



Annual Report 2020

**Cranbourne Friends
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.**

For the year ended 30 June 2020



CRANBOURNE FRIENDS

ROYAL
BOTANIC GARDENS
VICTORIA

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Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc. is an incorporated association operating in accordance with the Rules of Association registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (2012). The Association operates within the authority and policies of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, undertaking voluntary tasks and organising activities which enhance community understanding and appreciation of the Gardens, and of Australian flora and fauna, and enabling the donation of funds to support Gardens' projects.

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 and Welcome to the 2020 AGM

We are getting used to coming together to meet and share ideas in this virtual way. Although we are not meeting together in the same physical space, we are all connected through our shared commitment to the Cranbourne Royal Botanic Garden, located on Boon Wurrung and Bunurong Country. It is in this spirit of recognising our First Nations People that we acknowledge the traditional owners of the various lands from which we hail today and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.



Given the impact of the pandemic and reality of restrictions that continue to prevail, we have chosen to distribute this written Annual Report ahead of our meeting. It should be regarded as the centrepiece of our formal meeting.

We warmly invite you to attend our actual Annual General Meeting which will be conducted at 2 pm on Sunday 15 November 2020, online using Zoom. We hope that the guidelines forwarded as part of this package assist you to join this meeting with relative ease.

Left: Owen Janusauskas, a horticulturalist from Cranbourne Gardens, gave a talk to Friends about growing and using Australian Bush Foods in March 2020. Pictured with a Macadamia in the 'How To' garden. Photo: Mick Robertson

Below: Naidoc Week celebrations organised by the Cranbourne Gardens.



President's Report



When I became President two years ago, I was briefed that the Friends was a group in transition, in need of rejuvenation. To that end, we have streamlined some internal processes and explored additional ways to engage with the community and to work more closely with the Gardens to support their activities and develop joint projects.

As President I have been lucky to be part of the Cranbourne Friends during an extraordinary time in our history. The most recent Growing Friends Plant sale broke all previous records; the Events Committee had planned another fascinating series of lectures and tours; our Special Interest Groups were operating at or close to capacity; and financially the group was able to make significant donations to the Gardens. The Communications Team have excelled themselves: *Naturelink* has a new focus which has been universally well received; and *Quicklink* has a new look and is packed with interesting links, articles and photos.

The key question for all of us in future is “what will the new normal look like once

Victoria gets COVID-19 under control?” For the Friends, the question is “how well will those activities that have stood us in such good stead in the past work for us in the future?”

Whatever the shape of our post-Covid world there is much to look forward to. Next year sees the 175th anniversary of the RBGV and in September it will be 30 years since the first meeting of the Steering Committee to establish the Cranbourne Friends. To mark the occasion, a history of the Friends will be published in conjunction with the Gardens. This will be a year of celebration.

I have been amazed at the professionalism and skill of the committee team and have enjoyed their companionship. I look forward to continuing that relationship albeit in a different role now.

As the pandemic unfolds there will be an urgent need to face a new set of challenges with an open mind and a creative attitude. I urge the membership to support our new President in this venture.

Roger Watts

View of the Ian Potter Lakeside Precinct across the lifestyle garden. Photo: Janette Wilson

Treasurer's Report



As with many other organisations, the Cranbourne Friends experienced significant disruption to their operations this year due firstly to the bush fires that occurred in NE Victoria and then the Coronavirus pandemic. The Friends operations and events effectively ceased on 15 March 2020 immediately after a very successful plant sale. The Elliot Centre then became a necessary adjunct to the Gardens Administration so that social distancing could be maintained by the staff. Administratively, organisational arrangements have continued virtually using Zoom.

Despite these disruptions, the Cranbourne Friends had a very successful 8.5 months operations generating income of \$129,365 as well as receiving grants of \$24,900. Membership subscriptions increased by almost 20% and sales of plants increased by 15% compared to the previous year. Revenue from events decreased by almost \$16,000 due to the cancellation of a week-long discovery tour in January to Mt. Hotham (that was booked out), the customary annual lunch in May and events cancelled due to COVID-19. Approximately \$13,000 was refunded to participants booked for cancelled events.

While a Net Operating loss for the year of \$22,996, has been recorded, this needs to be seen in the context of a total of \$140,003 being passed to the Cranbourne Gardens from funds generated in the current and previous financial years, including grants of \$24,900. In the last financial year, major donations from the Friends to the RBGV Cranbourne were applied as listed (at right).

