

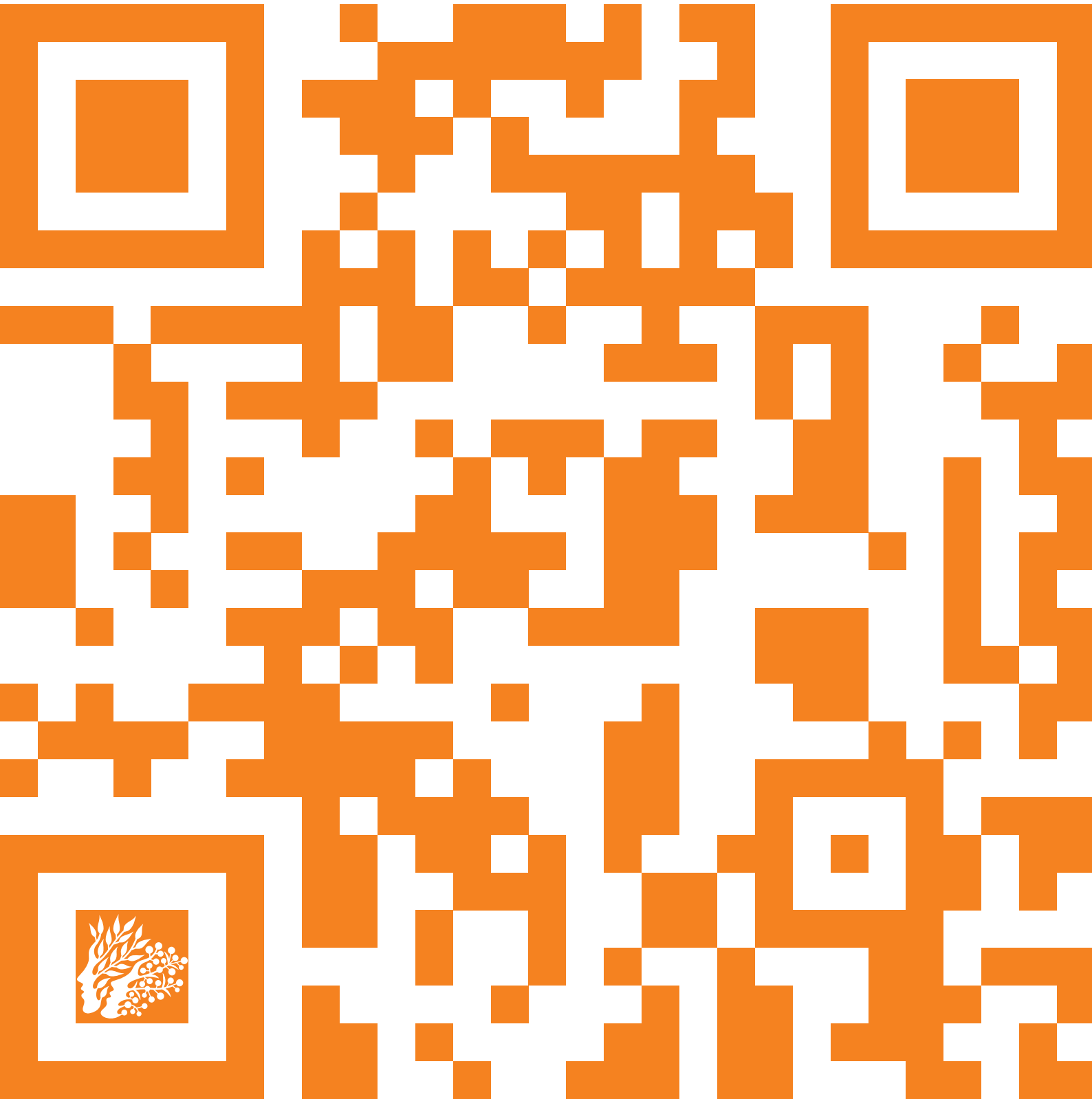


CRANBOURNE FRIENDS

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA

2022

Annual Report



Cranbourne Friends are proud to support
The Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

Welcome

The COVID-19 pandemic has been the most socially disruptive and disheartening community experience in generations. It continued to dramatically impact our lives for the second half of 2021, including many of the activities and events special to members of the Cranbourne Friends.

The Committee kept members informed of restrictions affecting activities and provided up-to-date advice on mandated government requirements and COVID-19 Safe workplace plans and practices. It was a period of great uncertainty, particularly for the staging of events.

The lifting of restrictions in December 2021 was warmly welcomed by us all, including the Cranbourne Friends community. Life is now returning to some sense of normalcy and with it an eagerness for a better and brighter future. We hope that the kindness and spirit of togetherness and mutual concern for one another will continue as we move forward.

One of the unintended consequences of the pandemic was that it seems to have piqued people's interest in

spending more active and restorative time in nature. In keeping with this, the RBGV has confirmed that the Cranbourne Gardens seem to have now been more widely discovered by locals looking for such an experience. In a recent conversation, the Cranbourne Friends President learnt from Pauline Richards MP that increasing numbers of local women from different cultural groups in the area are visiting the Gardens because they now know it exists and it is recognised as a culturally safe place.

Like the Gardens themselves at Cranbourne, aspects of the Friends organisation are going through a time of renewal, some of which will be reflected in this report. We hope you will all come with us on this journey and perhaps even consider joining one of our special interest groups or one of our committees. Without the collective efforts of many, we could not do all of what we do, as well as we do.

The Cranbourne Friends Committee of Management

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Cranbourne Friends' tasks and activities are conducted in a spirit of friendship, cooperation and respect between members, to promote feelings of enjoyment and achievement.



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that the Bunurong People are the traditional owners of the land on which the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne is located, and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We recognise the very special and respectful relationship that our First Peoples had, and continue to have, with the land and its waters. We acknowledge that this relationship is fundamental to Australian Indigenous culture: spiritual connectedness, language, law, family, and identity.

President's Report 2022, another year of highs and lows!

I have now served two years in the role of President and need no convincing that volunteers are the salt of the earth and carry the weight of their organisations on ever-dwindling shoulders.

Thirty years of the Cranbourne Friends means we are rich in history and knowledgeable members. It also means we are in need of refreshing the membership of our committees.

Several enthusiastic people have stepped forward to be inducted into our events group and learn how we keep a range of activities on offer for all. As can be the case in many organisations, much is done by few, so new reinforcements bolster the committed and share the load. You may have noticed this recurring theme in our communications. Please consider if you can offer something extra to

“Vital work has been the offering of a range of interesting talks, walks, tours, and workshops, many of which are detailed in this annual report.”

your Friends; members skills and time are very valuable and are the lifeblood of any active vibrant group. The Friends is an ongoing conservation project rather like all gardens, needing refurbishing and regenerating.

The publication *Of Friends and Gardens* has been a landmark achievement of the year – a longstanding project that has resulted in a beautifully crafted and illustrated narrative of the people and activities that have defined the Friends. The quality and professionalism of the production is a reflection of the work and care taken by so many people over many years of preparation.

Also vital work has been the offering of a range of interesting talks, walks, tours, and workshops, many of which are detailed in this annual report.

Despite COVID-19, and the need for cancellations and rescheduling, quality activities have taken place and

given great pleasure, satisfaction, and interest to many.

Naturelink and *Quicklink* have become ever more professionally presented and full of great content, keeping you abreast of the Gardens' changes and developments and items of interest ... and who can resist the challenge of the quiz?

We have used technology to maximum advantage: our website and social media are finessed and updated, Committee of Management meetings are conducted on Zoom, many Open House and Events meetings are in person and on Zoom concurrently, and TidyHQ – our administrative platform – has streamlined so many functions. The program helps us manage memberships and bookings more efficiently, saving time and effort.

So many thanks go to all the special contributors and appreciators – you know who you are and how important your contributions are to the overall life of the Friends. I hope you feel pleased that we have done an excellent job of keeping the boat afloat during complicated times. My special thanks to the members of

the Committee of Management who are stalwarts of the organisation, like a small flotilla of water birds paddling furiously whilst serenely gliding along.

I think our relationship with the Gardens is fruitful, respected and appreciated. We have promoted the Cranbourne Gardens to great effect in *Of Friends and Gardens*. We have contributed to the professional development of many staff through scholarships to the 3rd Global Botanic Gardens Congress. Our financial position remains sound despite reduced income during COVID-19, putting us in a good position to fund new projects with the Gardens in 2023, once all the current grant-funded projects are completed and arising needs are identified.

