank all of our volunteers for their tireless work and their valuable contribution to the life of the Friends and the advancement of the GBG.

Allison Martland - President FGBG

Gift Fund

Due to the generosity of so many people, the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund has increased from \$136,952 to \$138,324 over the last 12 months. In this period, the Gift Fund has also distributed \$5000 to the Education Program and \$6,480 for the restoration of the Bronze Cranes at the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Joan Moncrieff, Mrs A. Chalmers, G & W Tribe, Wendy Wright, Anne Morell, The Moeller and de Cifford Family, K & L Lowe, Belmont Heights Residents Group, Barbara Kilfoyle, L & R Preston, Kim Lim, Marg MacDonald, J & E Chrequila, H Moore, Jan Venters, Deborah Evans, Tony Sherwood, Christine Abrams, E & L Perkins, David Thomas, Lynne Chapman, Diana Bissex, Helen Craven, Brian James, P Challis, Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens, GP Mullaly, Janine Bindokas, Helen Rodd, A & I Martland, John Agar, Shirley Southcombe, Luanne Thornton, Phylida McCann, Ian Williams, Allan Collier, Patricia Brideson, Robyn Mathison, Susan Apted, Joan Potts, Jean Williams, Adrienne Edgar, Marjorie Nall, Dorothy Bailey, Rosalie Richards, Elizabeth Pllock, Rosemary Weatherly, Barbara Ashby, Christine Nunn, Doreen Turner, Irene Schlotz, Jenny Stein, Sheena Strachan, Sarah King, Polly Cutcliffe, Mary Thibou, Ian Boyd, Gail Thomas, Anthea Williams, Noele Cook, J Venters, Deb Chirside, Ron Vernieux, Chris Harris, Pam Goodall, Cherry Collins, Rosemary Donnelly, Debbie Wilson and several donors who wish to remain anonymous. Thank you all.

THE YEAR OF THE FERN

A two day intensive workshop with Rita Parkinson based on exploring some exciting contemporary approaches to drawing. The subject will be ferns, but leave the graphite at home as we will explore a variety of approaches including conte crayon and working on tinted grounds and more.....

Sat Nov 5th - Sun Nov 6th

FERNS AT THE GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

IN 2017 THE FERNS AND THE FERN GARDEN WILL BE THE FOCUS OF SEVERAL INITIATIVES OF THE GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS. FOLLOWING OUR SUCCESSFUL EXPLORATION OF THE TREES OF THE GARDENS, THE GEELONG SCHOOL OF BOTANIC ART WILL JOIN WITH THE GARDENS THROUGH THE YEAR IN THIS CELEBRATION OF THE 'FERN' AND TO EXPLORE THE PRODUCTION OF SOME ORIGINAL AND IMAGINATIVE WORK.



Promoting our gardens through Instagram & Facebook

We would like to draw your attention to our Facebook and Instagram accounts. Both have more regular, colourful and interesting content with lots of garden history and plant knowledge.

Links:

<https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Geelong-Botanic-Gardens-180627925306403>

<http://www.instagram.com/friendsgbg>

2016 / 2017 Friends' Committee

President: Allison Martland

Vice Presidents:

Susanna Keith and Anthea Williams

Secretary: Helen Rodd

Treasurer: Judy Fyfe

Committee Members:

Lucy Pope

Gwelda Owen

Lawrie Baker

Judy Lavery

Wollemi nobilis: Wollemi Pine



Family ***Araucariaceae***

Historical context

This is a “living fossil” and was once present over a wide geographical area including India, Antarctica, New Zealand and southern South America as well as Australia.

All modern conifers date from the Triassic Age around 250 million years ago. This genus also dates from that time and perhaps to the Cretaceous Age, when the dinosaurs disappeared.

This plant is like the *Agathis conifers* (eg *Kauri Pine*) in the structure of the female cones, and like the *Aracaurai* (eg the *Bunya Bunya Pine*) in the leaf form, but it is quite different from these in its pollen, bark, seed shape, cone positioning and the changes from juvenile to adult leaves.

Discovery

In 1994 two small stands of this tree were discovered quite by accident by a NSW National Wildlife Services officer, David Noble, while bushwalking and canyoning in The Blue Mountains. The trees were found on a shelf in a deep gorge, 150 km north-west of Sydney in the wild country that is now the Wollemi National Park.

It is one of the rarest of plants in the wild, as there are only 38 mature trees and around 200 seedlings there.

David recognised that he had found a very unusual plant, and this was confirmed by Wyn Jones and Jan Allen, botanists at the Royal Botanic Gardens, who realised that this plant represented a new genus.

Characteristics

Trees grow to about 35 m in height, with a trunk girth of about a metre. It prefers acidic soil.

