

Cranbourne Friends

Royal Botanic Gardens Vic Inc.



CRANBOURNE FRIENDS

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA

Annual Report 2024

*Cultivating Appreciation,
Commitment and Connection*



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Below: Volunteers, Jim, Tony, Bill, Mitch, Francesca and Andrea on Howson Hill in December 2023. Photo: FiGs

Cover: FiGs members Francesca Scuderi and Wendy Herauville pruning *Lomandra confertifolia*, with staff member Mathieu Lascotes. Photo: Bill Jones.





To our members and fellow collaborators

Beautiful gardens like the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens are born from the collective efforts of many who come together to fulfil a shared vision. As members of the Cranbourne Friends, it is exciting for us to witness the growth of our extraordinary Australian Garden which sits at the heart of the surrounding bushland, the remnant oasis now surrounded by housing development. We are grateful that the leadership within the RBGV continues to advocate and improve on the attributes of this vast and wonderful community resource. People working cooperatively toward a common goal can indeed achieve awe-inspiring outcomes.

People do make things happen. In this spirit, the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Cranbourne Friends celebrates the achievements of our many members and volunteers – those who continue to support our various activities year in and year out, and those with the vision, leadership skills, and dedication to make it all happen.

Whilst the Cranbourne Friends is not formally part of the RBGV's structure or organization, our purpose is to cooperate with the RBGV Cranbourne to support and enhance its work. We do this by attracting and sustaining the interests of our members and the wider community through activities, events, fundraising and learning opportunities. Our trusty band of volunteers bring unique skills and passion, united by a deep appreciation of the vital role that plants, gardens and the natural environment play in our lives and their intrinsic importance to the well-being of all people.

The CF Committee of Management looks forward to continuing its work with our members, volunteers and the RBG Cranbourne so that we can collectively achieve greater success, share more broadly, and support our Gardens.

We hope you find the 2023/24 Annual Report both interesting and compelling. If you are interested in becoming a more active contributing member please do get in touch. We need more people to engage, connect and do.

*The Cranbourne Friends
Committee of Management*

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that the Bunurong / Boonwurrung People are the traditional owners of the land on which the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne is located, and we pay our respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in our communities today.

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.



Introducing the Cranbourne Friends

What do we do?

We are a dedicated and active group of volunteers called the Cranbourne Friends. We exist to support the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria by undertaking voluntary tasks and organising activities which enhance community understanding and appreciation of the Gardens, of Australian Flora and Fauna, and to enable 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, and in accordance with Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria procedures. We seek to build a strong culture based on mutual respect, collaboration and common purpose. It's all about building a community of friends with Cranbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens at its heart.

Legal Status

The Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc. is registered as an incorporated association with Consumer Affairs Victoria. It is a legal entity that operates in accordance with a set of Model Rules (a constitution). This means we have rules that inform how we work and what accountabilities and obligations we must meet.

Regulations and Governance Changes introduced in 2023/24

This year, the Cranbourne Friends Committee of Management had to address two significant changes in relation to how it must work.

Firstly, Consumer Affairs Victoria introduced a new version of model rules for incorporated associations that came into effect in November 2023. These changes include aligning revenue thresholds with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission

(ACNC) standards, modifying the fees for lodging applications with Consumer Affairs Victoria, and simplifying the voluntary cancellation (deregistering) process for associations. Additionally, the revised Model Rules modernize communication technology usage at meetings, introduce an appeals subcommittee for disciplinary appeals, clarify the rules for appointing and compensating mediators for internal grievances, require the maintenance of a conflict-of-interest register, and enhance the grammar and interpretation of various clauses.

In April/ May 2024, non-charitable not-for-profits (NFP) in Australia with an active ABN were required to lodge an application for registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission as a charity and to demonstrate their eligibility for income tax exemption, effective 1 July 2024. The ACNC is an independent statutory office which undertakes many back-office services for the Australian Tax Office.

Cranbourne Friends – Charity Status Conferred

The Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc (ABN: 43551008609) complied with these requirements and was subsequently advised that its registration as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) was approved to take effect from 5/05/2024.

This qualifies the Cranbourne Friends for operational tax concessions as a charity.

Please note it does not confer Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status to the organisation.

Donors who wish to make a tax-deductible donation can do so through the RBGV and specify that their donation is in support of the Cranbourne Gardens in particular.

The Friends donated \$92,000 to pay for installation of drip irrigation and plants, following removal of plants susceptible to Armillaria root rot in the Dry Riverbed Photo: RBCV

Photo: Sam Chong



President's Report

A full return to in-person activities has reassured the Cranbourne Friends Committee that its members value the personal connections and pleasure that come from involvement, as well as the opportunities to volunteer time and expertise in their chosen areas of interest. Membership income has fallen, and a project is underway to introduce promotional poster material in the Gardens precinct to let our visitors know that Cranbourne is supported by a keen Friends group.

We hope to attract new members through a concerted in-situ Gardens and social media campaign. Like all volunteer groups, we have struggled to recruit active contributory members and must sometimes curb our enthusiasm for trying to do too much with relatively few stalwarts. Our mantra now is 'do what's manageable and do it extremely well'. This is a necessary reality if we are to retain the willing without overwhelming them – and it seems to be working well, creating a rich program of engagement and regular communications.

Our Growing Friends nursery continues its excellent work in plant production and sales. The enormous work of three Plant Sales each year has now been reduced to Spring and Autumn sales only, to reserve energy and reduce a demanding workload for the many long-term volunteers. The Autumn 2024 sale held in the newly refurbished and extended Kiosk area was a great financial and logistical success – no marquee wrangling required and lots of weather cover close to coffee! There



*"Our mantra now is
'do what's manageable and
do it extremely well'."*

was quite a market atmosphere out of the elements, which encouraged lots of engagement and chat.

Other interest groups have maintained their small cohorts of active members and give pleasure and engagement as well as contributions to revenue through their workshops and sales of creative products. We are very pleased to have a new member who with supporters, has championed and reformed our Botanical Weaving group after it was some years in abeyance. The focus has been on providing Indigenous-led

workshops to build enthusiasm for an ongoing regular meeting group.

Elsewhere in this Annual report/yearbook, you will find highlights and details of the many ways that your membership, volunteering, participation and direct donation have benefitted the Cranbourne Gardens.

The impact of the Friends financial support of the Gardens can be seen in the now spectacular Dry Riverbed garden, the happily protected *Xanthorrhoeas* and *Kingias* and the sprouting of plant labels to better assist in identifying our diverse flora. All are testament to the value-adding that the Friends provide. Enjoy them and be proud.

The year also provided insider walks, talks and workshops led by aficionados and appreciated by a diverse audience. Then there were the many tours and

*The Dry Riverbed, after renovation
and removal of Armillaria root rot
infestation Photo: Trent Loane*





excursions: to the Otways, Lake Mountain, Mt Baw Baw, and possibly the last of many grand Sicily tours, which was completed in May 2024. A cornucopia of opportunities for everyone; I trust you availed yourself of one or many. Monthly open house talks were enjoyed in person and online – some presentations by members and some by Cranbourne staff who had been supported by the Friends in their professional development.

We are very pleased, although a little bereft, to see Chris Russell move up into the role of RBGV Director and Chief Executive. He brings his steady considered approach, experience and knowledge to the broader RBGV. A very welcomed and lauded appointment.

Interactions with Kevin Alexander, our acting Director, are very friendly and the levels of cooperation and consideration have been most appreciated. Plant Sales set-up and pull-down, high-level maintenance of our nursery and the Elliot Centre, provision of spare Gardens nursery space – the list goes on – all require a huge input of hours and collaboration from the Cranbourne staff – which has been given willingly and with a shared appreciation that everyone has the best interests of the Gardens at heart. Staff at RBGV marketing have also

“The Autumn 2024 sale held in the newly refurbished and extended Kiosk area was a great financial and logistical success...”

assisted, and supported efforts to give the Friends more prominence so that we are known more widely in the community and to visitors. We are fortunate to have such mutual support from the Gardens’ staff and enjoy our relationship with them.