I hope you share in the feeling that we have proudly soldiered on and continue to achieve much for a relatively small but energetic organisation committed to the care and support of the Australian Garden and its very special community of Friends.

Erin Cosgriff

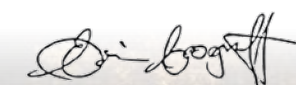


Photo: Janette Wilson



Acknowledgements

Tributes

Jean Allison (Dr, retired anaesthetist) a long time Cranbourne Friend, died 29 June 2022 aged 95. Her sister Robin is also a Cranbourne Friend and remains in contact, attending events when able.

Lead role changes

Barbara Jeffrey recently resigned from the Cranbourne Friends Committee of Management and the Events Subcommittee in which she played a key leadership and organisational role.

Her commitment to supporting and coordinating the efforts of the Events Subcommittee was unflagging.

During the period of her tenure, she oversaw the delivery of a diverse range of tours and events, has assisted the Cranbourne Friends maintain the interest and involvement of its members, and promoted a continued sense of social connection, camaraderie and belonging. The Events program has also generated considerable income that has been donated to the Gardens for a multitude of purposes.

Barbara will continue her involvement with the Growing Friends and has also signalled a willingness to assist at a practical level with one or two events should circumstances allow.

Lyn Blackburne also resigned from the Events Subcommittee as Minute Secretary. Lyn played an invaluable role in assisting Helen Morrow, who chaired the committee during Barbara Jeffrey's leave of absence. Lyn has been another long-term member and contributor to the work of the Events Subcommittee. We thank Lyn for the support and all the goodwill shown over the years.

Helen Morrow responded to a call for a member of the Events Subcommittee to take up the role of Acting Chairperson for a time-limited period. Helen had been another long-standing member of this committee



so bought both history and a deep understanding of how things run/are organised, gathered over the years. Aided by her bright and cheery disposition and practical know-how, Helen was able to steer the committee through the last vicissitudes of COVID-19 and into calmer waters. It's now time to augment

the existing committee with fresh faces and new ideas.

Alex Smart signalled his intention to step back from his work with the Events Subcommittee at the end of the 2021. The scale and dedication of his commitment and loyalty to the Friends, the Cranbourne Gardens and the RBGV has been immense. The hard work involved is inestimable. Alex's dry wit and acute observations are well known, and he has drawn on a vast network of contacts to resource and support a wide range of events. Alex continues to be an enthusiastic Friend and is always available for wise counsel.

Helen Kennedy formally stepped down from her role as the Cranbourne Friends Secretary at the last AGM after 11 years in this role. Helen's massive contribution was recognised with a Life Membership awarded at the 2020/21 AGM. Helen continues to be a member of the Committee of Management where she is an invaluable and constructive contributor.

Maree Hart is thanked for coordinating the Basketry Group, particularly throughout the worst of the COVID-19 Pandemic. She was always very diligent with her reports and worked hard to keep group members connected and engaged. Unfortunately when Maree resigned, so too did the remaining members. The group has been in recess since, with plans underway to encourage new interest.

Amy Akers and Chloe Foster, our former social media Coordinators, resigned from their roles early in 2022. A tribute noting their work in promoting Cranbourne Friends events and activities and the beauty and awe of the Cranbourne Gardens was acknowledged in the Autumn edition of *Naturelink*. Tanya Johnson, with Ross Shepherd in a support backup role, was subsequently appointed to replace them, following training by Amy and Chloe in March 2022. A great team effort all round has maintained our distinctive social media presence. 📌

The Year in Review – Highlights

Book launch: *Of Friends and Gardens* by Carolyn Landon.

In May the Cranbourne Friends along with the RBGV celebrated the long-awaited launch of the history of the Cranbourne Friends marking 30 years of our vibrant group supporting and encouraging the Gardens. Carolyn Landon, one of our members with serious writing credentials, worked over several years to produce *Of Friends and Gardens: A History of the Cranbourne Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria*. (Hardie Grant 2022)

Carolyn is gracious in her acknowledgment of the many Friends who assisted with accessing archives, information, images, editing and in myriad other ways. Like many things it was a great team effort but only made possible with the skill and commitment that Carolyn brought to the task.

It is a beautiful and substantial hard cover book that tells the story of the Friends and the development of the Australian Garden in an engaging narrative that weaves together the threads of experience of many key people. It is of course also replete with stunning images, old and new, of people and our iconic garden.



The launch was celebrated at the RBGV in Cranbourne with a who's who of guests including RBGV Board representatives, our Patron Angus Stewart, and well-known past Friends and philanthropists. It's an example of how the vision and efforts of many can lead to substantial and rewarding achievements.

The RBGV in conjunction with the publishers Hardy Grant submitted *Of Friends and Gardens* for consideration at the Mark and Evette Moran Nib Literary Award which comes with a prize for the author of \$20,000. Manuscripts are assessed based on excellence in research, literary merit, readability, and value to the community.

The Cranbourne Friends separately nominated *Of Friends and Gardens* for a Victorian Community History Award organised by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria in partnership with the Public Records Office Victoria. 📌

Above: Carolyn Landon signs *Of Friends and Gardens* copies at the launch.

Left: Tim Entwisle speaking at the launch.
Photos: Janette Wilson

Events Subcommittee report

The beginning of this year brought challenges, with 12 planned events having to be cancelled or rescheduled because of COVID-19 lockdowns and complications. Although frustrating and disappointing for the events team, every effort was made to salvage the program and to keep members interested and connected.

Five paid Friends events were held at the Gardens this year. Estimated attendances are shown here:

Event	Month held	Attendees
Walk and Gawk in the Australian Garden with John Arnott	July 2021 & March 2022	22 27
Nature Journaling workshop, with Linda Weil	May 2022	11
Fungi Foray, with Dr Tom May	June 2022	25
The Superb Lyrebird, with Dr Alex Maisey	June 2022	28



Dr Alex Maisey presenting at the Lyrebird Talk
Photo: Peter Miller

Events Subcommittee Membership

Barbara Jeffrey – Chairperson for first half of the 2021/22 financial year, then took 6 months leave of absence.

Helen Morrow – Chairperson for the second half of 2021 financial year.

Lyn Blackburne – Minute Secretary. Resigned at the end of the financial year.

Rodger Elliot – Member

Mick Robertson – Member



Illustration: Linda Weil

It is estimated these five events raised \$2670 in income in a difficult year. The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the RBGV for releasing key staff to lead and facilitate some of these events, as well as various other external workshop presenters who were happy to work with us despite many changes in scheduling.

Open House sessions are free and are offered to members only, usually on a Thursday afternoon. This year they were conducted on a hybrid basis using Zoom, with Tim Morrow's help. There were over 100 reservations for Zoom access over the year. At the Elliot Centre these sessions were sometimes attended in person by up to 17 people, but others by only a few.

Any program offered in 2023 will depend on the availability of volunteer help and is likely to be a curated program while the subcommittee is revitalised. 📺



A Superb Lyrebird
Photo: Dr Alex Maisey

Report on Hotham and Far North Queensland trips

After the disruptions caused by COVID-19 lockdowns in 2021, the Cranbourne Friends were glad to be able to provide two safe and successful adventure tours to members this year: the Mount Hotham Wildflower Adventure in January, and the Far North Queensland discovery tour in June.

Thirty-three people attended the Mount Hotham tour; they were accommodated at the Kalyna Ski Club, enjoying settled weather and taking day trips to Nunniong State Forest & Bentley Plain, Falls Creek and Dinner Plain. Visiting a variety of locations in the mountains in summer is the best way to see species of alpine flora, as they generally only flower for the briefest time. The Hotham travellers explored Little Mount Higginbotham and the summit of Mount Hotham, which were near home base, as well as attempting part of the Mount Feathertop walk.

In June 2022, the Far North Queensland (FNQ) tour finally set out; it had initially been planned by Alex Smart for 2020 and then

“Visiting a variety of locations in the mountains in summer is the best way to see species of alpine flora.”



Photo: Prue Wright

again in 2021. Much of the pre-trip planning was coloured by uncertainty and in trying to get the COVID-19 protocols correct. In the end thirty four

intrepid plant people, members of the Cranbourne or Melbourne Friends, put 2.5 years of thwarted plans behind them and left for Queensland.