Richard Clarke

\$76,000

50% funded

50% towards a shuttle bus with the RBGV Foundation

\$20,000

Grant

Grant for the construction of a fauna barrier on Phillip Moors Drive

\$24,500

100% funded

Supply and installation of new A/V equipment in the Auditorium

\$6,900

100% funded

Installation of an anemometer at the Visitors Centre for fire watch monitoring

\$5,490

100% funded

Maud Gibson Trust Scholarship Funding

\$4,400

Grant

Grant for installation of a climate watch trail

\$2,213

100% funded

Supply and installation of two HW boilers in the Friends Nursery

\$500

Grant

Grant for Orchid developments

In Review: Our Constrained Pandemic Year

Rampant bushfires over summer, the emergence of COVID-19 in early 2020 and more particularly, the second wave experience in Victoria has meant that this has not been an ordinary year. In fact, our individual and collective worlds have been turned upside down. Normality has been suspended in the interests of protecting us all from the potentially dire impacts of this coronavirus.

In keeping with this, the Cranbourne Royal Botanic Gardens has been closed for long periods throughout the year and normal activities suspended. This in turn has meant that most of the activities of the Cranbourne Friends have been on hold. So this report does not reflect business as usual. The emphasis has been on adapting our responses in keeping with necessary restrictions and to salvage what we could out of a difficult time.

There have been many disappointments including the cancellation of all events and the suspension of the on-site activities of the Cranbourne Friends Special Interest Groups. One such

example is the work of the Growing Friends who started the year with a bang. Their summer sale raised a record-breaking \$24,500 which involved selling a massive number of plants. There were also significant trips away, carefully planned and ready to go including tours to far North Queensland and Sicily. The let-down for the organisers and participants is disappointing but we are fortunate to have Friends in our midst who can plan and organise such events on our behalf when more conducive times return.

Our focus turned to enhance communications with members through our publications and social media. Maintaining connectedness and interest through virtual means has been vital.

In the background extensive work has been underway to streamline our administration by transferring our largely manual practices to a digital platform: TidyHQ. Moving online will bring vital efficiencies and structure to the work of our administrators and volunteers.

The Cranbourne Friends RBGV Committee of Management

During the course of 2019/2020 the Committee has met 11 times.

Committee membership and roles held over 2019-2020 period are as follows:

President	Roger Watts
Vice President	Rosemary Miller
Secretary	Helen Kennedy
Membership Secretary	Alexandra Stalder
Treasurer	Richard Clarke
Events Coordinator ¹	Barbara Jeffrey
Communication Coordinator ²	Rosemary Miller & Erin Cosgriff
Editor Naturelink	Rosemary Miller
Editors Quicklink	Alexandra Stalder Janette Wilson
CFRBGV website	Erin Cosgriff
Grants Officer	Helen Kennedy
Special Interest Group Liaison	Jennifer Potten

Notes

¹ Ros Shepherd has fulfilled the role of Booking Officer in support of the Events Committee.

² The Communications team is also ably supported by Amy Akers and Chloe Foster who highlight the beauty of the Garden and promote Friends activities using social media.

Each of these people makes a wonderful contribution and are warmly thanked for their enduring commitment.

The Friends have contributed to the following projects:



A disability friendly bus to shuttle local residents and visitors arriving by train to the Cranbourne Gardens. The initial plan was for the bus to run to and from the railway station, twice daily. The City of Casey also indicated that it will provide RBGV Cranbourne with a designated bus parking space at the railway station. These plans may be reviewed given the impact of COVID-19.

- A contribution of \$3000 toward Victoria's hosting of the Australasian Botanic Guides Conference.
- A contribution of \$500 toward Noushka Reiter's Orchid conservation program.

- For Trent Loane, Horticulturalist from Cranbourne to undertake a plant collection trip to the ironbark forests of NSW. This scholarship was issued by the Maud Gibson Trust but funded by the Cranbourne Friends.
- The installation of an anemometer to measure wind strength and direction. It will inform decisions to close the Gardens on dangerously windy days.
- A wallaby exclusion fence along with a monitoring device to track the movement of animals via cameras and sand pads at the gates.
- New possum proof plant cage for the Gardens Nursery.
- Hot water services for the Growing Friends Nursery.
- A new plant trolley for the Growing Friends nursery.



Jan with workbenches in the Growing Friends nursery.

The Friends have contributed to the following projects: (cont.)