This new 2024/2025 year will also bring changes in the Committee team. Our secretary – my partner Jennifer Potten – and I will be stepping aside and devoting the next year to travel and other adventures. Thanks must go to Jen, who has managed the president and her own secretarial responsibilities with executive aplomb. My thanks go to everyone in the team. You have all been magnificent to work with – dedicated, skilled, assured and ever-giving. You have supported and made the role of President easy. It has also been a pleasure and privilege getting to know you all so well and to now regard you all as true firm friends. We are blessed to have so many good and giving people who make the Friends such a valuable part of our extended communities. Thank you all for your kindness and for creating such a bond and sense of belonging.

Erin Cosgriff



*The newly refurbished and extended Kiosk area.
Photo: Janette Wilson*

Committee Members and Special Interest Group – Who's Who?

Members of the Friends Committee of Management

Erin Cosgriff	President
Rosemary Miller	Vice President
Jenny Potten	Secretary
Wendy Herauville	Treasurer
Helen Kennedy	Ordinary Member
Alexandra Stalder	Membership Secretary
Jill Burness	Ordinary Member
Kim (Katherine) McKee	Ordinary Member (From November 2023)

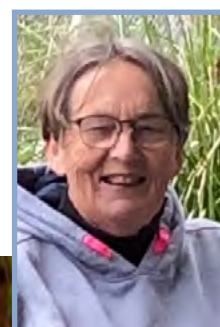
Special Interest Group Coordinators

Growing Friends	Marjanne Rook
Friends in the Gardens	Christine Kenyon
Botanical Fabricators	Wendy Smart
Botanical Illustrators	Margaret Kitchen
Herbarium Collectors	Nola Foster
Weaving	Tess Holderness
Friends in Focus	Email contact – Judith Cooke

Members of the Events Subcommittee

Mick Robertson	Convenor (absent May to June 2024)
Helen Morrow	Acting Convenor May to June 2024
Nicky Zanen	Minute Secretary
Rosemary Miller	Administration
Ros Shepherd	Bookings resigned May 2024
Ana Murdoch	Bookings effective June 2024
Tim Morrow	IT Facilitator
Tanya Johnson	Social Media
Alexandra Stalder	Promotions
Wendy Herauville	Member
Helen Morrow	Member
Louise Anderson	Member
Tony Anderson	Member (absent March to 30 June due to health Issues)
Melanie Fowler	RBCV Liaison until June 2024

Committee members at 2023 AGM. Jennifer Potten, Rosemary Miller, Jill Burness, Wendy Herauville, Erin Cosgriff, Helen Kennedy. Absent from photo: Alexandra Stalder, Kim McKee. Inset: Growing Friends member, Kim (Katherine) McKee, joined the Friends Committee in November 2023.



Celebrating Our Membership

This year's annual report is themed 'Cultivating Appreciation, Commitment, and Connection'. We have endeavoured to spotlight the remarkable work and passions of some of our volunteers, showcasing their invaluable contributions to the Cranbourne Friends.

We hope you find these stories interesting and inspiring. Each reflection provides a different insight into the heart and dedication of the many people actively involved in driving and promoting our pursuits.

We warmly invite you to become part of our volunteer community or to join one of our Special Interest Groups. Whether you bring a green thumb, organizational prowess, or creative flair, your involvement can make a meaningful impact. It may also be your opportunity to learn new skills, meet wonderful people, or simply have fun. Engaging as a volunteer or a special interest group member also allows you to feel connected and engaged with something rewarding and purposeful.

We invite you to reflect on the unique ways your skills and passions can contribute to the ongoing success of the Cranbourne Friends. As we face the critical need for more hands and minds to share the load, we encourage you to join us in expanding our efforts.

Let's work together to build a future where our shared commitment to the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria grows even stronger.

Talk to us about how you can enhance our community and strengthen the support we give to the important work of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.



Lomandra Bloodwood Garden before FIGS treatment.



Lomandra Bloodwood Garden after the FIGS attend to it. Photos: Linda Jones.



Cranbourne Florilegium Collection



Cranbourne Florilegium Collection

The Cranbourne Friends is very pleased that two of its members have each donated a new work to the Cranbourne Florilegium Collection which is held at the National Herbarium of Victoria. Jenny Rollason and Margaret Kitchen are both valued and active members of our Special Interest Groups. Jenny belongs to the Botanical Fabricators and the Botanical Illustrators and Margaret is the Coordinator of the Botanic Illustrators.

the shape and form of the plant, describing it as an “impressionistic piece on a tiny scale.”

We thank Jenny for this, her second donation to the Cranbourne Collection.

Acacia oxycedrus. Watercolour. Artist: Jenny Rollason.
Will be donated to Cranbourne Collection at the AGM 2024.

Acacia oxycedrus

Jenny is donating a watercolour depicting *Acacia oxycedrus*. The inspiration for this painting came from a walk through the bushland surrounding the Gardens, led by Dawn Neylon, also a Cranbourne Friend who volunteers at the Gardens and helps to maintain the surrounding bushland.

Looking back, Jenny said, “I chose the *Acacia oxycedrus* for its appealing combination of creamy, bright yellow inflorescences and multitude of branchlets. I completed a detailed drawing and transferred it to Arches 640 gsm watercolour paper, a heavy paper similar to light cardboard. Although I haven’t used it before, I plan to use it frequently in the future. It stays in place on the desk and can withstand a heavy wash without buckling”.

Before starting the watercolour, Jenny created a detailed drawing, repeatedly referencing a small sample of the plant. “*Oxycedrus* phyllodes vary in size and clustering, so constant checking was required as the painting progressed. I was pleased to find that my detailed drawing was accurate”. As the sample dried over time, Jenny was still able to use it to verify the accuracy of her drawing.

Jenny recounted making at least four separate visits to the bushland area of the Gardens to capture the plant in its growing and flowering phases and to finally obtain a seed pod. “I particularly wanted a curving pod, so it would act as an eye mover from one element to another,” she explained. Smiling she also quipped “Fortunately, this bush grows near the cafe, so the fruitless trips were compensated with coffee”.

Jenny’s patient commitment and attention to detail is a hallmark of the botanically accurate illustrator. Jenny also particularly enjoyed painting the inset that illustrates



Acacia oxycedrus (Spike Wattle) is a dense shrub growing 1 to 3m high and 2m wide. Its phyllodes resemble leaves, and have three or four prominent veins. These phyllodes are drought-tolerant and adapt well to nutrient-poor conditions. From July to October, it produces clusters of pale yellow cylindrical flowerheads followed by straight or slightly curved seed pods, measuring 4 to 10 cm long and 3 to 6 mm wide.

Highlights for 2023/24

Platylobium obtusangulum

Margaret Kitchen is donating her pencil and ink drawing of the *Platylobium obtusangulum*, also known as the Common Flat Pea. Reflecting on her journey with this plant, Margaret revealed that “following Covid and years of watercolour painting, I decided to try my hand at coloured pencil drawing. For the ANPS exhibition at Kwarra in 2022, I drew a specimen of the *Platylobium obtusangulum*. I was drawn to the triangular shape of the leaves with their sharp points and appreciated that the flowers

were large enough to see all the parts without a magnifying glass”.

Margaret further explained that she sourced a specimen from the Cranbourne bushland last year and initially created a larger, more complex illustration. “I later decided a smaller rendition would offer greater clarity, so I returned to the Bushland for another smaller specimen”. Intrigued by the idea of an ink drawing, she quickly learned that even a small mistake with a black pen required starting again. Undeterred, she persevered, eventually enhancing the ink outlines with colour.



The *Platylobium obtusangulum* belongs to the Fabaceae family and the *Platylobium* genus. It can be an erect or straggly shrub, growing up to 1 m in height with variably-shaped leaves that range from 1 to 3 cm in length. Its yellow flowers with a red centre are supported by short pedicels concealed by a series of overlapping bracts. After flowering in spring, the pods that follow measure 14 to 25 mm in length and 10 to 14 mm in width.