The bus tour took in many beautiful, dramatic and botanically interesting places surrounding Cooktown, Port Douglas, the Daintree River,



Photo: Janette Wilson



Photo: Prue Wright

Report on Hotham and Far North Queensland trips

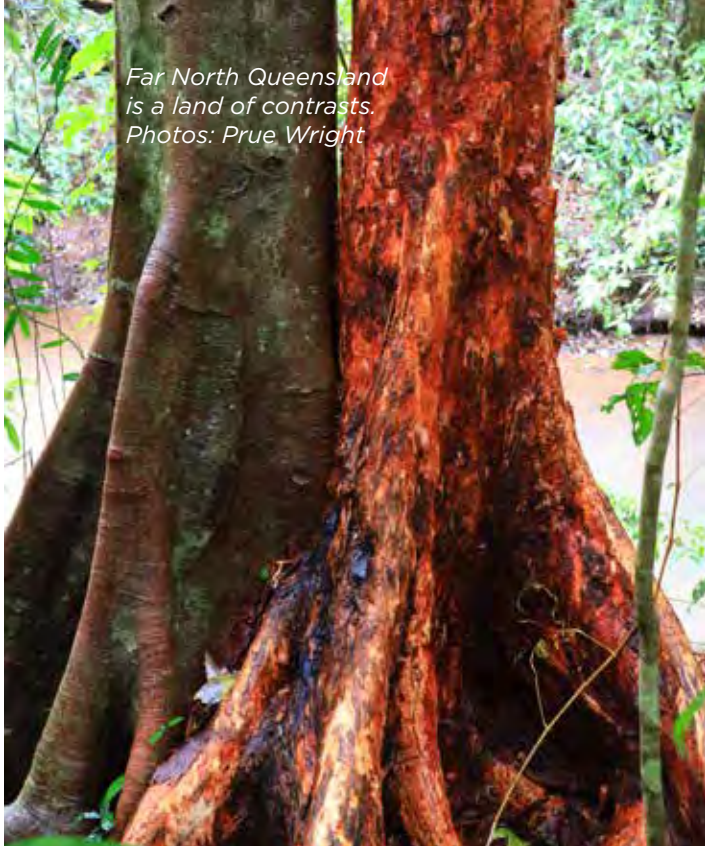
Mossman Gorge, Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands. The group had the advantage of wonderful botanic guides including Stuart Worboys and Peter Symes. A significant visit was made to Quinkan Country where they were met by First Nations People, led by Johnny Murison. He gave an unvarnished account of his people's post-contact history, then led the group to some of the globally significant local rock art and culturally significant plants, and provided hope for a better, more inclusive Australia.

“The group had the advantage of wonderful botanic guides including Stuart Worboys and Peter Symes.”

The two trips to Hotham and FNQ were planned in a COVID-19 safe way, the tour leaders well- attuned to the problems that might be encountered. Cooperative arrangements were made regarding masking and regular testing, and attention paid to ensure that distancing was observed in the kitchen and eating areas



Photo: Prue Wright



Far North Queensland is a land of contrasts. Photos: Prue Wright

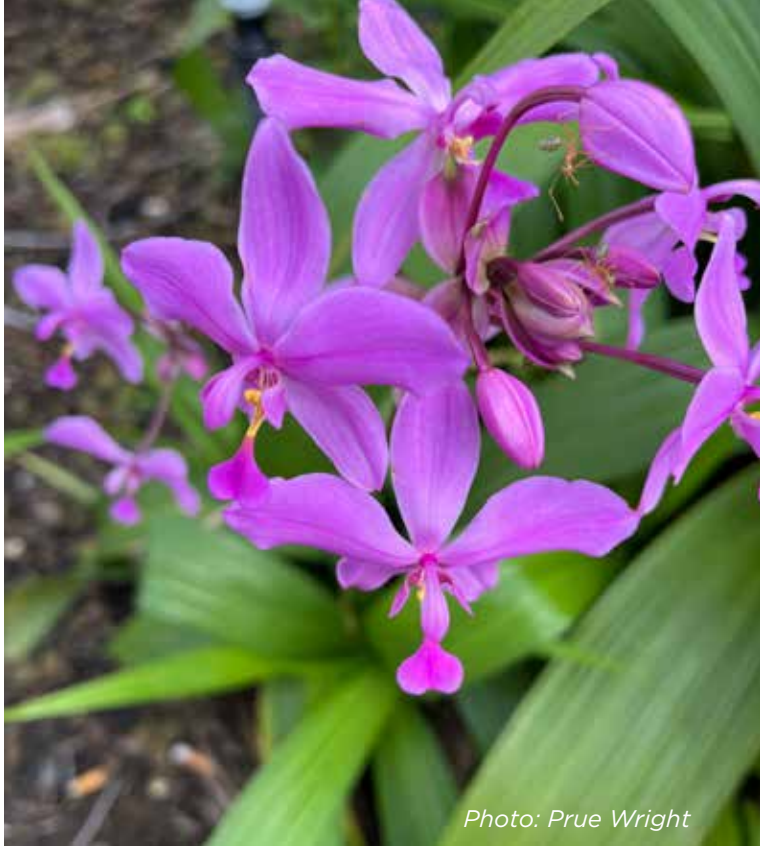


Photo: Prue Wright

of the lodge at Hotham and on the bus during the FNQ trip. A “high risk and long duration activities policy” was enacted by the Friends Committee to ensure people on the FNQ trip were appropriately vaccinated. Although on each trip someone did test positive to COVID-19, these cases were handled sensitively and sensibly and nobody else fell ill


Find out more about the trip to Far North Queensland and see more fascinating pictures in Spring 2022 issue of *Naturelink*. 



Photo: Alex Stalder



Photo: Alex Stalder



Photo: Alex Stalder

Changing Face of the Gardens

Words and photos: Janette Wilson

Over the past 30 years, Cranbourne Gardens' transformation from sand mine to unique public botanic garden must be one of the most successful quarry remediation projects in the country. But no matter how successful, all gardens follow the rules of nature: birth, life and death, and the Australian Garden at RBGC is no different. After three decades, some trees are just starting to hit their stride while others are reaching old age or in failing health.

At the same time, the Garden has shifted focus, creating some spaces for a living collection of endangered plants as a conservation measure, and creating beds that reflect the natural vegetation of specific regions. If there is a silver lining to the inconveniences of the pandemic, it has been that lockdowns and restrictions have provided RBGC an opportunity for major works and the addition of thousands of new plants, which reflect this focus and have rejuvenated the Australian Garden. An old friend with a new style is emerging for us to enjoy and learn from over the next 30 years. Here's some of what you might notice as you walk around.

A 2 to 3 year plan to build resilience into the Allocasuarinas along the

entrance walk has been funded by the Maud Gibson Trust and provides the Gardens an opportunity to measure the impact of cultural practices on plant health and resilience to pathogens like *Armillaria* (Honey Fungus).

The first thing inside the Australian Garden that you will see is that the Ephemeral Garden has been replanted. Removal of the *Hakea Corymbosa* has exposed the view down through the Dry River Bed, which is now much more open – and looking fabulous.

Some works still in progress, which you will notice as you head along the Eucalypt Walk, are dramatic changes in the Dry River Bed. This area has suffered from *Armillaria*, the native fungal pathogen that spreads from plant to plant through root system contact, causing roots to decay, eventually killing woody plants like *Hakea* and *Calothamnus*. Total soil removal is the best option, as there are no good treatment options, but it is impractical here as the area is so large. The Garden's two-pronged solution is to build resilience through plant health and replace the woody species in this area with herbaceous plants that don't host the pathogen, and to form a grassland meadow riverbed. This area will link up to the

new-look Arid Garden, which is also still in progress.

Large, freshly planted areas in the beds along the Eucalypt Walk promise a feast for the eyes. In fact, most of these garden areas have been partially rejuvenated with new plantings. The plan here is to retain and evolve the original TCL (Taylor Cullity Lethlean) Australian Garden design and tweak it to have more emphasis on conservation horticulture throughout the planting. In the Ironbark Garden the understorey plants that grow naturally under these trees are being introduced and the Box Garden understorey focus is changing to incorporate the flora of the Grampians. Wild-collected plants from this region help to conserve and preserve the diversity of this natural hotspot, creating a high conservation value collection that includes endemic and threatened species. The Peppermint Garden has been planted with new scented varieties, including many with scented foliage.