- Additional tables purchased for Gardens Nursery.
- The Friends Committee has made a decision to create a more flexible and larger work space in the Elliot Centre. Due to the impact of COVID-19 this decision is yet to be actioned.
- A new data projector and sound equipment system for the auditorium.
- A Tidy HQ account which is a back of house administrative software package for managing membership, running ticketed events and keeping track of finances.
- A Zoom account for use by the Friends Committee of Management and Special Interest Groups.

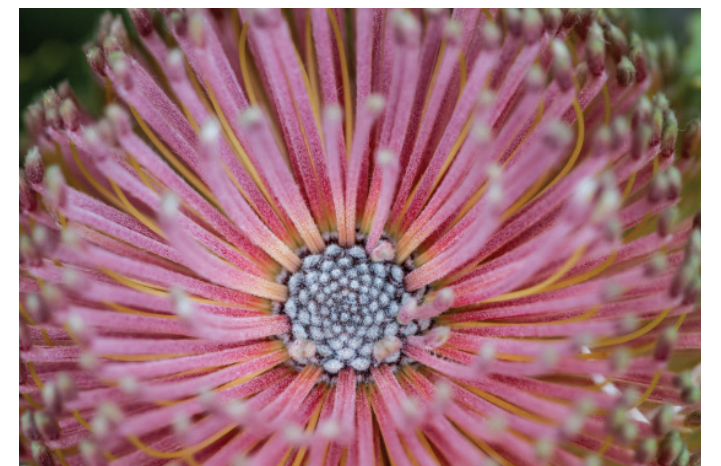
Membership Report

The first 6 months of 2020 has been a period like no other. Prior to the start of the year we had an encouraging number of new members joining and a slate of planned activities and events bound to attract more. The intermittent closures of the Gardens and the cancellation of many events have put a disappointing dent in our membership growth. However, equally, it has been heartening to see our existing Cranbourne Friends members continuing to renew their membership at a healthy rate, along with a number of lapsed members returning to us. Currently, we are in the process of moving our membership administration to the TidyHQ online platform and hope to have it operating soon to streamline joining and renewals for those members who wish to pay by credit card.

Membership Fees

Membership fees remained unchanged. New members who joined at the autumn plant sale for the period to 30 June, have their membership extended to the end of the 2020 calendar year.

We currently have 645 members.



Banksia menziesii, Amy Akers

In Brief

Welcome

The Committee welcomed news of four new appointments to the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Board. Christine Trotman is the new Chairperson, replacing Ken Harrison. Gillian Hund, Tim Jacobs and Traci Williams have also joined as new Board members. We look forward to hearing more from the Board about its plans and directions particularly in light of the pandemic and likely funding challenges.

Australian Plants Society Victoria – Banks and Solander

The Cranbourne Friends were out in force at ‘Australian Plants Revealed: highlighting Banksias and Unique Australian Flora’. The Basketry Group displayed their wares along with demonstrations of string making. The Botanical Fabricators also had a display of their beautiful textile art and quilting, and Friends in Focus had an exhibition of their



Propagating Banksia cuttings in the Growing Friends shed.

very own photographic talents along with the iconic beauty of the Australian Garden and the wonderful work of the many Cranbourne Friends. The Growing Friends propagated plants for the occasion, 350 *Viola banksii* ordered and paid for by the Australian Plant Society (Victoria) and a further gift of a mixed assortment of 170 more *Viola banksii*, 20 *Geranium solanderi* and 60 *Banksia serrata*.

Friends’ facilities aid COVIDSafe plan

For the duration of the pandemic, the Friends have made their workspaces and facilities available to Gardens staff who have sought temporary quarters in the Elliot Centre, the Herbarium and Growing Friends Nursery.

Remembering

Sadly, Geoff Harrod a member of staff at the Gardens for 40 years, died in March after a rapid decline in health. He was well known and well-liked amongst the Friends. A tree has been planted in the Gardens in his memory.

Bill Slade, a firefighter from Parks Victoria was killed while fighting fires in East Gippsland. Over 50 plants were donated by the Growing Friends to plant in and around his gravesite at the Grantville cemetery. The committee notes this act of kindness at what must have been a heartbreaking time for the Slade family.



Social Media

The Friends’ social media performed well during the last financial year despite the interruption of COVID-19 in 2020.

Social media statistics for 2019/2020

These posts always create a lot of excitement and we usually receive a surge in new followers.