Her final piece includes a magnified representation of the flower from underneath, showcasing the bracts and the keel petals beneath the wing petals. The drawing is completed with the inclusion of the seed pod. Margaret expressed her gratitude to the Botanical Illustrators Group, noting that their friendly advice at all stages of the drawing process was both helpful and supportive.

Margaret Kitchen's dedication to drawing this beautiful depiction of the *Platylobium obtusangulum* is appreciated by the Cranbourne Friends and the RBCV Herbarium.

Platylobium obtusangulum (Common Flat Pea). Pencil and ink.

Artist: Margaret Kitchen. Will be donated to Cranbourne Collection at the AGM 2024.

Farewelling Special Friends – Wendy and Alex Smart



Alex and Wendy Smart are moving closer to family down Geelong way. They are heading to Armstrong Creek which is close to Lake Connewarre Wildlife Reserve on the road to Barwon Heads.

During their extended period of involvement with the Cranbourne Friends, they have made a variety of wonderful contributions on many fronts.

We wish them an extremely fond farewell and the very best as they undertake their new adventure. However, we will not lose them completely as we will keep in touch and hope to perhaps see them back at some of our Cranbourne Friends events in the future!

In 2001 Alex became a member, and soon after joined the committee of the Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. He was then living at Werribee. Can you believe that he travelled from Werribee to Cranbourne for committee meetings? Alex was President from 2004 to 2006 and continued as a member of the committee for quite a time. Over a number of years, he organised the procurement of former portable classrooms that were relocated to the Gardens. These became known as the 'Eucalyptus Room' and the 'Maud Gibson Room'.

In 2010 construction of Stage 2 of the Australian Garden was underway. Such a project involved the redevelopment of the Gardens Office and Works Depot which made the Friends initial nursery redundant. Alex stepped forward and assumed the role of Project Manager for the development of the Friends new nursery, which also included what is now named 'Alex's Shed'. Then he, along with Jill Burness, oversaw the renovation of the old Cranbourne Gardens Office building which is now known as the Elliot Centre, the home of the Cranbourne Friends.



Alex and Wendy Smart being Farewelled in the Elliot Centre.

In 2012 Alex and Wendy decided to be closer to Cranbourne where they were spending much time. So, they moved to Beaconsfield.

Alex was a very active member of the Friends in Focus photographic group. Many Friends members could be aware of Alex's regular practice of providing all and sundry, especially politicians of all persuasions, with some of his endearing photographic cards depicting Australian plants, animals and landscapes, many of which were photographed in the Cranbourne Gardens. These photographs were excellent promotional tools.

Alex Smart was project manager for the Growing Friends Nursery. Here they toast his efforts. Photo Supplied.



*The New Visitor Reception Space.
Photo Jill Burness*

Farewelling Special Friends – Wendy and Alex Smart (cont.)

Alex has a very strong social conscience, is always very reliable, and has a warm, almost larger-than-life personality! His often-entertaining turn of phrase brings smiles to people's faces – and even much laughter.

Alex is never afraid of calling "a spade a spade" and this was always evident when he was dealing with the Royal Botanic Gardens Management, Cranbourne Friends Management and Growing Friends Volunteers. He is highly respected for such frankness and certainty – even if he might occasionally be wrong! In recognition of his contribution to the Cranbourne Friends, Alex has been awarded a Life Membership.

In January 2017, Alex received an Order of Australia Medal for "service to conservation and the environment". We know for certain one thing which was not included on the Nomination Form: Alex was the initiator of 'The Bonzer Sheila Award', which he bestowed upon many people, including the renowned eighty-plus-year-old Professor Nancy Millis after she spoke to Cranbourne Friends many moons ago.

Chris Russell, as Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne and Richard Clarke, Past President of the Cranbourne Friends, have praised Alex's great contribution to the development of the Australian Garden at Cranbourne, which was undertaken with boundless enthusiasm and energy, quick-witted humour, wisdom, experience and generosity of time. Alex was also a highly valued Garden Ambassador where he contributed by leading Australian Garden visitor tours and other aspects of the GAs' support of the Cranbourne Gardens.

Away from his efforts at Cranbourne Gardens, Alex has been involved in many other conservation organisations. His long-time friend, Kelvin Thomson, previously a Member for Wills in the Federal House of Representatives, stated that Alex had contributed greatly to community understanding of Melbourne's waterways and other environment assets and was an important contributor to the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, the Friends of Merri Creek and the Pascoe Vale Naturalists, in addition to being a great supporter of the Werribee River. He also held several committee positions in organisations supporting Melbourne's western plains.

In recent times Alex and Wendy have been very much involved in the Australian Plants Society Cardinia Region where they have undertaken the roles of President and Secretary respectively.

Wendy has always been a regular supporter and participant in many Friends activities such as workshops, tours and other events such as talks and walks etc. She has helped and supported Alex in many of his projects for the Friends and has also been active in helping with many facets of Friends events over a lengthy period.

Wendy's major contribution to the Cranbourne Friends was as a long-standing member of Botanical Fabricators. Her role as leader of the group from 2019 to 2024 was greatly valued and her sewing skills and expertise were much appreciated. Wendy has contributed many items to the group's Textile Exhibitions, sales and other displays.

Alex and Wendy, our wishes are that you have a very wonderful time as you undertake your new life at Armstrong Creek. We certainly look forward to you visiting Cranbourne Gardens and hopefully participating in some of the Friends' events in the future.

Thanks so much for being such dedicated and truly amazing contributors to the Cranbourne Friends!

Alex and Wendy Smart with Alex's OAM, awarded in 2017



Alex organised the import of temporary buildings in 2005-6 which were used by both staff and Friends.



Chris Russell congratulates Alex on importing the temporary Eucalyptus Room in 2005



Alf Reina: Our Intrepid Adventurer

Alf Reina isn't a man to shy away from an adventure. In fact, Alf's life course and career have been punctuated and shaped by a series of journeys and perhaps also some coincidental and fortuitous happenings. His quiet self-assuredness coupled with his strong sense of resolve and goodwill, drives him to give life his best and remain open to new adventures.

At age 17, Alf migrated to Adelaide from Cianciana, Sicily with his family. Not long after arriving in Adelaide, the Reinas were reunited with relatives, the Orlando family who also migrated from Sicily. A son was born in Adelaide into the Orlando family also called Alfonso (Alfie). Thus began the association of the Alf and Alfie cousins.

Working as a labourer by day, Alf attended night school to complete his matriculation. He then studied economics at Adelaide University and accounting at the South Australian Institute of Technology. He joined the Auditor General's Office in Adelaide before moving to Canberra to work with the Department of Immigration, focusing on the economic impact of immigration and population change. He later moved into other areas of the Department including migration policy and the management of the Migrant English Program. For several years he was head of the area responsible for processing applications for asylum and arranging protection for those determined to be genuine refugees. Diplomatic postings to various countries were an important part of his career, particularly his last posting in Bonn, Germany, as Regional Director responsible for coordinating Australia's migration and humanitarian programs across Northern, Central, and Eastern Europe, during the Bosnian War in the 1990s which led to an influx of refugees from the region. Alf was also a Peacekeeper for the United Nations in Cambodia and East Timor and worked for both the UN and several other international organisations in many countries focusing on border security and development, as well as human rights, refugee protection and measures to counter trafficking in human beings. His work has taken him to many countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the West Indies.

*Friends Sicily tour with
Giant Telamon, Agrigento*



Photo: Marjanne Rook

The Committee of Management extends its thanks to Alfonso (Alf) Reina for his outstanding leadership in organizing and overseeing four tours to Sicily on behalf of Cranbourne Friends. We have appreciated his dedication in offering this unique opportunity to our members.

Alf's attention to detail ensured each tour was well planned and coordinated. His efforts to foster camaraderie among group members created a lovely sense of community. He provided valuable briefings on Sicilian history and cultural highlights and his teaching skills shone through during his lessons on the basics of the Italian language.