Behind the bus shelter is the Snowgum Walk. A lot of bushfire recovery material has been gathered and propagated to preserve diversity and prevent species loss through bushfire, and some of these



The Seaside Garden with fresh new planting.



Renewed pavillion returns to its former glory.

high-altitude plants, *Olearia stricta* ssp *stricta* from Omeo, *Grevillea jephcottii*, *Eucalyptus glaucescens* and *Myoporum floribundum*, endangered in Victoria, can be seen here, along with a silver form of *Spyridium parvifolium*. Also, lomandras have been replaced by *Poa labillardieri* in the Scribbly Path, because swamp rats feeding on the roots caused damage.

One of the most experimental conservation gardens can be found in the Gondwana Garden with its new pathways and plants. Some of the endangered plants found here are from the rainforest areas of Far North Queensland. *Eucryphia moorei*, for example, is establishing well and has flowered. Collaborating with a variety of different botanical and research groups helps RBGC to

ensure diversity, and plant banking across a range of sites protects endangered plants in the face of climate change. The shelter roof has also been reconstructed and is now an inviting and shady place to stop and refresh.

When you cross the Lily Pad Bridge you'll discover that the Seaside Garden has had a facelift too. Soil removal was necessary due to problems with the water table and there's a new wooden stake barrier as well as new coastal plants edging the waterway. These include *Spinifex* and *Banksia integrifolia* 'Roller Coaster'. Three different cultivars of *Leucophyta brownii* are on display together. Neatly trimmed *Melaleuca decussata* is also a feature.

There is change too in the Home and Display Gardens, with new plantings in the produce garden, including Murnong (*Microseris lanceolata*) Yam Daisy and *Arthropodium strictum* Chocolate Lilies in the tuber garden. And *Backhousia citriodora*, the Lemon Myrtle hedge, is still a feature.

Do not miss climbing up Howson Hill where that lovely naturalistic garden continues to be enriched with new beds and plantings. And as you wind your way back along the Rockpool Waterway you will see that some areas here, like the Diversity Garden, are being refreshed too...

The Ian Potter Lawn, the Rockpool Pavilion and the Visitors Centre are also all having facelifts to both beautify and enhance their function. So, nothing stands still – and you will have much to explore and savour. 📍



Changes range from small tidy ups to exciting makeovers.



Howson Hill gets a new pathway and plenty of impressive new plants to explore.



The Dry River Bed is being prepared for a bold new look.

Cranbourne Friends Committee Member Profiles

The highly committed Committee of Management of the Friends of Cranbourne Gardens, has seven members to help keep the wheels of our Friends group turning. These brief profiles are to introduce them to you!

President – Erin Cosgriff

Erin Cosgriff has completed her second year at the helm and has helped steer the Cranbourne Friends through one of the most challenging patches in our 30-year history. She has guided us, virtually, through the ordinary but detailed work of the committee, and also through the more unexpected challenges of the implementation of Child Safe regulations, COVID-19 lockdowns, and vaccination mandates. She has also shepherded the relationships between the Friends, our author, the RBGV and the publishers of our history, *Of Friends and Gardens*.



The achievements of her professional life are no less impressive. A Community birth educator and CASA counsellor, Erin was most recently Manager of St Vincent's Hospital BreastScreen program for 11 years. Dealing with often demanding and challenging situations honed her skills as a tactful communicator, with the ability to bring people with her, see the big picture and embrace new ideas.

After retirement, Erin trained as a Garden Ambassador at RBGC, and relished the change – learning the inside story of the Gardens then being “let loose” to share it with visitors. She reflects that many conversations started with the acknowledgement “Oh, I've driven past here for years, and this is the first time I've called in!”. She knows that this refrain is being replaced with “I found the gardens during the lockdowns” from lucky locals. Becoming a Friend and then joining the Committee of Management provided further layers of connection to the Gardens and offered many

opportunities to get to know the special community which values and supports this botanic and cultural treasure trove.

Friends, and family – three sons with seven young children between them – are high priorities in a full life, providing both pleasure – and occasional mayhem. (Efforts to spark grand-children's interest in things botanic have yet to take root!). Otherwise, Erin is an avid and eclectic reader, RN radio and podcast listener and a passionate traveller.

Vice President – Rosemary Miller

Rosemary is the quiet achiever of the Committee of Management. Seldom drawing attention to herself, she's a team player, willing to take on any task above and beyond her job description if needed.



Conscious of the value that volunteers contribute to society, Rosemary has always wanted to make a difference. In early years, she combined the priority of family with this desire, first taking on a role as kindergarten treasurer and later becoming a school council member. A lover of native flora and long-time enthusiast for the bush, she also volunteered for the Australian Conservation Foundation.

During the 1990's Rosemary regularly visited the Cranbourne bushland then took delight in seeing the Australian Garden develop. But she really only discovered the Friends in 2018 – serendipitously at about the same time as she found herself free to take up a new challenge!

Armed with a BA and later a Masters in Communications, Rosemary worked at Monash University for many years, most recently in the Library's communication unit, where she edited a newsletter linking staff members who had to collaborate across different campuses. Joining the Friends Committee of

Cranbourne Friends Committee Member Profiles

Management, Rosemary immediately volunteered to be the new editor of our signature publication, *Naturelink* – a role that seemed made for her – and to which she brought the technical skills and experience to facilitate a fresh and welcome new look. In company with Alex Stalder, and over many months, Rosemary tested new administrative systems, resulting in the adoption of TidyHQ and the simplification and strengthening of our administration. She has also guided the changes in responsibility for the website and social media generally.

And of course Rosemary, as Vice President, works closely with our President Erin, often behind the scenes; she is a perceptive and invaluable member of the Executive.

Among her other interests, Rosemary is a keen cook – and self-confessed history-books-and-music-focussed person. (She admits, however, that she has a piano at home that has died through lack of use). Given her busy life, perhaps that's not so surprising! Rosemary is trying to stay fit by walking and exercising regularly.

Secretary – Jennifer Potten

Jenny brought a wide range of skills with her when she joined the Friends Committee in 2019, following her many years in senior leadership roles with a large not-for-profit organisation delivering people-focussed services, particularly for children and families.



An appreciator of the natural world, Jenny is concerned about the exploitation and degradation of the environment, railing against our dependence on plastics and overseeing recycling at home. She tends a guerrilla veggie patch and often makes plant choices with bees in mind. Jenny has also been known to surreptitiously plant trees in public reserves, in the hope that some will survive as habitat for local wildlife.

As a keen gardener, Jenny enjoys selecting and tending the plants in the home garden. She is a member of the Growing Friends where she has learnt a lot from colleagues, many of whom have first-hand experience from working in horticulture or with self-taught knowledge they are happy to share. Working at the G.F., whilst sometimes a bit daunting for a novice, is always interesting and a great way to learn.

Jenny likes to stay physically active and strives to maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle. Regular recreational pursuits include bushwalking, cycling and water aerobics. In March this year she walked the Three Capes in Tasmania, a route that traverses stunning wilderness areas including tall eucalypt forests, coastal heath and some of Australia's highest sea cliffs; there she scaled the Blade at Cape Pillar – a tall dolerite column with a flat top, on which the very brave can sit as they contemplate the sheer drop below. One of her most exciting memories was of walking through a cool temperate dark and damp rainforest, home to ferns, thick moss, and fungi in all the colours of the rainbow. Of this awesome experience, Jenny says, “If nothing else, walking the Three Capes left me with an increased sense of environmental awareness and responsibility.”

Next – plans for the Overland Trail!

CF Treasurer – Richard Clarke

Richard's early working life was spent at sea, as a navigating officer for the Union Castle Line. Having been born into a Belfast shipping and shipbuilding family, this was perhaps not surprising! When the advent of containerization changed everything on the waterfront, he took up studies in accounting and economics at Queens University, transferring to Melbourne University after he'd emigrated here with a lovely Aussie girl called Margaret.