Apart from the plant sales, a post about the Banksias workshop had the most

	Total Followers	Annual % increase	Female	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Followers Location
 Facebook	2813	60%	78%	21%	18%	Majority Victorian
 Instagram	4885	5.5%	63%	28%	25%	66% Australian 34% International

interest with 256 likes, and these images captured viewers interest:



Banksia menziesii, Ollie Sherlock. f 133 likes 45 shares



Diplolaena grandiflora, Amy Akers. f 444 likes



Amy Akers

In July 2019, the committee communications team and I attended Victorian Environment Friends Network’s social media workshop. It gave us ideas on how to increase interaction with our followers. This included sharing Plant Challenge videos from RBGV staff and Friends members leading up to Botanic Gardens Day on 31 May 2020; and putting up interactive quizzes on Facebook and Instagram.

Thanks go to the many regular contributors from the membership and staff who provide photos and interesting articles throughout the year, which greatly assists us in sharing quality content and generating interest.

Amy Akers

Facebook 2019 Spring Sale

32,000 views

1600 going

Facebook 2020 Autumn Sale

25,000 views

1200 going

Our most popular Facebook posts have always been for the Growing Friend plant sales.

The Cranbourne Friends – Special Interest Groups

The Cranbourne Friends Committee has responsibility for several Special Interest Groups. Each of these groups serves to honour and celebrate the beauty and uniqueness of Australian flora, fauna and natural habitats.

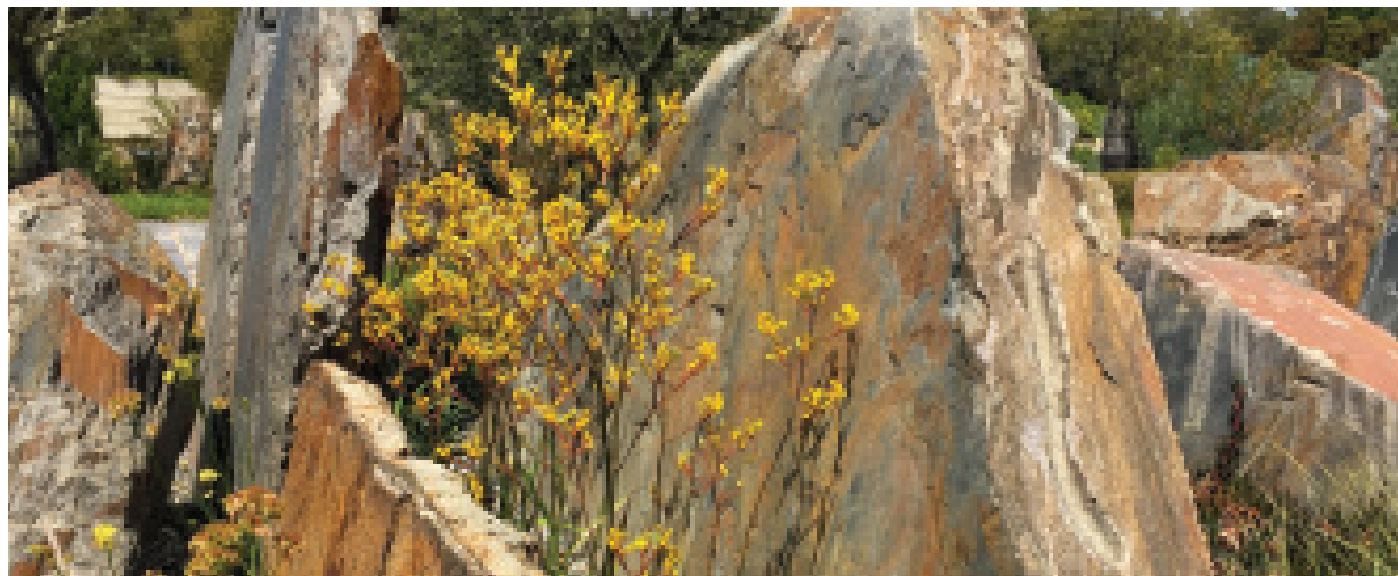
They offer an opportunity for participants to learn or further develop their skills and appreciation of the natural environment. Their efforts reach a wide audience through different perspectives whilst also providing health-giving social connection and enjoyment.

Whilst the Special Interest Groups have not been able to meet face to face, each of the convenors has attempted to keep their members feeling connected. Some groups like basketry have continued their craft while meeting via Zoom. Others have used email regularly with some members joining in to share updates

on their goings-on, photos, amusing asides and their various achievements. Maintaining this sense of camaraderie has been important and served to further bond friendships and to reduce the sense of isolation.

Quicklink and Naturelink have profiled some of the Special Interest Groups and their respective creations. They bring an added depth to the Friends as a whole and leave most of us in awe of their very special talents and creative skills.