Those of us fortunate enough to have been able to join one or more of these tours would agree that this preparation significantly enriched our travel experience and heightened our enjoyment of the sights and adventures ahead. Each of these tours has been immensely popular and in every sense fascinating. Thank you, Alf for taking on this enormous task and for your ongoing interest and support in the work of the Cranbourne Friends.

As Alf considers new horizons, no further trips to Sicily are currently planned. If any members of the Cranbourne Friends would like to try leading a tour, we have a range of supports that we can put in place to guide you in this endeavour. Please be in touch if you are feeling ready for a new challenge and adventure.

Alf Reina: Our Intrepid Adventurer (cont.)

Alf is clearly experienced in navigating cultural sensitivities, collaborating with others, and building relationships based on mutual respect and understanding.

During retirement, when Cranbourne Friends Rodger Elliot and Alex Smart approached Alf about leading a tour to Sicily, he embraced the idea with enthusiasm. By a happy coincidence, Alfie Orlando now ran his own tour-operating business in Sicily, having returned there when he was eighteen. This serendipitous opportunity allowed the cousins to join forces and work together in ways that proved meaningful and rewarding.

Together, they made an effective duo. Alfie, the extrovert with a big personality, knew the best places to eat and the most exciting sights to see. He organised all the logistics and practicalities, ensuring our travellers had full exposure to Sicily's wonders. With his extensive connections, Alfie could access sites and facilities often off-limits to the average tourist.

Alf organized the Australian end of the tour, keeping the Cranbourne Friends informed of plans and progress. As a chaperone and co-leader, he safeguarded everyone's interests and ensured their wellbeing. As well, he made sure tour participants learned about Sicily and Sicilians, their culture and their history.

Reflecting on this part of his life journey, Alf said, *"It's been a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding experience. I've made lots of new friends and had enormous fun over the years. I've enjoyed the opportunity to showcase the country of my birth, so often overlooked by the popularity and romance of mainland Italy. Sicily is a beautiful island, surrounded by the blue of the Mediterranean Sea and home to wonderful food and wine, mosaics, art, fishers, beech forests and of course Mt Etna. It also boasts rich archaeological sites, cathedrals and buildings that still stand today as remnants of Sicily's 3000-year-old civilization. The people of Sicily and their culture have been shaped by the many invaders and settlers: Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Arabs, Normans, French and Spanish, to name just a few. Sicilians' resilience too has been important in dealing with the dark and infamous past of the Mafia, as reflected in the Anti-Mafia Museum in Corleone. During our travels, we always arranged for our Friends to visit an array of unique and often extraordinary public and private gardens. And of course, Sicily has the best food and gelati in the world!"*

Main: Friends Sicily tour at Taormina Greco-Roman Theatre 2024.

Inset: Friends Sicily tour at Tempio della Concordia, Agrigento.



Special Interest Group Reports



Botanical Weaving is Back!

'Botanical Weaving' returned to the Cranbourne Gardens in 2024, after an extended post-Covid hiatus. It's been a journey of discovery over the past 12 months, from the seed of an idea for the revival of the practice... through to the hosting of a series of special Weaving Workshops, featuring First Nations artists and facilitators, and then the (re)creation of a Special Interest Group for Botanical Weaving. This represents the latest chapter in the ongoing story of botanical weaving and basketry at the Gardens.

The new weaving activities have attracted people who share an interest in weaving or maintain their own personal practice, along with some new people who just want to try their hand at the craft and develop some basic skills. Together we have been exploring ideas, inspiration, resources and techniques.

Below: Boon Wurrung creative, Bianca Easton, talks to workshop participants Penny and Pam, about the traditional practice of making Dilly Bags.

Right: Penny puts the finishing touches to her little Dilly Bag during the workshop. Photos: Tess Holderness.

Weaving workshops, featuring First Nations creatives

Thank you to Yaggerah artist and academic, Dr Jenine Godwin-Thompson, for sharing her 'Wild Weaving' technique with the first workshop participants. Jenine's style has evolved from an earlier practice of coil weaving – something she learnt while growing up on Country, from weavers within her family and community in southeast Queensland. In a second series of workshops, local Boon Wurrung creative, Bianca Easton, guided participants in the art of 'How to make a Dilly Bag (Bilang)', using a traditional technique. Bianca is a regular workshop facilitator at the Koorie Heritage Trust in Melbourne and enjoys sharing her knowledge and creative cultural practices with others.



Special Interest Groups

The initial workshops at the Cranbourne Gardens have helped participants develop some practical skills and learn more about Indigenous weaving methods. Future workshops are being planned to provide further opportunities to learn various techniques and work with different materials. Topics will include the harvesting, processing and utilisation of native plant fibres, and basket-making methods.

The (re)creation of a Special Interest Group for Botanical Weaving

A number of those who took part in the earlier workshops expressed an interest in joining a regular 'weaving circle' at the Gardens. Their aim was to create a time and place to gather together informally and continue exploring different weaving techniques and ideas, with like-minded people.

"Weaving is such a mindful activity – creative and calming – and there is something wonderful about working with native plant fibres and seeing the Australian flora through a different lens."

An initial discussion group took place, which evolved into the creation of a new Special Interest Group for 'Botanical Weaving'. The first 'weaving circle' took place at the Elliot Centre in July, and the new group will now meet monthly, on the '4th Sunday'. New participants are welcome, and no experience is necessary. Participation involves a \$5 donation for morning or afternoon tea (in either of the two small group sessions).

"My immersion in 'Botanical Weaving' is an extension of my interest in native plants, as a biologist, inspired by my mentor, the late ethnobotanist, Dr Beth Gott, who spent decades documenting the Indigenous uses of native plants for food, fibre, medicine and tools. It has been wonderful to share the experience of learning from First Nations creatives at the Gardens, about their traditional and contemporary weaving practices. This has inspired the creation of a regular 'weaving circle', to facilitate ongoing connections, collaborations and creativity, and the further exploration of working with native plants and other plant fibres."

Tess Holderness

With Gratitude

Thank you to all who have helped to make the weaving activities at the gardens possible – particularly the Cranbourne Friends' Committee and Events Subcommittee, for all their support and encouragement. Gratitude also goes to our workshop facilitators, and Garden Ambassadors Julie Thompson and Eileen Blake, for their assistance with hosting the weaving activities. We would also like to acknowledge Susan Birch and Gwen Elliot for sparking the original incarnation of weaving during the Gardens' earlier days, and all those who have continued to lead groups over the years – your legacy continues.

It is nice to see some of the former participants returning for some of the new weaving activities, and also, their mentorship of those who have only recently begun their own exploration of weaving. There is a good mix of experience and 'wisdom in the room', along with a desire to learn and develop further, and a shared interest in continuing with the collective weaving journey that has been made possible at Cranbourne.

For further information about the Botanical Weaving group or events, please contact Tess on 0412 195 283 or email tessholderness@gmail.com.

Tess Holderness



A stitched basket by Pam Everson (a member of the Botanical Weaving Group), using *Gahnia radula* (Thatch Saw-sedge) inflorescences and waxed linen thread, decorated with *Eucalyptus* leaves and 'gumnuts' and *Lomandra filiformis* (Wattle Matt Rush).



Growing Friends

The Growing Friends' previous year's Annual Report ended by saying: "To keep up with the demand, the 2023/24 year will be a busy one." This was indeed the case – as more plants than ever were sold this year. In addition to the 3 Plant Sales per year, we made numerous casual sales to visiting Cranbourne Friends members, staff and volunteers. We also filled orders for a few landscapers, the City of Casey for their Plants for Wildlife Giveaway program and the RBGV Learning and Participation program, making for a total income of \$88,850.50

Our profit for the year reached a record of \$80,151, meaning more plants were sold, as prices have remained consistent at mostly \$5 and \$10 per plant. We had the opportunity to sell more advanced plants than

*"More plants than ever
were sold this year."*

usual, which boosted our income.

As after the plant sale in July, we only have 3 months to restock for the October

sale, it was decided that we could no longer propagate enough plants for 3 sales per annum as well as the casual sales and orders. It was therefore decided that we would no longer have a Winter Sale but only hold Plant Sales in Autumn and Spring, which are 7 and 5 months apart respectively. The size of our nursery and shed does not allow for more plants or more volunteers to propagate and maintain them.