Cranbourne Friends Committee Member Profiles

The sea was in his blood however, and having completed his B.Com., Richard joined the rapidly expanding Australian National Line. The work soon took the family overseas for five years, to Tokyo, Hong Kong and London. Then, in 1982 Richard and some colleagues decided to set up their own shipping consultancy company, Thompson Clarke Shipping, which immediately became involved in the Bass Strait passenger service. A series of coincidences, involving the Gordon below Franklin dam controversy, inadequate service of the Bass Strait ferry and Federal funding for a new one, led to the new firm's development of the first large drive-through ferry, the Abel Tasman, which later evolved into the Spirit of Tasmania.

Through Margaret's work with horticultural therapy and involvement with RBGC as an early Garden Ambassador, Richard also came to love the Gardens – and gardening generally! – joining the Committee of Management, first as Minute-taker and then succeeding his wife as President in 2012. During his time at the helm Richard oversaw the gestation and delivery of both the new Growing Friends Nursery and Friends home, the Elliot Centre. Their launch by the Governor of Victoria was attended by many Friends and marked a significant stage in our development.

Richard took over as Friends Treasurer in 2019, bringing his accounting-and-economics-skills-wheel full circle. He's always on the payment desk at the Growing Friends plant sales, greeting Friends old and new with his usual good humour.

While Margaret was the primary gardener on their former beautiful property, Richard was the proud master composter of the family. In his more active days he was also – again not surprisingly! – a keen sailor of catamarans at Mount Martha Yacht Club, where he was Commodore for three years and still remains a member.

Membership Secretary – Alexandra Stalder

What do you do for a change of focus when you're working in a demanding and high-powered job? If you're Alexandra Stalder, you volunteer to take on another one!

Alex joined the Friends Committee of Management in 2017, as new Membership Secretary, while working full-time for a large organisation. Since taking up her position with the Friends, she has run a comprehensive survey of the membership, worked closely with Vice President Rosemary in a thorough trialling of several software programs to update our administrative system, and introduced the system of voting for each new year's membership card.

She has become an engaging and familiar face at G.F. plant sales as she chats with Friends, takes payments and enrolls new members.

Highly organised and capable, in a very busy life involving frequent interstate travel, Alex is also actively involved with the Events Subcommittee and has led several very successful tours to Mount Hotham; she has developed a special interest in alpine plants but is passionate about all native flora. A keen bushwalker and photographer, who grew up in the foothills of the Dandenongs, she loves to be out hiking – and has been known to fall to her knees with whoops of delight to snap a special plant, like the elusive *Corybas* orchid. You will see many of Alex's striking photos on iNaturalist.

Participants in this year's FNQ trip saw another side of Alex as she had great fun challenging the group's general, and plant, knowledge in a tricky, furiously contested – and highly enjoyable – trivia evening. With a Masters in Marketing (plus a spot on the coveted Dean's Honour List) and a lifelong love of French and Russian literature, Alex was certainly able to draw on a broad and deep well of knowledge to test the eager throng! Classical music, cinema and following professional cycling are other passions, when she has time to fit them into her very active life.



Ordinary Member – Helen Kennedy

Helen joined the Friends Committee of Management in 2011. She'd just left one voluntary position when Margaret Clarke, the then Friends President, said that they desperately needed a Secretary, so Helen put her hand up. Although low on that particular learning curve, she was already in love with the Cranbourne Gardens and a Garden Ambassador. And old hands on the CoM soon educated her in the new responsibilities!

A lifetime as a secondary English teacher and finally, Head of English at a big co-educational school, provided some necessary skills for both these RBGC roles: Helen is an enthusiastic communicator and organiser, loves to talk, read and write, and enjoys proof-reading (is a stickler for correct grammar!). She likes having responsibility and being involved in things that matter. Helen is also a passionate gardener, which led to years of involvement with APS Victoria and selecting native plant gardens for The Open Gardens Scheme, followed by time on the Open Gardens Victoria Committee. And, over 50 years, with the invaluable help of her husband, she developed their three-quarter acre home site into a personal paradise.

Years of camping, bushwalking and exploring the world have also shaped Helen. She has seen much of Australia and also wider horizons – starting with a year's travelling around the world in 1975 with two little boys and living in a tent. Travel since then has (usually!) been less physically demanding, but no less varied and exciting, with France and Japan firm favourites.

Relinquishing the role of Secretary in 2019, Helen has remained on the CoM and hopes to continue to contribute to the Friends in whatever way possible, despite advancing years! Assisting people to make wise choices at Growing Friends Plant Sales is an ongoing and absolute pleasure.



Ordinary Member – Janette Wilson

Every time you open our monthly e-newsletter, *Quicklink*, with pleasurable anticipation, you have Janette to thank. Her sharp eye for design has ensured that this regular communication is both a pleasure to read and to look at.

Joining the Committee of Management in 2018, Janette brought with her many years of varied experience in the creative and design world, having worked across several fields, including print and video production. Following diplomas in graphic design and working for ACP magazines, she also trained at RMIT's International College of Graphic Technology and later joined the staff, teaching trade apprentices. Janette also ran her own freelance graphic design business concurrently.

A true creative spirit, Janette also loves to paint and draw (has recently joined the Botanical Illustrators), is a skilled photographer and occasionally works with stained glass. Wanting to combine her interest in design with her love of the plant world, in 2019, and after two years of part-time study, Janette completed Diplomas of Landscape Design and Horticulture at Swinburne University. She now runs her own garden design business and somehow finds time to develop her own large native garden. Fittingly, she is also now a Growing Friend!

Sometimes quiet until you get to know her, Janette often thinks outside the box and brings a fresh perspective to matters. The most recent new-look Friends Annual Reports, combining important information with visual pleasure, exemplify her approach.

Janette also finds a creative outlet in one quite unexpected area! Always wanting to discover more of the natural world and its beauty – and a dedicated motorbike rider since the age of 19 – she loves nothing more than exploring new byways on her splendid machine. 🏍️



The Cranbourne Collection Acquires an *Acacia suaveolens*

Jenny Rollason, Cranbourne Friend and Botanical Illustrator, is gifting her beautiful watercolour painting of the *Acacia suaveolens* to the Cranbourne Collection. This scientifically correct illustration was inspired some time ago after a group of Botanical Illustrators accompanied Warren Worboys on a discovery walk through the remnant bushland at the Cranbourne Gardens.




Jenny Rollason's *Acacia suaveolens* painting.

Acacia suaveolens is a shrub that grows between 0.3 and 3.5 metres and is endemic to Australia. It flowers between April and September and has a purplish-brown or light green bark and slightly curving blue green phyllodes. Its pale yellow to near-white globular flowers are followed by flattened, bluish oblong pods which are up to 2 to 5 cm long and 8 to 19 mm wide.

Jenny, a keen botanical illustrator and painter, acknowledged that it took quite some time to gather the samples from each stage of the plant life cycle. "This required very careful thought and planning to gather the specimens from flowering through to seed pods." She found her biggest challenge was mixing a very pale lemon colour for the *A. suaveolens*' tiny delicate flowers. Jenny also commented, "I am pleased that the work captures the strength of the seed pods left after flowering and the circular movement effect that the foliage allowed."

This artwork follows established botanic art conventions and seeks to show as much detail of the plant as possible including how it grows and looks in nature.

The Cranbourne Collection was an idea proposed by a small group of renowned Botanical illustrators including Jenny Phillips, Kay Craig, Betty Johnson and John Armstrong. The concept of a florilegium, original illustrations of indigenous flora species found on site at RBGV Cranbourne, was endorsed in 2001 by Dr Philip Moors, Chief Executive and Director at the time and the then librarian Helen Cohn. In the decades since, the Cranbourne Collection has continued to grow and includes artworks by Margaret Holloway, Robin Allison, Terry Napier, Pam Habsberger, Kay Craig, John Armstrong, and Marina Albert among others.

Painting dimensions are to be of a consistent size to ensure works can be stored in Solander boxes, considered to be the best way to store archival material. In accordance with the Royal Botanic Gardens Act, the RBGV manages the State Botanical Collection which includes Australia's largest botanical library, associated archival material and artworks of botanical significance. 

Special Interest Groups

Growing Friends

Again, a rather unsettling year with numerous lockdowns and the Spring Plant Sale had to be cancelled. During our absence and under the guidance of the Gardens Nursery Coordinator Mandy Thomson, many plants plus hundreds of cuttings and seedlings were cared for by some of the Gardens' staff, whose usual jobs such as driving the Cranbourne Gardens Shuttle Bus and Garden Explorer were not possible. We are very grateful for all the work they did. For this purpose, the facilities at the GF nursery continued to be utilised which was a win-win situation for both the Gardens and the Growing Friends. A big thank you to Mandy for guiding the staff involved through which was probably for them a first and most unusual activity.