Its habit of growth is to coppice, meaning that the original trunk eventually dies, and further trunks grow in circular way from the roots. Thus trees may be extremely old. Indeed, it is estimated that some of the trees in the wild are 500 to 1000 years old, but nobody really knows.

The young plants tolerate long periods of low light, the trunks becoming almost dormant until a break in the canopy occurs, perhaps with older, surrounding trees falling. The tree will then shoot up very quickly.

Bark: This is said to be unusual, like “bubbling chocolate”.

Bisexual : The tree carries both male and female cones, both occurring at the tips of branches. The older, lower branches tend to carry the male cones and the younger, higher branches the female cones.

Leaves: These are broader at the base than the tip. The young leaves are a bright green, and the older leaves are yellow-green. There is no mechanism for shedding old leaves, so like the *Aracaria*, the whole “branch” is shed.

Fungi: Various fungi are associated with the ecology of this plant are also being studied. One of these produces the anti-cancer chemical “taxol” previously only associated with the northern hemisphere tree, the Yew.

Modern Protection and Propagation

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service has played a key role in the protection of the wild plants, as their very survival depends on their isolation. They continue to keep in place strategies to protect the stands from people, diseases and fire.

The Royal Botanic Gardens have only a small amount of mature seed, so have made the plant available through tissue culture. It is now widely available, and our specimen is at the end of the Walnut Lawn.

Jenny Dean - Guide

Farewell Friends

Honorary Life Member

John Clutterbuck (1922- 2016)

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens were indeed fortunate in 1990 when John read an article in The Australian Garden Journal about us and our endeavours to assist the Botanic Gardens. John had a great interest in plants, people and the community so enthusiastically took out a membership with his late wife Elsie

John was a backbone of The Friends during a long period of significant achievement that enhanced the Gardens. The building and operation of the Teahouse, the growth of the Growing Friends, the support of the 1995 Master Plan, the establishment of the Atco Building, a Friends Office and Meeting Room, the Annual Winter Lunch, Music in the Gardens, the Education Program, Conferences, Exhibitions and Friends speakers and tours program.

John joined the Committee of Management in 1991, was Vice President the following year, then Secretary, Secretary/Treasurer and Treasurer 1995 until 2003. John was a qualified accountant and meticulously managed the Friends finances over a period of considerable growth.

John was always cheerful, helpful and respectful, a wonderful ambassador for the Geelong Botanic Gardens. A true Friend to all, we thank him for his remarkable contribution.

John helped us celebrate 30 years of Friendship in 2015 by attending one of our celebrations and cutting the birthday cake

Our thoughts are with his family



John with Friends' President Allison Martland

Ann Purnell

The Friends recently lost a very loyal Friend and longtime supporter of the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Ann trained as a voluntary guide in 1988 and was Guide Roster Officer during 1993 and 1994. For many years Ann delighted visitors with her welcoming warmth and expert knowledge of the Gardens. Ann assisted with the Association of Friends Conference hosted by the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens in 1994.

A *Ginkgo biloba* that is growing in the Chinese border was planted by Ann and members of her book club in 2003 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of this book club. The tree is growing well.

We extend our thoughts to Robert and their family at this time.

Friends' History

We have talked about this for a few years and now the time has come. The Friends celebrated thirty years in 2015 and a small group has got together to make it happen.

Bet Moore will edit the contributions and we welcome input from Friends old and new.

If you have a story or anecdote to share please send it to the Friends' Office, either by email or written down and posted. The addresses are on the back page of Jubaea.

We look forward to any contributions you may have to give us.

Treasurer's Annual Report

Gift Fund

Many members have again taken the opportunity to make a 'tax deductible donation' to the Gift Fund – thank you for these contributions

The Gift Fund has a balance of \$139,587.71 at June 30, 2016 cf \$134,136.23 at June 30, 2015.

\$6,480 was provided for the Restoration of the Bronze Cranes Project in June 2016.

Contributions to Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park

This includes the Education Program, some Garden Beds, Projects and the Volunteer Guides - these contributions in 2015/2016 totaled \$50,639 and includes

\$10,000 to support the Education Program

\$36,548 for the restoration of the Ladies Kiosk

\$820 to enable four staff members to attend the 2016 Association Conference

Treasurer's Annual Report cont'd

\$2,094 for maintenance of the Perennial Border and Rose Garden

\$1,177 to support the Volunteer Guides

In November 2015, we made a commitment to contribute \$10,000 to support Stage 1 of the development of 'Sustainable Visitor Facilities' at the Geelong Botanic Gardens. This stage includes the design of a building with toilets and shelter and the necessary engineering plans for disposal of sewage.

Budget

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.