The committee warmly thanks the convenors of these groups and their respective members for their loyalty and many contributions. Through this extraordinary year, their efforts and united spirit have been important and appreciated by the committee. We sincerely hope next year will be different.



The Cranbourne Friends – Special Interest Groups (Cont.)

Botanical Illustrators

A memorable highlight from the year was the three-day White Waratah Workshop conducted by Marta Salamon, a well-known botanical artist and teacher who has numerous art awards to her name, held at the Elliot Centre in October 2019. The focal point of this workshop was how to render a white flower on white paper. This was a most engrossing and stimulating workshop incorporating new skills. The time was well spent with results that left everyone with a deep sense of achievement.



Botanical Illustrators – Telopea speciosissima, White Waratah painted by Jan Maslen

The white waratah painting by Jan Maslen is an example of the work accomplished.

The Botanical Illustrators enjoyed a convivial lunch at the Boon Wurrung Café to round off the year ahead of the Christmas holiday period. The group resumed meeting in February and was delighted to welcome an influx of new members. Regrettably, that was to be our first and last meeting for the second half of the financial year. The group stays in touch via electronic means and is very much looking forward to resuming activities.

The Botanical Illustrators normally meet regularly twice a month at the Elliot Centre to paint, draw and support each other's artistic development. We maintain a rotating small exhibition of our artwork in the Elliot Centre. Ours is a genial group with a growing membership and we look forward to resuming convivial days of shared art, friendship and delicious treats.

Marg Kitchen and Margaret Godlewski

Friends in the Garden

This friendly group of nine is always eager to lend a helping hand and to assist the Gardens staff. Over the past twelve months, the group has been encouraged and supervised by Garden Horticultural staff members Jess van der Werff, Russell Larke and Trent Loane. This mutually rewarding partnership between garden staff and the volunteer Friends normally

The Cranbourne Friends – Special Interest Groups (Cont.)

makes a substantial contribution although this was not to be the case this year.

Interestingly the group often counts horticultural students amongst its members as this is the perfect opportunity for on-the-job training and voluntary work experience. The sad reality is that these knowledgeable and enthusiastic recruits generally only stay until they are able to secure paid employment. In the meantime, it's a fun experience and of course a fantastic place to work! The scenic beauty of the workplace is second to none and staff are considering allotting us our own garden space where they will teach us all aspects of garden maintenance.



FIGs in February 2020 in the Backyard Garden.

Usually, the group meets on the 4th Wednesday morning of each month. A chat over lunch in the café has become our post-morning ritual after our labours are complete.

Christine Kenyon

Fabricators Group

The highlight for the year 2019-20 was the opening of *Australian Plants Revealed Highlighting Banksias and Unique Australian Flora*. This display was held at Karwarra Nursery in conjunction with the *Australian Plants Revealed 65,000 years of traditional plant use and 250 years of Science* Exhibition held at the Maroondah Federation Gallery. The Karwarra exhibition, which was to run from February to April, included a number of artists and craftspeople including our Fabricators. Our display table raised \$163. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, both exhibitions were closed down after one month.

In March 2020 we set up a marquee alongside the Growing Friends plant sale to sell items from Fabricators and Botanical Illustrators Groups. The weather was reasonably kind and we were positioned beside the picnic chairs at the kiosk in the Garden. Takings for the day were Fabricators \$298 and \$154 from the raffle of donated artwork.

For the following months, our group has kept in touch via email, swapping

The Cranbourne Friends – Special Interest Groups (Cont.)



Fabricators Group – A bag made Wendy Smart for the Leesa Chandler Botanical Bag Exhibition at Cranbourne in May 2019.

notes on projects we're are working on. Most of us with a keen interest in sewing and quilting can continue our pursuits regardless of lockdowns.

A suggestion was made that whilst in lock-down, we prepare squares that could become a quilt.

Like everyone else the group is disappointed in the COVID-19 situation and look forward to being able to meet again, hopefully in the next few months.

Wendy Smart

Friends in Focus

Planning regular monthly meetings can be challenging, because of the weather. We aim to record the seasonal flowering and ongoing development around the Australian Garden, as well as attractions in the Bushland like fungi season, native orchids and birds nesting; members also often take photographs at Friends' events and tours, and Gardens events like NAIDOC and Botanic Gardens Day, if attending.

Our photographs feature on the Friends' social media platforms, in Quicklink and Naturelink, and on the 2020/2021 Friends Membership card.