Another decision made was regarding the location of future plant sales. When the work at our old site near the kiosk was in progress, we held several sales on the lawn and at the lakeside. However, once the work around the kiosk area was completed and we learned that we could utilise the areas on both sides of the kiosk rather than just the one as before, we decided to try the Autumn Sale at the upgraded location. We were able to spread ourselves into both these areas, including the connecting path. The areas adjacent to the kiosk are now weatherproof, which works especially well for the Pay and Packing side. The improved and larger site was welcomed by both customers and volunteers. Future Plant Sales will also be held at this location.

At the request of some of the volunteers, an application for a City of Casey Small Equipment Grant for the

*Left: Growing Friends plant labels and cuttings.
Photo: Tim Morrow.*

Below: Growing Friends plant sale - preparations 2023



Special Interest Groups

purchase and installation of an outdoor, overhead heater, under the Growing Friends' veranda where some of the outdoor work takes place, was submitted and approved. The heater has been installed and is enjoyed over the colder months.

Thank you to all the members who visited and supported the Growing Friends over the year. Keep those plants growing.

Marjanne Rook

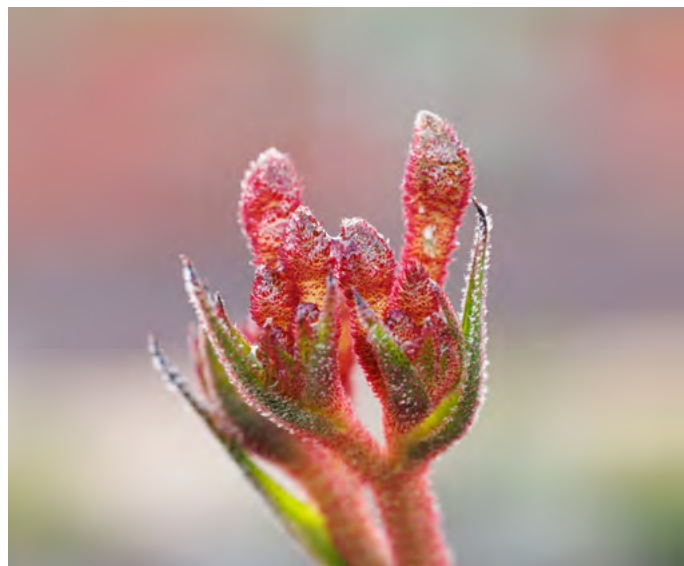
Friends in Focus

The group has had an eventful year and continued to thrive, despite a number of challenges. We welcomed one new member.

Rodger and Gwen Elliot attended our July meeting where Rodger showed his PowerPoint presentation entitled 'Landscapes, Plants, Flowers & Patterns of Australia'. The nine members present gained inspiration on ways to develop their photographic skills.

In August we joined with APS Cardinia on a visit to Paul Sierakowski's garden. We enjoyed photographing the huge variety of flowering plants, particularly banksias.

An unusually large attendance of eight members met in October when Alex Smart provided a history of Helmeted Honeyeaters in the Upper Beaconsfield area. This was followed by an anticlockwise walk in the Australian Garden where progress in the Arid Garden was noted, and a number of flowering plants made good subjects for macrophotography, especially the flower spikes on the *Xanthorrhoeas*. Refreshments in the cafe rounded off a successful morning. Amy Akers looked after the reporting requirements in my absence.



In November and May, we held 'Show and Tell' in the Elliot Centre, sharing recent examples of our photographic work in varying formats.

Individual members have contributed images to *Naturelink* and *Quicklink* and for the 2024 Membership card competition. Additional images were photographed at special events such as the retirement of CEO Tim Entwisle and Botanic Gardens Day 2024. Some have attended and photographed other Friends events, such as the trip to Mt Baw Baw. We have also contributed observations made in the Garden and Bushland to the iNaturalist database.

Weather conditions continued to present us with a range of challenges, from a number of wintry and windy days last year to a day of Total Fire Ban in March, then back to steady soaking drizzle in June.

The group's monthly newsletter, *Cranbourne Lens*, reached its 50th issue in May and has continued to provide a valuable platform for members to share their images. The quality of the images has been recognised by the Committee and in February the group was offered a regular exhibition page in *Naturelink* for display purposes, beginning with the Winter 2024 issue.

Members were saddened to learn of the death of the group's first Coordinator, James McKee, in May. A notice was inserted in the June issue of the *Cranbourne Lens*.

The group has received an open invitation from Jane Bennett, Coordinator of the Melbourne Friends Photography Group, to attend any of their meetings.

Friends in Focus members have been invited to contribute images for the Banksia event in 2025.

Judith V Cooke

Banksia flower. Photo: Judith Cooke

Botanical Fabricators Group

The Botanical Fabricators' first event for this year was a Textile Stall at Blue Hills Rise Retirement Village. Thanks to one of our members, we were permitted to hold it in their community area. There were plenty of people around, so interest was strong. With our good result, we felt it would be worth making another visit and scheduled it for May 1, 2024, just before Mother's Day. Although the activity was not as strong as at the previous stall, it was still worthwhile. The Group felt that we should hold another stall in November 2024, just before the Christmas shopping season begins, and then decide on future participation.

On 21st and 22nd October the Fabricators held a stall in conjunction with the Growing Friends Spring Plant Sale. The Saturday was a good result with satisfactory sales, but on Sunday the weather turned bad with strong winds and showers coming into our marquee. By late morning the decision was made to close down the stall. Total sales were lower than at previous Plant Sales.

For the 23rd & 24th March Growing Friends Plant Sale and Textile & Craft Stall, we finally had the pleasure of holding it in the renovated kiosk area. The new venue worked very well; blinds can be lowered on three sides making it more waterproof, though not entirely windproof. Being part of the Plant Sales payment and packing area made it much more convenient for everyone to manage.

In December a number of our members attended the Tooradin Craft Sale.

This is run by a church group who have held a Christmas fundraising stall for many years. The quality and design of their work is excellent and they must raise a considerable amount of money. We then enjoyed a Christmas lunch at the Tooradin Hotel.



Margaret Kitchen and Jenny Rollason man their stand.

Many Friends of Cranbourne will remember the Quilting Exhibitions held by Leesa Chandler at the Gardens for several years. The Fabricators were able to benefit from the Exhibition's success by holding a Textile Stall in conjunction with it. Leesa Chandler has now re-established her business of quilting and craft equipment at a property in South Drouin and visitors are welcome.

Total takings for Botanical Fabricators for the year 2023/24 were –

19 July 2023 Blue Hills Rise Retirement Village	\$285.50
21 & 22 Oct 2023 Textile Stall with Plant Sale	\$580.20
1 May 2024 Blue Hills Rise	\$140.00
23 & 24 March 2024 Textile Stall with Plant Sale	\$686.50
TOTAL	\$1,692.20

Wendy Smart

Herbarium Collectors

Having collected so many plants over the past 23 years, the number of our field trips has reduced. The report each month on what is in fruit or flower is generally about something we have already collected and not specimens we are still hunting for. There is still a small list of plants that need recollecting, plus a frustrating number which are missing flowers or seeds.

So, we have been spending most of our time working on the collection. This involves: inspecting the current 779 dried species, with multiple specimens of each; checking for correct recording, adding additional



Special Interest Groups

labels and information to each sheet; collating field notes and photos in the computer lists, and repairing specimens where needed. We are gradually storing the collection in numerical order, corresponding to the field note numbers.

Slow careful work, but we have completed a large number. Any request for a particular plant can now be quickly found by cross-checking with our written records or computer files. It will also speed up authenticating and mounting.

A recent example of the value of the collection is the disappearance on site of *Daviesia latifolia* and *Daviesia ulicifolia*. We have six dried cuttings of each, plus field notes and photos, collected in 2002 and 2003, numbers 290 and 183.