Committee proposes that Subscriptions will be increased for 2017/18; this is the first increase since July 2012. The proposed rates are:

Individual \$35, Concession \$25 and Family \$50 with no change to Life Member categories.

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 – members and staff have been invited to renew their First Aid certification.

The Management and Professional Development line includes the support given to many of our members who attended the 2016 Association Conference.

We will be actively looking for sponsorship opportunities and also appropriate grant money.

Conference of the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens

We did host this conference in April/May 2016 and conservatively estimate more than 2,500 volunteer hours ensured its success. We received a *Geelong Connected Communities Community Project* grant of \$2,000 to assist members and Gardens staff to attend the conference.

General Comments

Sincere thanks to the Committee of the Friends for continual support through another busy and sometimes difficult period. Also, very sincere thanks to our two staff members.

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.

The full Treasurer's Report and audited financial statements for the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens and for the Gift Fund are available from the Friends' office. **Judy Fyfe Treasurer August 20 2016**

Special FGBG Spring Activities October / November / December

DECEMBER

FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS DRINKS & EXHIBITION OPENING

Friday 2 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 25 November for catering purposes.

BOTANIC ART 'PLEASANT SURPRISES' EXHIBITION

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 December, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

An exhibition showcasing new artwork from the year 2016 created by the FGBG School of Botanical Art. There will be Original artwork, Prints, Books, Cards and general merchandise for sale. Located in the meeting room at the rear of the gardens.

Friends' Office closed from Monday 19 December to Monday 2 January

Open for Business again

Tuesday 3 January 2017 10 am

JANUARY 2017

4 DAY INTENSIVE WORKSHOP - 'ENLARGED FLOWER PORTRAITS'

#1 - Friday 13 January to Monday 16 January 2017, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm

#2 - Thursday 19 January to Sunday 22 January 2017, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm

The structure of the class involves a 4 day painting project, where the demonstrator assists each student with composition, painting techniques and colour theory which will be offered in class and assigned for homework. John will assist you with painting the chosen class subject which will be an enlargement of a flower portrait.

Each student will learn how masking fluid can be used to achieve very fine detail and how to use the NEEF ¼ Comb, an invaluable tool for contemporary Botanical Art.

Special FGBG Spring Activities October / November / December

OCTOBER

**DISCOVERY WALK' -
DISCOVER EASTERN PARK'**
Sunday 9 October, 2.00 pm.
Gold Coin Donation.

A thousand new trees have been planted in Eastern Park in recent years. Venture outside the garden gates to discover old avenues restored and other new projects being undertaken by the GBG staff. You will also visit the grand avenue for VFL supporters and see a mysterious circle....

WIDER GEELONG FLORA LECTURE – 'FUNGI OF THE GREAT OTWAY NATIONAL PARK'

Tuesday 11 October, 7.00 pm for a 7:30 pm start, GBG meeting room.

Guest Speaker: JULENE COOK. Come along and enjoy Julene Cook's photographic work and learn about fungi and their structures. Organised by the Geelong Field Naturalists Club.

**SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL ART
– TERM 4 COMMENCES**

Monday 4 October

Classes are available from beginner to advanced levels. Small classes and a friendly atmosphere are key features of the school. Plant material from the Gardens forms the focus of study. Contact the FGBG Office to secure your place. Late-comers welcome if places are available.

SPRING WEEKEND PLANT SALE

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

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

NOVEMBER

**'YEAR of the FERN'
BOTANIC ART WORKSHOP**

Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 November 2016, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm

Tutor: Rita Parkinson. This workshop will explore some exciting contemporary approaches to drawing. The subject will be ferns, but leave the graphite at home, as we will explore a variety of approaches including conte crayon and working on tinted grounds to name a few. \$140 members or \$170 non-members.

THROUGH THE GARDEN GATES

Monday 7 November, approximately 10.00 am to 4.30 pm

For our members and their friends, a self-drive tour of interesting gardens in Golden Plains Shire. 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
'THE FIRST AUSTRALIANS'
Sunday 13 December**

Aboriginal people have lived on this continent for over 40,000 years, depending on native plants and animals for all necessities and managing the limited resources well. Learn about the plants they used for food, fibre, medicine, weapons, transport, musical instruments and religious ceremonies.

George Jones - an update

A couple of months ago George spent time in hospital in Geelong and is now in care at "Aloura" in Brighton, where he is closer to various family members.

In August he celebrated his 97th birthday and we wished him well.

Jubaea is published by the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens, Inc. Eastern Park, Geelong. PO Box 235, GEELONG 3220 Email: info@friendsgbg.org.au Website: www.friendsgbg.org.au

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Treasurer: Judy Fyfe

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