In May 2020, we held our first successful virtual Show and Tell, with members sharing news and images illustrating life since lockdown, via Dropbox and emails. The event provided excellent material for the group's new monthly newsletter, the 'Cranbourne Lens', which has been set up in lieu of meetings during COVID-19.

Several members contributed images every month throughout 2019 towards a substantial group project: a 60-page electronic Photobook entitled *Friends in Focus: A Year in the Australian Garden, Cranbourne 2019*. Two copies were printed to be presented to the Friends Library and to the Visitor Centre.

Another highlight of 2020 was participating in the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Banks and Solander expedition conducted by

The Cranbourne Friends – Special Interest Groups (Cont.)

the Australian Plants Society (Victoria). The exhibition at Karwarra Gardens, Kalorama included a large format display book of our photographs designed to promote the Australian Garden, the Cranbourne Friends and Friends in Focus. This generated considerable interest with visitors before the exhibition was prematurely closed.

Members are eagerly looking forward to the day when we can get together again and continue making photographic

are most welcome, and all levels of experience are catered for.

Judith Cooke

Herbarium Collectors

Regrettably, the second half of the financial year has been a write off for the Herbarium Collectors. Unable to collect and with the Garden staff in need of every conceivable space including the herbarium workroom, this group has been in hibernation.

As Climate Change advances at an ever-increasing pace, the need to collect and record changes in the flora, not only what is appearing or disappearing at the Gardens, but also moving, makes not just collecting but re-collecting very important.

Unable to access our computer, notes and equipment have been a source of some sadness and anxiety. To compound the angst, it was an excellent Orchid season this year.

Super thanks to Warren Worboys, who collected a number of the plant storages, took them home and worked on the exacting and precise task of identification.

The group welcomed three new and very enthusiastic members during the year. A photographer and a skilled computer operator are also vitally needed.



New Holland Honeyeater in Kangaroo Paw. Photo: Supplied by FIF

images of the Australian Garden.

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month throughout the year, commencing at 9:30 am during Daylight Saving, 2:00 pm otherwise. New members

The Cranbourne Friends – Special Interest Groups (Cont.)

We can only hope this dreadful virus can be brought under control so that we can resume our work and hopefully catch up on a lost year.

Nola Foster.

Events

The first half of the year was very busy with events from talks to workshops to tours, both locally and overseas, organised.



This local tour organised by the Events group took in Hattah (above) and Lake Crosbie (below) in North West Victoria. Photos: John Thompson



The monthly Thursday Open House afternoons are a very popular event for the members who enjoy interesting speakers and socialising with other Friends. Speakers included Gardens' staff and Friends members, who talked about a Sicily trip, for example, or the Leadbeater Possum.

The popular local tour to North West Victoria visited private gardens, local Botanical gardens and a Trust for Nature reserve at Ned's corner. Travellers saw great displays of wildflowers especially orchids, and a wide variety of native birds.

The trip to Costa Rica was thoroughly enjoyed by a small number.

Other events included –

Visits to the Kew Cemetery and Yarra Bend Park, or Westgate Park, and a well-attended Banksia workshop.

Talks about Yarra and Werribee Riverkeepers, Australian Mistletoes, Pollination and What my Garden Taught Me by Gabrielle Baldwin.

The Cranbourne Friends – Special Interest Groups (Cont.)

A successful Landscape Painting event was held in the Cranbourne gardens in early 2020 and it is envisaged that similar events like this one will be organised in the future.

All events came to an abrupt halt in March 2020 due to COVID-19 and were cancelled/ postponed until the situation allows safe group activities, and the planning day for 2021 event calendar scheduled for June 2020 was cancelled as a result; the Events committee are ready to formulate the 2021 calendar once events can be held again. All 2021 events will be published in Naturelink, Quicklink or on social media.

New ideas for events and activities are always being sought so if you have ideas or suggestions or if you would like to assist in organising an event, we would like to hear from you. We aim to arrange activities that are of interest to the membership.

Barbara Jeffrey

Basketry

The basketry group has 21 active members with an average of 11 attendees at Elliot Centre meetings. Due to increasing popularity, the group began meeting twice monthly from February 2020 although, with the onset of lockdown, the group reverted to monthly meetings via Zoom. For members who are retired and live alone, this has been a great way to not only continue their craft but to stay connected.



Miniature baskets and hats, Lynn Lochrie. Materials: Typha (Cumbungi), Lomandra, Juncus, Eucalyptus cinerea.