The Growing Friends load up for the Winter Plant Sale with help from Gardens staff. Photo Janette Wilson

The much-anticipated early November return was initially with restricted numbers only. To allow us all to return to weekly attendance, a two-day per week roster was organised. After catching up on 'what did you do during lockdown' we proceeded to sort out the usual nursery activities and planned for an in-house 'members only' pre-Christmas mini plant sale as well as what turned out to be a very successful Autumn Plant Sale held in the Gardens. These were happy occasions with records broken for both the number of customers and sales. During this past financial year we achieved a somewhat less than usual but still pleasing profit of approx. \$31,500.

At the Autumn sale we introduced the City of Casey's Gardens 4 Wildlife program which we had been requested to participate in along with other community nurseries in the Casey area. For this purpose a separate G4W section at the sales venue was created, which generated some discussion between interested customers and the Growing Friends G4W Coordinator Mick Robertson.

The City of Casey website explains:

Gardens for Wildlife (G4W) is a free program that equips gardeners of all abilities with the support and materials they need to create a wildlife-friendly garden in Casey.

Residents can register their interest to receive in-person advice about how to create habitat in their own garden, as well as a voucher to purchase indigenous plants. <https://www.caseyvic.gov.au/g4w>

We continue to grow some 3,000+ small plants for the Gardens' Learning Program, including some 'special' request plants for NAIDOC week and Brown Bandicoot activities.

Plants for a Revegetation Project and a Nature Habitat Garden were also on the agenda. The latter has been an ongoing project for which we have grown plants on a number of occasions. Much to our delight, this garden was showcased on the ABC Gardening Australia program.

There continues to be an ongoing interest in the activities of the Growing Friends with numerous requests to join the group. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate most requests, with the result that there are many people on a very, very, slow-moving waiting list.

We now look forward to an uninterrupted and productive year.

Marjanne Rook

Botanical Fabricators

It was not foreseen by many that the last 12 months would still be drastically affected by COVID-19 restrictions. The restrictions were finally lifted but many

Special Interest Groups

activities have been cancelled or curtailed by illness of staff and visitors.

During August, September and October, no meetings were possible. When the weather improved and restrictions were eased, we were able to enjoy a casual meeting in the Cranbourne Gardens. That enabled us to continue contact with our members in very pleasant surroundings.



Over the Summer months we had 20 fat quarters of our Australian theme material for sale in the Cranbourne Gardens Shop. Following their successful sale it is hoped another batch can be provided in the future.

In March at the Growing Friends Plant Sale and our Fabricators stall, we sold goods totalling \$1271. An excellent result to contribute to the Gardens. Unfortunately the marquee was problematic as it blew down over night; it has limited ability to be secured for anything more than light winds.

It was May 2022 before we were able to hold a Fabricators demonstration at the Cranbourne Library, after two cancellations. Very small attendance at the event, but a chance to show what the Gardens are about and meet some more very interesting people.

Although we lost members due to the requirements of Working with Children Certificates and the Child Policy Commitment documentation, we now have a small group of regular members.

Wendy Smart

Botanical Illustrators

Once again, part of the year was disrupted with COVID-19 lockdowns. Despite this, the Botanical Illustrators managed to meet during most months, usually at the Elliot Centre when it became available, or alternatively under the shelter provided by the kiosk. Whilst our numbers have fallen to 11 because of the introduction of Working with Children and the Child Safety policies, we have welcomed a number of new members, which is encouraging, and we look forward to welcoming more new members in the future.

In November, the Growing Friends were able to hold their annual Plant Sale and we joined in, selling 81 cards – a very good effort. At the next Plant Sale, we sold 132 cards, which reflects the greater numbers attending the event. It is heartening that we are able to contribute to the Friends in this way and provide a glimpse of our artwork to other members.

At our December session we enjoyed being back in the Elliot Centre where we were able to catch up on the progress of our art and enjoy a pleasant break-up lunch.

The group, in conjunction with the Fabricators, has continued to work on their art for the *Fabaceae* exhibition for the FJC Rogers Seminar at Karwarra Gardens in October 2022.* To date we have 27 artworks completed, which is a commendable result from our small group of talented artists. Thanks to Kerryn Robinson for co-ordinating this activity.

Our Workshop, 'Introduction to Nature Journaling', was finally held in May. It was a full house and enjoyed by all participants. Linda Weil demonstrated the methods we can use to record our botanical experiences when we are out in the field. We plan further workshops in graphite and coloured pencil later in the year. Jan Maslen has continued the hard work in organising these workshops and helping to make them such a success. At all our sessions we collect \$5 donations; this goes directly to the Friends or towards our expenses incurred with exhibitions, cards, or workshops. This is ably collected by Jenny Rollason, our treasurer.

The Botanical Illustrators group continues to provide a friendly space to enjoy illustrating botany in graphite, ink, coloured pencil, and watercolour, meeting fortnightly throughout the year.

Margaret Kitchen

* See the Botanical Illustrators' beautiful *Fabaceae* artworks on page 24.

Special Interest Groups

Friends in Focus

The group has experienced a difficult twelve months and we have needed to remain resilient and optimistic as the progress of the pandemic continued to affect our lives and diminish our options. On the occasions when we were able to hold meetings, we made the most of the opportunities available to socialise and did our best to create a useful collection of images to record our activities. Welcome glimpses and some photography of the local wildlife, including Swamp Wallabies, Bandicoots, Koalas and various birds and insects provided additional interest and challenges.

Several members attended the Walk and Gawk with John Arnott, which provided a second opportunity to take photographs in July, before we were once again in lockdown, with meetings cancelled for the next four months. During this time, members living nearby took the opportunity to visit the Australian Garden individually as



Top: New Holland Honeyeater, Howson's Hill;
Bottom: *Eremophila fasciata*. Photos: Judith Cooke

their bubble expanded or created images of private and public gardens elsewhere. They regularly contributed photographs for publication to the group's monthly newsletter, *Cranbourne Lens*, which continued throughout the emergency, keeping members informed and in touch with one another.

Weather conditions during the winter months gave us additional challenges and even in the summer months we encountered wild weather. We began and ended the year with outings into the Bushland to search for fungi and to photograph some of these strange and unusual subjects. Some members also attended the Fungi Foray with Dr Tom May, which provided helpful hints on how to improve our photography.

We postponed our scheduled November 'Show and Tell' to the March meeting, with slideshows from members who attended the Mt Hotham trip, albums recording the regeneration of vegetation at Lake Mountain in the years following Black Saturday and the spectacular scenery of south-west Tasmania, as well as photobooks illustrating the local wildlife.

Our A5 photographic display book, prepared to showcase the Cranbourne Gardens for the Banks and Solander bicentenary at Karwarra Gardens in 2019, was exhibited at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS) in March-April as part of the Australian Plant Society Victoria display in the Exhibition Building.

Some landmark events at Cranbourne during the year were attended by members, including Botanic Gardens Day and the launch of the book *Of Friends and Gardens* by Carolyn Landon.

Throughout the year members have illustrated a range of interests and abilities, as well as growing confidence, dedication and commitment to their craft. They have also contributed to the iNaturalist online database to record some of their finds for identification. Several members have regularly submitted images to Friends' publications and social media and for the Membership card.

Sadly, we lost members during COVID-19, and attendances at meetings remain around 4-6, with several non-attending members, some of whom we hope will be able to join us in the Gardens in the future.

Judith V Cooke

See also Friends in Focus members' photos of the Far North Queensland trip, pages 9-11.

Special Interest Groups

Herbarium Collectors

It has been another difficult year for the Herbarium Collectors. Between lockdowns, restricted travel and the Garden Staff needing our facility, there have been very few meetings. May 2021 was our last collection in the field. Admittedly, with our collection numbering 722, it is harder to find anything new, and Winter is always a lean season.

When possible, we have spent time cataloguing the collection, putting it in numerical order to match the field notes, and updating the computer records.

The sad part has been missing two Orchid seasons, which from all accounts were particularly rich. Our hope is that this September will also be an excellent Orchid season so we can continue to expand this very valuable part of the collection.