Additional projects: we are waiting for a new *Dianella*, found by the Staff Botany team to come into flower, and watching for a *Corybas* with a very rare colour. We will also respond to a request from the Botanists at the Melbourne Herbarium to send them moss samples with field notes.

Nola Foster

Botanical Illustrators

The BI group has continued to meet twice a month, apart from January when we enjoyed a rest. Over the 12 months, we have continued with our usual activities, painting and drawing native plants, interspersed with other activities which enhance these practices.

Congratulations go to Jenny Rollason and Margaret Kitchen whose paintings of rare, endangered and unusual *Acacia Oxycedrus* and *Platylobium obtusangulum* have been accepted for the Cranbourne Collection, which is held at the Herbarium, Melbourne Gardens.

In August we were fortunate to have a staff member conduct a walk around the Australian Garden, looking at plants belonging to the *Epacridaceae* family. This was related to our participation in the ANPSA exhibition – to be held in 2025. We also had a walk conducted by Dawn Neylan, checking out plants from the bushland, which ultimately will lead to artwork which will be donated to the Cranbourne Collection.

Members of our group were involved in manning the Acacia Exhibition, which displayed work by the Melbourne Friends Whirlies – paintings of acacias growing in the Melbourne Gardens.

Our group, together with the Fabricators, have continued to sell cards displaying our artwork at the Growing Friends Plant Sales.

In October 2023 we were very fortunate to have Marta Salomon lead a beginner Kangaroo Paw workshop. She introduced the methods of putting pen to paper and mixing colours from a limited palette. It was a successful time with everyone very happy with their finished artwork. We were saddened to learn of Marta's passing in February and we will miss her.

Throughout the year, and following the workshop, we have continued to develop artwork for the ANPSA exhibition and a possible exhibition of Banksia paintings in 2025.

My thanks to all the Botanical Illustrator members who continue to support the group, plan events, collect our subs and generally encourage everyone with their artwork: Jenny Rollason, Jan Maslen, Kerryn Robinson, Chris Grevis-Jones, Margaret Holloway and Vanda Cummins.

Margaret Kitchen



Stylidium gramifolium



Leucopogon,
Kerryn Robinson



Events Subcommittee

The Events Subcommittee has organised or been involved in many successful trips and public events in the last financial year including:

The Acacia Project – botanical art exhibition and presentation by Dr Dan Murphy, organised in conjunction with Melbourne Friends – September 2023

Talk and tour of the Orchid Centre, with Dr Noushka Reiter – September 2023

Otway tour – October 2023

Lake Mountain Day excursion – November 2023

Baw Baw tour – January 2024

Propagation workshop – April 2024

Sicily tour – May 2024

Three Indigenous weaving workshops – part of establishing the new Botanical Weaving group.

In addition to these activities, the Open House program has been reinvigorated, as described below.

Open House Events

With the recommencement of Open House, after the unfortunate disruption of Covid 19, the event transitioned to a hybrid format. In-house events have continued with the addition of the talk being available on Zoom, for members who are unable to come to the Gardens in person. The subjects covered have been varied and always interesting, and we take full advantage of our own knowledgeable members, who are very willing to participate. Some presentations that come to mind include "Bird Banding in Broome" with Prue Wright, a fascinating and important conservation subject and reports on Friends trips, such as to

Far North Queensland and the tour of the Otways and Angair to the Anglesea Wildflower and Art weekend, all extremely popular.

We are also very fortunate that several members of staff have been willing to give their time to inform us about their work and interests. It was standing room only when Ollie Sherlock (Conservation Officer) came along to give his talk on snakes. Many of us give them a wide berth, but what a fascinating talk. This was followed up a couple of months later with (SSB Outreach Officer) Eilish Robert's talk about the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot. It was great to hear about the work being done to keep this little animal safe.

These monthly events are free to members and provide an opportunity to meet and get to know other Friends over a cup of tea/coffee and biscuit. We will be back after the Winter break, so do let us know if there is a topic you would like covered; we would love to hear from you. Many committee members are involved with the running of Open House events and I dare not start mentioning names in case I miss someone, so a big thank you to all.

Talks are recorded by Tim Morrow and are available on the Friends Tidy HQ "Membership resources page"

Visit: <https://cranbournefriends.tidyhq.com/public/pages/recordings-of-talks-and-videos>

Helen Morrow

Friends in the Garden (FiGs)

FIGS continues as a very friendly and social group. Christine Kenyon co-ordinates the group and looks after the group WhatsApp. Sue Spicer found she did not have the time to co-ordinate the 3rd Tuesday group but they are working well, looking after themselves.

The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday morning of each month – flexibility of attendance is always important. There are 10 members in the group



Popular author Leon Costermans described the difference geology makes to plants that will grow in a particular place. Photo: Peter Miller.



Walking in the Otway forests in 2023. Photo: Alexandra Stalder.





Mt Baw Baw, The Otways and Sicily proved popular and well-organised major events while Leon Costermans Book Talk and the private garden visits were an informative and fun way for members to catch up and connect.

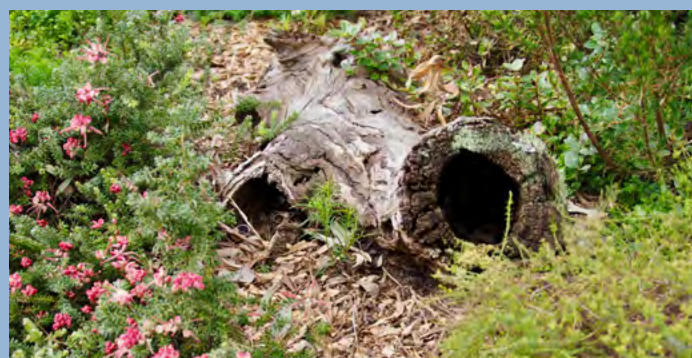
Clockwise: 1. Leon Costermans with his book and the Committee.

2. In January 2024 the Cranbourne Friends visited Mt Baw Baw. The alpine flora was amazing (Callistemon pityoides – Alpine Bottlebrush). A rail trip at Walhalla was a highlight of the Baw Baw tour.

3. In August 2024 members were welcomed to visit two stunning peaceful private gardens dedicated to Gardens 4 wildlife.

4. Cranbourne Friends at the crater, Mt Etna. Inset: Alf Reina and his cousin Alfonso, who organise the Sicily trips together.

5. Walking in the Otway forests in 2023. Johanna Beach, a notable spot on the Otway tour.



Special Interest Groups

with people joining in on either, or both days each month. This year, we have had 4 queries regarding joining the group but have attracted only two new attending members.

Mathieu Lascostes, our horticulture staff supervisor in the Gardens, plans a variety of jobs for us and always appreciates our efforts. I have suggested that, when we help in a particular garden, the curatorial staff member involved also attends – then we are helping rather than doing – and that it would be great if they could have morning tea with us.

Over the past 12 months, the group has:

- helped clear *Syzygium* hedge and Kangaroo Paw prunings across the AG. These are annual activities. Some members turn up rain, hail or shine, especially if Mathieu has already pruned the hedges and the clippings need to be removed.
- raked and swept paths in the Bloodwood Garden – a frequent activity.
- cleaned the *Angophora costata* gardens and raked and swept adjacent paths.
- helped in the Arbor Garden with Samantha Chong, mulched Howson Hill with Mitch Burns, mulched the Gondwana garden with Scott Levy and weeded the NS line in the Red Sand Garden.

Other activities:

- The Red Sand Garden needs our constant attention as does the Ephemeral Garden.
- Over several FIG days, the Serpentine Path was rejuvenated, and the shrubs pruned. The stones lining the path were removed and cleaned, the gutters cleared and the stones replaced.

- Several FIGs members helped with the Dry Riverbed planting in November.

- An ongoing project into 2024: the group is helping to rejuvenate the 4 banks of *Lomandra confertifolia* 'Little Con' that line the swales adjacent to the Bloodwood Garden. The plants have been pruned, the rocks removed, new soil and mulch added, and new plants will fill the gaps. The rocks have been used to renovate the rock wall at the end of the swale.

- December was a BYO to share lunch party in the new shelter near the GA shed. A bit cold but fun and great food.