The basketmakers ran a workshop, facilitated by Heather Turner, in August 2019 where multiple ways to start a basket were demonstrated. A further workshop in February on 'Coiling from the Top Down' was conducted by Sue Dilley, one of the founding members of the Basketry group. Both workshops were well supported and of great interest and value to participants.

The basketry group is very keen to collect plant materials from the Gardens for use in their craft. Further discussion will

The Cranbourne Friends – Special Interest Groups (Cont.)

be taken up shortly to find out whether Gardens staff can communicate or contact the basket makers when pruning events are planned.

The basketmakers' group proudly donated \$100 to the Friends in December 2019.

At the invitation of the Australian Plant Society, the basketmakers' group displayed its wares alongside the plant sale at Wilson Park in Berwick on 7 Sept 2019. Several basket makers attended to chat with people and demonstrate string making. Three new members joined the group following this display. A similar display was held at the Australian Plants Revealed Exhibition, Kawarra Australian Native Botanic Gardens in February.

Despite COVID, the basketry group continues to thrive with an ever-increasing interest in this wonderful craft.

Maree Hart

Growing Friends

The 2019/20 financial year was a record-breaker for the Growing Friends. Takings exceeded those of the previous year by over \$10,500.

The combined efforts of our 18-20 regular active participants and a small cohort of tertiary work-experience students created new stock from seed and cuttings to meet the increasing demand for our well-priced and high-quality plants. Following each plant sale, we work hard to propagate

stock and keep the production line moving, such is the public enthusiasm for choice Australian plants for home gardens. The nursery bulges at the seams to meet the challenge.

As well as holding plant sales, the Growing Friends supply plants to local government, groups like the Australian Plant Society and schools, as well as for Gardens' programmes and events. At times we receive requests for a donation of free plants, which we happily provide when possible.



Growing Friends Nursery. Photo: Chloe Foster

The Cranbourne Friends – Special Interest Groups (Cont.)

Only days after the 2020 Autumn plant sale (March 14/15) the Growing Friends Nursery was obliged to close in line with COVID - 19 restrictions. The huge and complex task of ensuring the ongoing care of the stock was accomplished within a week and within the restriction of only three volunteers on duty per day. Attempts were made to sell large plant lots to native nurseries, but to no avail. Plants were sold, given away to volunteers and staff, or farmed out amongst Growing Friends for safekeeping and return. Thousands of viable plants remained on-site under the care of the very stretched Gardens' nursery staff.

It is pleasing that the Growing Friends shed remains a hive of activity, with its propagation facilities being used by the Garden's Orchid Research team. We are looking forward to resuming our group activities at the nursery as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so.

Marjanne Rook

Would you like to join one of our Special Interest Groups?

If you are interested in joining one of our groups, please contact the membership secretary: membership@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au.

You don't need specific skills and you will be made most welcome!

Volunteer Award

On the 5th June, the City of Casey, Environment Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Marjanne Rook, our Growing Friends Coordinator. Marjanne was both surprised and delighted to receive this award. Michael Jansen, City of Casey, Sustainability and Waste Management Manager announced and presented this Award to Marjanne. He and Shirley Smith, Growing Friend member, both spoke about the breadth of Marjanne's contribution to the advancement of the Cranbourne Gardens and the environmental work of the City of Casey. Congratulations Marjanne.



CRANBOURNE FRIENDS BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

ABN 43 551 008 609

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Kevin Jessup | Chartered Accountant

0407 545 288

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Profit and Loss

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Income		
Membership Subscriptions	17,825.00	14,870.00
Sales of Plants by Growing Friends	84,056.98	73,411.00
Events Gross Receipts	24,322.40	40,168.00
Sales Other	131.00	634.00
Grants (Note 1)	24,900.00	-
Exhibitions & SIG Revenue	1,885.50	-
Donations	863.00	117.00
Interest	281.94	771.00
Total Income	154,265.82	129,971.00
Expenses		
Administration & Newsletter Expenses (Note 2)	15,886.69	12,414.00
Depreciation	1,876.00	1,942.00
Donations to Royal Botanic Gardens	140,003.00	93,608.00
Events Expenses (Note 3)	6,570.39	16,554.00
Prepaid Tour Expenses	3,000.00	-
Purchases & Supplies - Growing Friends	9,725.34	7,164.00
Special Interest Group Expenses	200.00	-
Total Expenses	177,261.42	131,682.00
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	(22,995.60)	(1,711.00)