Nola Foster.

Friends in the Garden

In 2021, FIGS only met in July and December due to COVID-19 restrictions. Since 2021 Mathieu Lascostes has been our horticulture staff co-ordinator. He is always very appreciative of the group's efforts and was very keen for us to help more than once a month. In February 2022, the group started to meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Christine Kenyon co-ordinates the 1st Tuesday group and Sue Spicer, the 3rd Tuesday group. We keep the volunteer days flexible with some members coming on one day only, and others who attend both days each month. People can also swap and change days. FIGS now has a 'WhatsApp' messages group that has made keeping in touch easier.

It is always a special treat to be allowed on to the Red Sand Garden. Mathieu is very proud of the freshly groomed red sand and a lot of weeding around the Westringia circles was undertaken in preparation for this. The Kangaroo Paws in the Ephemeral Garden were also cut back and the whole area weeded and freshly mulched.

Helping Scott remove the large gravel from the Arbour Garden was not one of our favourite days but Scott had several of these gardens to clear, remediate the soil and replant. He was very grateful for our one day of rock removal. Other days have been spent weeding and tidying the Children's Backyard, Cultivar Garden and the

Future Garden, as well as sweeping paths and clearing prunings and leaves.

Membership of the group is ever-changing with the inclusion of new members or the loss of others. Each new member is invited to try us out for 2 sessions, and if they then wish to continue, they must join the Friends, have a Working with Children Card and complete the RBGV's Child Safe Program.

We have lost a few potential new members who possibly did not want to complete these courses.

We still finish each session with lunch in the café.

Christine Kenyon and Sue Spicer



FIGs mulching the raised beds. Photo: Christine Kenyon

Social Media



“Amy handed over the social media reins to me in March 2022”

Over the 12 months leading to July 2022, the Cranbourne Friends social media accounts performed well.

The most popular Facebook post during this time featured the Jezebel Butterflies (*Delias harpalyce*) emerging from their chrysalis in September. The photo was taken by Ollie Sherlock, and the post had 1,977 reactions, 261 comments, and was shared 195 times. The post had a total reach of 46,108 people.

The most popular Instagram post in the same timeframe was of the new blue kangaroo paw, 'Masquerade', from Kings Park Botanic Gardens. The photo was taken by Digby Growns, and the post received 511 likes, 22 comments and had a reach of 3,913 people.

The total Facebook page reach in this time was 64,057 people, and for Instagram, 18,640 people. This was an increase on the previous year by 23.2% for Facebook, and 27.5% for Instagram. Facebook page visits for the year was 2,272, with Instagram page visits at 2,049. The Cranbourne Friends Facebook page saw a total of 389 new likes,



Imperial Jezebel Butterfly (*Delias harpalyce*). Photo: Ollie Sherlock

while Instagram saw 351 new followers.

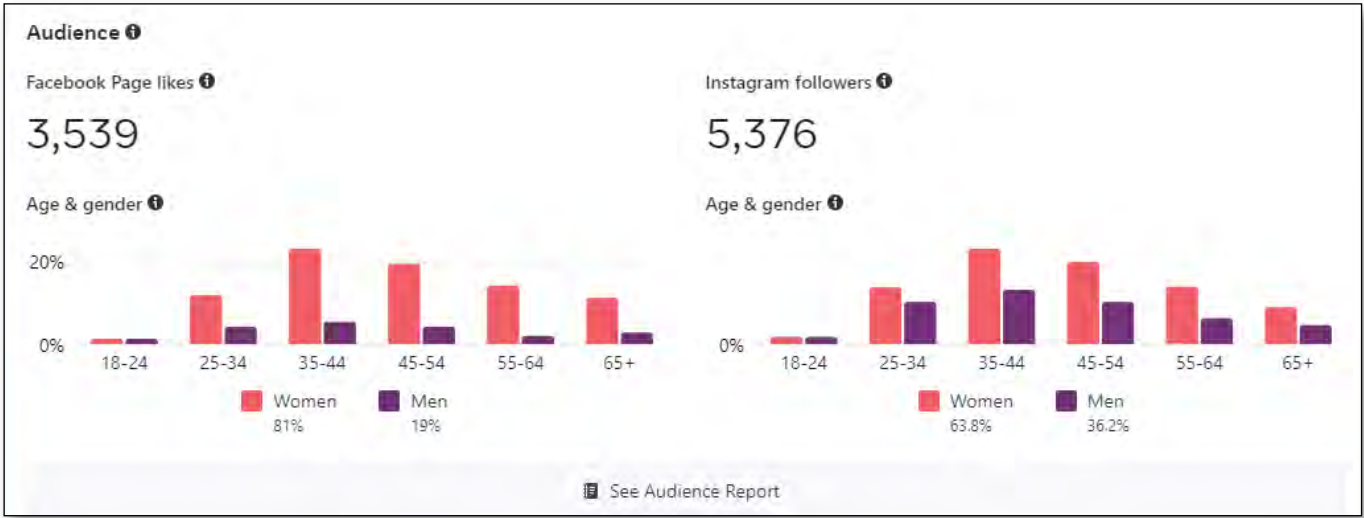
Of the people who liked our Facebook page during this 12-month period, 81% were women, with the majority

in the age group between 35 and 44. The percentage on Instagram was smaller, with only 63.8% of followers being women, with the 35-44 age group still being the most popular.

I believe it's been a good year for the social pages of Cranbourne Friends. Amy Akers, assisted by Chloe Foster, did an amazing job posting interesting, relevant content. Amy handed over the social media reins to me in March 2022. I share the role with Ross Shepherd, who

passes on lots of great content as it crosses his path. Many thanks to all the committee members who have welcomed me, and especially to Rosemary Miller who alerts me to upcoming events that need to be promoted. A lot of the content I've shared over the past few months has originally been posted on social media by staff, volunteers or other visitors of the Gardens. It's been great to be able to share those posts with the people who follow our pages, and so my thanks go out to the original posters also.

Tanya Johnson



Membership Report

In the last year we have welcomed 75 new members, 22 of whom joined at the Autumn Growing Friends Plant Sale. With activities and events returning following the easing of lockdown measures, we are seeing more opportunities to encourage new members to join us. Our membership card this year featured a wonderful photograph, chosen by a vote of the membership, of our iconic New Holland Honeyeaters, *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*, perched atop a *Hakea corymbosa* (Cauliflower Hakea), taken by Friends member Chris Clarke.

The TidyHQ membership management system that we implemented last year has been well received and utilised by members. At the close of the financial year, 80% of members had already renewed, with 72% using TidyHQ. This saves a lot of volunteer time manually inputting records and is also useful for our Treasurer when compiling financial records. The system has also been rolled out to accommodate bookings for events and activities.

We also recognised the contribution of two of our wonderful volunteers – Helen Kennedy and Richard Clarke, through the bestowal of much-deserved life memberships at the November AGM.

Moving forward we are striving to continue replenishing our membership base, attracting and retaining

supportive and enthusiastic members, through improvements to our membership ‘onboarding’ processes and a more visual presence at the Gardens.

Alexandra Stalder
Membership Secretary



A vote of members was held to choose the image for our next membership card. The winning entry was a photograph by Friends member Sharon Start of a Silvereye, *Zosterops lateralis* in the Gondwana Garden.



Banksia Menziesii. Photo: Amy Akers



Treasurer's Report

Once again, the financial year has been subject to constraints, restrictions and a reluctance either to proceed with planning an event with the possibility of it being cancelled, or a natural hesitation by Friends to attend events with various types of COVID-19 still occurring in the community. However, we have been fortunate to run events in the last six months of the financial year allowing the Friends to record a net operating income of \$34,612 which is \$9,000 more than last year. Contributing to this was a very successful tour to Far North Queensland (previously twice cancelled) ending on 30 June that netted over \$10,000 and an equally successful tour to Mt. Hotham in January netting \$3,000 (also twice aborted).

Very good weather prevailed for the March plant sale that brought the crowds out and raised a magnificent \$27,000. General plant sales throughout the year contributed a further \$10,000.

The Friends membership base also increased, and the committee is very appreciative of the support shown by members through such a difficult period with their subscriptions of almost \$20,000.