- In April 2024 the group (9), with Mathieu Lascostes and Mitch Burns, had an outing to the Melton Botanic Gardens. The day included a guided tour of the nursery and the Gardens, organised by FIGs member Linda Jones, followed by a BYO shared lunch. This was a fun and informative event and we are hoping to have a regular annual excursion. The Horticulture staff were invited but the day was too close to the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show for them to spend time away from the Gardens. Thanks to Linda for organising the tours and Mathieu for driving some members from Cranbourne. Amongst our feedback on the day: "What a great day. Amazing Melton Botanic Gardens, and their volunteers!! Definitely had the wow factor."

In 2023 when I was unable to attend for some months, members of the group took on the jobs that needed to be done: write the monthly report, provide morning tea, send out reminders, and keep a photographic record of each month's effort. I am so proud of this happy, friendly and hard-working group.

Christine Kenyon

Friends in the Garden (FIGS) weeding Red Sand Garden in November 2023. Photo: Christine Kenyon





Tributes – Vale Remembering Valued Members

Eva Campi.

Died April 7, 2024 – aged 79.

For over a decade, Eva dedicated countless hours to the RBG Cranbourne Nursery and Seed Collectors Group. Later she became a loyal supporter of the Growing Friends Nursery. As a founding member of the Seed Collectors' group, a collaboration between the RBGC and the Cranbourne Friends, Eva's tireless efforts in gathering and preparing indigenous seeds supported crucial cultivation projects. Her knowledge and passion for propagating Australian native plants earned her deep respect and admiration.

Eva's warmth, generosity, and willingness to embrace and mentor newcomers left a lasting impact.

Mandy Thomson, Team Leader Nursery Horticulture RBG Cranbourne remarked, "Eva's efforts made a real difference. Her legacy continues to grow in Cranbourne's Botanic Garden, where she loved to be." Eva's spirit lives on in our memories and the living collections she nurtured.



Ian Endersby.

Died April 19, 2024 – aged 83 (not pictured).

Ian Endersby was an Entomologist who studied insects and their relationships to humans, the environment and other organisms. A Life Member and past President of the Entomological Society of Victoria, Ian's expertise was in dragonflies and aquatic invertebrates. In 2002, he received the Australian Natural History Medallion for his contribution to natural history.

Ian and his late wife Margaret were passionate about nature and active participants in many Cranbourne and Melbourne Friends events. In 2009, Ian presented on 'Insect Watching' at a Cranbourne Friends Winter Lecture and later gave an illustrated talk to the Friends Botanical Illustrators, on how insects move around flowers to collect pollen and nectar. After a Cranbourne Friends event at Harewood House, a heritage-listed property located in Koo Wee Rup, Ian collaborated with Pat McWhirter to produce a 32-page book, *Harewood Nature Guide*.

Edward 'James' McKee.

Died 5 May 2024, aged 76.

Cranbourne Friends were saddened to hear of the sudden passing of James McKee following an accident at home. James first joined the Friends after attending a Discovery Day at Point Nepean National Park in September 2013. His enthusiasm quickly made him an invaluable member, especially as a photographer. He was instrumental in forming the Friends in Focus Special Interest Group, serving as its first Coordinator until health issues forced him to resign. Even after stepping down, he remained supportive and engaged, particularly encouraging his successor, Judith Cooke.

James also served on the Cranbourne Friends Committee of Management from 2015 to 2017, securing funding for essential equipment like a screen, projector, and a computer still in use at the Elliot Centre. Despite his considerable physical challenges, James' optimism shone through. He attended Friends in Focus meetings in recent months, always hopeful about participating fully again. James will be remembered for his unwavering optimism and the lasting impact he had on everyone who knew him.

*James McKee was a keen photographer.
Photo: Judith Cooke*



Highlights

In the 2022/23 financial year, \$112,050 was allocated to the restoration of the Dry Riverbed and Stringybark Garden at RBGV Cranbourne. However, the planning and execution of these projects extended into the 2023/24 financial year.

Dry Riverbed

This garden required a comprehensive renovation due to the presence of the fungal pathogen *Armillaria*, poor plant performance throughout the area, and the need for new infrastructure like an automated irrigation system and plastic edging. The loss of river pebble mulch, which kept sinking into the sand and encouraging weed growth, also needed addressing.

In spring, many Friends and volunteers enjoyed helping to plant 3,100 herbaceous species and grasses in the newly designed Dry Riverbed garden. Led by RBGV Landscape Architect Andrew Laidlaw and Horticulturalist Samantha Chong, this collaborative effort was a lot of fun for everyone involved.

This restored area is now thriving, thanks in part to the new irrigation system funded by the Cranbourne Friends with a contribution of \$92,000.

Stringybark Garden

The Cranbourne Friends contributed \$20,050 to the RBGV to install a new deck and boardwalk in the

Stringybark Garden, primarily aimed at better protecting the ancient *Xanthorrhoeas* and *Kingias*. This funding also went towards soil remediation and the purchase of several large grass trees to further enhance the planted landscape.

Plant Label Project

In 2023, the Cranbourne Friends launched a time-limited fundraising appeal to enhance plant labelling throughout the Gardens, with a goal of raising \$25,000 to produce approximately 500 labels. Plant labels are essential for curating the Gardens' plant collections and serve as a valuable reference for visitors seeking knowledge about Australian native plants. Thanks to the generous support of our members, the appeal was a great success. The Cranbourne Friends also contributed an additional \$13,112.98 to reach the \$25,000 target for this important initiative. A big thank you to all our members for their incredible support.

The Congress

In 2023/24, the Cranbourne Friends contributed \$16,500 to enable select senior staff to attend the 8th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, *Botanic Gardens – People & Plants for a Sustainable Future*. This Congress was held in Singapore from 6 – 9 August 2024. Staff will report back to the Cranbourne Friends on this experience and key learnings at a future date.

In 2023, the Friends conducted a special appeal to foster the provision of plant labels at the Australian Garden.
Photo: Janette Wilson.





Total Donations to the RBGV

During the 2023/24 financial year, a total of \$29,612.00 was gifted to the RBGV by the Cranbourne Friends.

The Acacia Project

An Acacia artwork display was held in the Visitors Centre at Cranbourne, featuring artworks by the Melbourne

Whirlies, from August to September 2023. This event celebrated Australia's national flower, the Acacia, and highlighted the amazing diversity of the species. Dr Daniel Murphy, the RBGV Senior Research Scientist in Molecular Systematics, opened the exhibition with an address on interesting facts about their ecology, evolutionary history, reproduction, fire survival, and the historical connections of this flora to other parts of the world. This was a highly worthwhile event that everyone enjoyed.



Above and Below: Dry Riverbed in bloom after rejuvenation. Photos: Janette Wilson.

Paul Sierakowski: A Passionate Gardener and Banksia Enthusiast

Paul Sierakowski radiates enthusiastic energy and zest for life. You couldn't meet a more content person, happily immersed in his garden with his wife, cultivating plants, and revelling in his passion for banksias. He readily embraces opportunities and actively seeks out individuals who can help him deepen his understanding of pursuits that nourish his soul and drive him toward new endeavours and challenges.

Paul grew up in Bairnsdale in East Gippsland. At school, he excelled in the sciences and mathematics and modestly acknowledges having several university degrees and graduate diplomas, a testament to his love of study, and intellectual curiosity.

Paul's multifaceted career began as a classroom teacher before transitioning to a small team tasked with introducing computers and information technology services to teachers across the Victorian Public School system. He later worked in various aspects of computer operating systems development, including quality assurance. Demonstrating a progressive approach to family life, Paul chose to be a stay-at-home dad to three children while his wife, Jenny, advanced in her career. During this time he also worked in tertiary education.