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Notes to the Accounts

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
Note 1: Income Received		
Grants		
Victorian Department of Industry	20,000.00	-
Victorian Department of Infrastructure	4,400.00	-
Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Authority	500.00	-
	24,900.00	-
Note 2: Administration & Newsletter Expenses		
Accounting & Licence Fees	528.49	
Catering Costs - Open House & Other	378.60	
Conference Fees	3,060.00	
Credit Card Merchant Fees	157.50	
Filing & Statutory Fees	59.20	
Insurances	492.20	
Membership - Printing, Stationery & Postage	176.00	
Naturelink - Printing & Postage	5,869.39	
Publicity	368.50	
Printing, Stationery & Postage - General	546.61	
Subscriptions	385.00	
Telephone	808.50	
Tributes & Presentations	2,912.80	
Website & Domain Name	143.90	
	15,886.69	12,414.00
Note 3: Events Expenses		
Walks & Talks	339.03	
Workshops	1,723.36	
Discovery Days	406.00	
Discovery Tours	4,102.00	
	6,570.39	16,554.00

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Balance Sheet

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2020	2019
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank			
National Bank - Current Accounts	26,283.65		31,703.00
National Bank - Savings Account	85,437.14		120,437.00
		111,720.79	152,140.00
Cash on Hand		120.00	245.00
Sundry Debtors		4,070.00	525.00
Total Current Assets		115,910.79	152,910.00
Fixed Assets			
Plant & Equipment - at cost	28,176.06		26,509.06
Less Provision for Depreciation	(21,012.00)		(19,136.00)
		7,164.06	7,373.06
NET ASSETS		123,074.85	160,283.06
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Subscriptions Received in Advance	7,302.00		7,576.00
Foundation Donations Rec'd in Adv	1,646.00		-
Advanced Bookings	5,700.00		21,285.00
Total Liabilities		14,648.00	28,861.00
NET ASSETS		108,426.85	131,422.06
Represented by:			
Equity			
Retained Earnings - brought forward		131,422.45	133,133.45
Current Earnings - 2020		(22,995.60)	(1,711.00)
TOTAL EQUITY		108,426.85	131,422.45

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 2020.

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 2020 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

15th September 2020

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Certificate by Members of the Committee

We, Roger Watts and Helen Kennedy, 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 2020.



ROGER WATTS



HELEN KENNEDY



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.

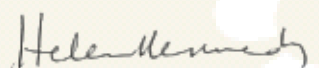
In the opinion of the Committee the financial statements:

1. Present fairly the financial position of Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc. as at 30 June 2020 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:



ROGER WATTS



HELEN KENNEDY



Dated

Thank You

The Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria relies on all its volunteers and supporters to fulfil its statement of purpose.

We appreciate the richness of individual contributions and those of each of our activity teams. Your assistance and support, whatever it is, makes a difference and is both valued and appreciated.

Here are just some ways the Friends contribute by -

- Paying your annual subscription fee and attendance at Friends events.
- Sharing horticultural knowledge and expertise.
- Writing our history or providing access to reference books.
- Contributing articles for publication in Naturelink or Quicklink.
- Preparing challenging puzzles or hatching ideas for competitions.
- Attending informal gatherings to hear from our many guest speakers.
- Joining regional, intra & interstate and international tours.
- Making morning or afternoon teas for everyone's enjoyment.
- Propagating and cultivating plants for sale.
- Buying plants from the Growing Friends.
- Joining the Committee and working hard behind the scenes.
- Making donations - monetary and in kind.



Indigofera basedowii, Chloe Foster

- Undertaking maintenance tasks and lending a hand during sales.
- Offering friendship and support
- Promoting the attractions and wonders of the Gardens by posting beautiful photos and information on social media

Despite the difficulties of the last year, we thank you for hanging in with us and staying the course. Let's hope the next twelve months see an easing of the restrictions and greater opportunities for us to meet socially and re-engage.

To the Garden staff

Our thanks to all the Gardens staff. We share a laugh, borrow things, crib space in their hothouse, seek advice, make suggestions about improvements, deploy their teams and trucks as removalists when we set up for a plant sale, ask them to attend committee meetings when it's time to go home, seek input to bolster grant applications and sometimes ask difficult questions. They are passionate about the Gardens and their work. We too are passionate about the Gardens and their work.

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.

Contact:

The President

president@rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au

The Secretary

secretary@rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au

The Membership Secretary

membership@rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au

The Cranbourne Friends

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.,
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV),
Cranbourne Gardens
Cnr Ballarto Road and Botanic Drive,
Cranbourne VIC 3977



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