Expenses commensurate with activities and membership communications are detailed in the accounts. \$10,000 was contributed to the RBGV for Cranbourne Botanic Gardens staff to attend the Global Botanic Gardens Conference in September. A further \$2,500 was given to the RBGV to purchase a defibrillator located where it is accessible to both Friends and Gardens staff.

Frequent and regular communications are maintained with the Director on the support that the Friends can provide for the Gardens. With significant grants being received this year from the Victorian government for a range of important projects requiring detailed input from Management, their focus has been directed to these as many projects require completion within a short time frame.

Meanwhile, the Friends are in a very strong financial position with the carryover of this year's surplus towards future projects that will result from discussions with the Director following completion of projects now underway.

Richard Clarke

A. R. Clarke



Jenny Rollason. *Hardenbergia violacea*, Purple Coral-pea. Watercolour.



Kerryn Robinson. *Gompholobium huegellii*, Common Wedge-pea. Coloured pencil.



Margaret Holloway. *Indigofera australis*, Australian Indigo. Watercolour.

Botanic Illustrators' artworks for *Fabaceae* exhibition at Karwarra Gardens in October 2022.

2021/2022 Statistics

\$10,000

Conference contribution

To RBGV for Cranbourne Botanic Gardens staff to attend the Global Botanic Gardens Conference 2022

\$37,000

contributed

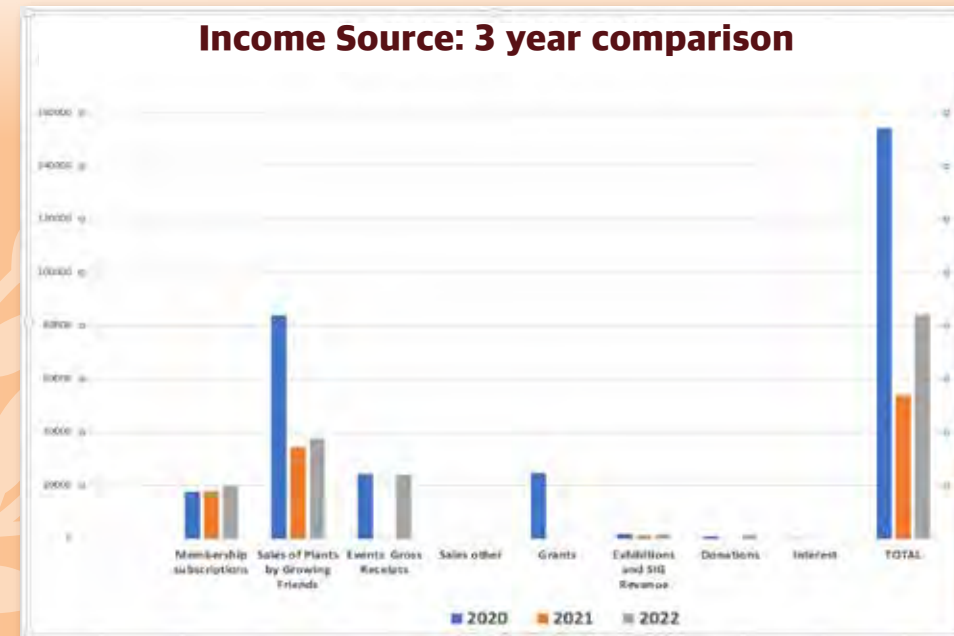
by Growing Friends Plant Sales

\$20,000

contributed by

This Financial years' membership dues

Income Source: 3 year comparison



This graph shows the impact of COVID-19 on all sources of income. It is gratifying that memberships increased, if only slightly over this 3-year time frame.

The consistently high performance of the Growing Friends remains our principal source of income even though compromised during the pandemic reductions to propagation and sales.

Events income also sprang back to pre-pandemic levels, with the assistance of very successful tours.

CRANBOURNE FRIENDS BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

ABN 43 551 008 609

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Kevin Jessup | Chartered Accountant

0407 545 288

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Profit and Loss

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2021	2022
Income		
Membership Subscriptions	18,018.00	19,886.00
Sales of Plants by Growing Friends	34,280.06	37,644.18
Events Gross Receipts	241.80	23,907.55
Sales Other	-	38.00
Exhibitions & SIG Revenue	1,308.60	1,571.00
Donations	71.44	1406.00
Interest	42.66	42.66
Total Income	53,962.56	84,495.39
Expenses		
Administration & Newsletter Expenses (Note 1)	13,043.21	17,434.57
Depreciation	1,612.00	1,485.00
Donations to Royal Botanic Gardens	10,170.00	12,500.00
Events Expenses	240.00	10,287.78
Purchases & Supplies – Growing Friends	3,045.03	6,112.99
Sales – other expenses	395.00	50.00
Total Expenses	28,505.24	47,870.34
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	25,457.32	36,625.05

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Notes to the Accounts

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2021	2022
Note 1: Administration & Newsletter Expenses		
Accounting & Licence Fees	2,315.42	1,173.80
Catering Costs - Open House & Other	75.85	181.94
Conference Fees	50.00	-
Credit Card Merchant Fees	778.12	2,591.75
Filing & Statutory Fees	59.20	60.00
Insurances	502.05	582.05
Membership - Printing, Stationery & Postage	770.00	638.00
<i>Naturelink</i> - Printing & Postage	6,157.69	7,635.25
Publicity	164.00	3,491.78
Repairs and Replacements	1,157.27	-
Subscriptions	235.00	395.00
Telephone	544.61	685.00
Tributes & Presentations	105.00	-
Website & Domain Name	129.00	-
	13,043.21	17,434.57

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Balance Sheet

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2021	2022	2022
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank			
National Bank - Current Accounts	66,517.97	98,606.97	
National Bank - Raffle Account	50.00	-	
National Bank - Savings Account	85,437.14	85,437.14	
	152,005.11		184,044.11
Cash on Hand	120.00		120.00
Prepaid Tour Expenses	3,000.00		3,000.00
Sundry Debtors	820.00		1,190.00
Total Current Assets	155,945.11		188,354.11
Fixed Assets			
Plant & Equipment - at cost	28,771.06	29,776.06	
Less Provision for Depreciation	(22,624.00)	(23,101.00)	
	6,147.06		6,675.06
NET ASSETS	162,092.17		195,029.17
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Subscriptions Received in Advance	11,014.00	8,720.00	
Foundation Donations Rec'd in Adv	-	739.95	
Advanced Bookings	17,194.00	15,060.00	
Total Liabilities	28,208.00		24,519.95
NET ASSETS	133,884.17		170,509.22
Represented by:			
Equity			
Retained Earnings - brought forward	108,426.85		133,884.17
Current Earnings - 2022	25,457.32		36,625.05
TOTAL EQUITY	133,884.17		170,509.22

Independent Auditor’s Report

To the Members of Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc. (the “Association”), which comprises profit and loss statement and balance sheet as at 30 June 2022.

The Committee responsibility for the financial report

The Committee of the Association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor’s responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards which require me to comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error.

In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Association’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Auditor’s opinion

In my opinion:

The financial report of Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc. is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, including:

- (1) Giving a true and fair view of the Association’s financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (2) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.



KEVIN JESSUP
Chartered Accountant
Balwyn North
25th August 2022

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Certificate by Members of the Committee

We, Erin Cosgriff and Richard Clarke, being members of the Committee of Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc., certify that the statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position of Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2022.



ERIN COSGRIFF



RICHARD CLARKE

28 August 2022

Dated

Statement by Members of the Board

The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as applicable to not-for-profit organisations.

In the opinion of the Committee the financial statements:

- 1. Present fairly the financial position of Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc. as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2. At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



ERIN COSGRIFF



RICHARD CLARKE

28 August 2022

Dated

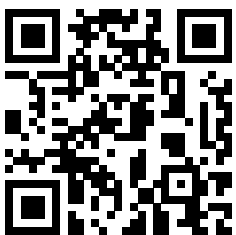
Seeking New Members

We are always seeking new members. If you know of someone whom you think might enjoy becoming a member of the Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, please encourage them to join us.

Further, if you believe you have skills that may be of use to the committee, please

come forward and speak to us at any time. We are looking for people with an array of skills, initiative and energy. Ideally, these skills would be of benefit to the committee as a whole, but if regular attendance at an actual or virtual meeting is not possible then periodic consultation could also be helpful. We have some exciting plans ahead and work very much as a team.

Photo and Design: Janette Wilson Design



Contact:

The President
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