



CRANBOURNE FRIENDS

ROYAL
BOTANIC GARDENS
VICTORIA

CORONAVIRUS

UPDATE 18/03/20

Dear Friends,

I have recently heard from the RBGV that their COVID-19 Response Taskforce has been systematically looking at activities of all volunteer groups, including associated group such as the Friends. The taskforce yesterday recommended the RBGV put a hold on all programs and tours, including Garden Ambassador and other volunteer activities, until **13 April**. It is quite possible the postponement will continue beyond that date.

Cranbourne Friends Special Interest Groups and Committee Meetings will cease.

The Australian Plants Revealed and BBQ at Karwarra excursion, planned for March 24, has been cancelled

Growing Friends impact

This directive extends to Growing Friends activities, and transitional arrangements have been put in place for the Growing Friends to manage risk posed by COVID-19. These recognise that it is sensible and appropriate to provide a short amount of time to rationalise the stock and 'get things in order' as best we can within the GF nursery, whilst managing the risk.

The transitional period runs for 7 days, with all volunteer access to the nursery ceasing C.O.B. Wednesday 25 March. From that point, the management of remaining stock will be undertaken by RBGV staff.

The transitional arrangement allows the Growing Friends Convenor and up to 2 other volunteers (max) at any given time to:

- Undertake stock management works including stock movements, weeding and maintenance of contract grown material, stock rationalisation, and associated stocktaking.
- Explore with the RBGV the on-selling of excess stock (or stock not likely to hold in existing containers for extended periods) to commercial native nurseries with any associated income directed to the Growing Friends.
- Regarding propagation stock yet to be processed it is agreed that a major rationalisation of stock and no further production or propagation be undertaken.

Marjanne will be in touch with Growing Friends to organise a roster.

COVID-19 Safety measures

- At all times those on site are required to work in accordance with 'social distancing' practices by staying at least 1.5m away from people whenever possible.

- Clean hands frequently by using soap and warm water for 20 seconds or alcohol-based hand sanitiser (also 20 seconds)
- When coughing and sneezing, cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue. Throw tissues away immediately and wash hands.
- Minimise touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with anyone who is coughing or sneezing (step away >1.5 metres).

This is a rapidly evolving situation, so updates and amendments will be provided as and if public health advice or circumstances change. As we are all too aware, we are in uncharted territory with the spread of COVID-19.

With very best wishes for your health and safety.

Roger Watts

President

Cranbourne Friends RBGV.



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