Family has always been an important priority for Jenny and Paul. The idea of moving to the country first took root when their daughter and her husband relocated to Phillip Island for work. They finally decided on a 5-acre property in South Gippsland, 'Wywurri', located in a rural setting between Inverloch and Wonthaggi. The property, previously owned by conservationists with a love for Gondwana plants, captured their imagination and offered exciting potential. Over the past eight years, Paul and Jenny have doubled the garden's size; it now features a mix of natives, proteas, fruit trees, and thriving vegetable gardens. Their property also boasts a billabong fed by a freshwater spring and a bustling apiary. Here, the bees enjoy the ultimate staycation, with an endless buffet of nectar-heavy flowers right in their backyard. With the maturation of many native protective shrubs and trees, the diversity and amount of bird life have significantly increased.

Their new rural lifestyle in South Gippsland spurred Jenny and Paul on to further develop their interest in plants, particularly Australian natives. They joined the South Gippsland branch of the Australian Plant Society and, after attending a Growing Friends Plant Sale at Cranbourne, also became members of the Cranbourne Friends.



Activating seeds requires know-how. Will this seed be activated if it is burnt, refrigerated or soaked? Using the right planting medium and ensuring the right amount of sunlight

and moisture are also important factors along with a healthy dose of luck. *"It's just not that easy and takes perseverance tempered with lots of attention and care. There is a real thrill in the want to learn and succeed".*

Asked what it is about banksias he so admires, Paul's answer was immediate. *"Banksias are an iconic Australian plant. They have the most stunningly striking flowers that command and warrant our attention and admiration. They are beautiful and unusual in their shape and form.*

Their leaves and seed pods are remarkable, and the entire germination process is so finely dependent on exactly the right conditions being in play at the right time. The miracles of our living nature are just endlessly fascinating".

Paul is finding this chapter of his life immensely fulfilling. He feels fortunate indeed to have met so many generous and interesting fellow enthusiasts who have quickly become firm friends. Paul and Jenny are always open, explaining things and sharing their secrets of success. When they discern genuine interest, their attitude is, *"Well this works for me, so it might work for you too".*

"Gardening requires patience and a willingness to learn from trial and error. Some plants thrive, while others don't. Continuous experimentation and inquiry are essential when things don't quite work to plan. There are always countless variables at play, and nature cannot be tricked or cajoled. I love the challenge of it all".

Paul is a plant advisor at the Growing Friends Plant Sales. If you want to know anything about banksias, come along and have a yarn.

Paul is now a stalwart member, best known for his exuberance for cultivating banksias. Recently, he and fellow Growing Friends, Jennifer Allerton & Francesca Scuderi have planted over 600 seedlings for Banksia Week 2025. Importantly some of these seedlings also include a unique selection of low-growing banksias grown from seeds extracted and donated by Kevin Collins from Mt Barker, WA¹. Some of these cultivars are new to the Growing Friends nursery and will be kept in production for future sales.

¹ Kevin Collins is a banksia enthusiast. He and his wife, Kathy are co-authors of must-have reference called 'The Banksia Book'. They have transformed a previously denuded farmlet at Banksia Farm in Mount Barker, Western Australia into what has been described as the world's only complete collection of Banksia species. Kevin and Kathy have agreed to join with the Cranbourne Friends during Banksia Week planned for 2025.

Banksia integrifolia prostrate,
near Future Garden.
Photo Amy Akers





*Amanda likes to take
inspiration from the
beauty of flora close-up.
Photo: Janette Wilson
Inset: Supplied*



Amanda Louden: Glass Artist

Imagine the intense heat emanating from a furnace, reaching scorching temperatures of up to 1600 degrees Celsius, far surpassing the heat of a wood fire. Within the furnace, glass chips gradually soften and melt, transforming into a malleable liquid. In the hands of this master craftswoman, molten glass is then skilfully gathered, rolled and blown into shape. At the right time and in precise quantities, carefully selected coloured glass fragments or granules will be added to the mix before the shape and vision for the object is perfected ahead of being set aside to slowly cool. The result is a stunning, handcrafted piece of glass art, born from the fiery depths of the furnace.

The next stage of Amanda's process involves wrapping the glass object in tape, onto which she draws a pencil sketch depicting the features of a particular native Australian plant, insect, or fish. Amanda has an eye for detail and is a skilled artist. She possesses that keen ability to accurately discern and vividly depict the distinct features of a plant, making it easily identifiable to those with a knowledgeable eye. Her designs are multilayered, accurate and achieve a three-dimensional quality. She likes to draw from an actual plant sample, or from photographs taken of specimens spotted whilst travelling or out bushwalking.

The final stage of the process involves cutting the outline of her drawing into the glass using a scalpel. This contour marks the edge over which the sandblasting must not transgress. This fine precise work takes place in Amanda's backyard workshop, which contains a specially designed booth. She inserts her hands into protective gloves that allow her to angle and turn the object with one hand while using her other hand to control the sandblasting tool that operates rather like a felt-tipped pen. This technique has the effect of shading the glass by finely abrading the surface of the glass in order to diffuse the transmission of light.

As you might imagine, at any stage of these delicate processes, shattering consequences are just a small misjudgement away.

Amanda describes working with glass as a constant challenge. It takes considerable knowledge and technique to gain mastery over the process. You have to understand how your raw materials will respond individually and together and what techniques work best in different circumstance. Adding colour granules changes the texture and behaviour of the molten glass. Some colours don't mix well, further affecting these properties. All of this takes considerable experience not to mention immense concentration, dexterity, and the patience required to learn from many failures. She remarked, "Every success feels like I have won a battle, as much with myself as with the glass and all the variables that influence the final outcome. There is also that sense of relief after each stage of the process is successfully completed".

The stunning outcomes she achieves are delicate and beautiful and belie the industrial and technical process of their creation.

This is how Amanda Louden has spent her professional career after graduating with a Degree in Ceramic Design with a Hot Glass Major from the Caulfield Institute of Technology (now a campus of Monash University). She is a renowned artist whose crafted art glass is sold across Australia, is revered by many a collector and is well known to members of the RBGV Friends' Groups.



Another of Amanda's passions and source of inspiration is her garden...

Amanda's home is surrounded by an established native garden, about twenty years old. Most of the space including the nature strip is given over to plants. Whilst well cared for, it's a wild natural style garden rather than an ordered manicured garden. Amanda likes to take time to examine her surrounds believing that the real beauty of our flora is often best seen close up and that the variety of plants in scenic vegetation is often overlooked and underappreciated. Amanda grew up in a family with a love of plants; her mother had a real affection for natives, while her father had an interest in cultivating and selling *Pelargoniums*, *Geraniums* and *Fuchsias*. Amanda reflects that her real interest in native plants gathered in momentum and evolved in keeping with her art glass practice. She finds refreshment and joy in her garden, though she admits that a couple of birds seem to think they own the place; they have been known to aggressively defend their territory like tiny, feathered landlords. Now recently retired, Amanda has turned her attention to improving the efficiency and sustainability of her home which has been a new source of challenge and excitement.

Amanda and her partner John are always willing helpers at the Cranbourne Plant sale events. They act as plant advisors to customers wanting to confer about possible plant selections. She admitted that Plant Sales are always a source of temptation from which she invariably leaves carrying multiple boxes of plants: "*Plant Sales to gardeners, parallel lolly shops to kids*".

The Cranbourne Friends is fortunate to have a supporter and friend in Amanda Louden.

Nicky's passion has taken her far and wide but Australian Plants and community service are at the heart of her passion. Photo: Janette Wilson



Nicky Zanen: The Venturesome Volunteer

Many of the Cranbourne Friends will know Nicky Zanen; she's a familiar face at our events and at those run by the Australian Plants Society. But many might not know the history or extent of her volunteering, and how this passion has shaped her life.

Initially interested in finding out more about how to grow vegetables, she attended a Ferntree Gully Horticultural Society meeting and subsequently joined the dynamic, pioneering Society for Growing Australian Plants (as APS was then known) Foothills group, to learn how to attract birds into her garden. Hooked on Australian flora and fauna and the desire for involvement, before long she was the Foothills Secretary, then President, participating in significant public events including the Stringybark Festival.

Increased commitment to Victorian APS led to Nicky becoming publicity officer, vice president and finally president. Her time at the helm included setting up new groups and involvement with Plant Sales in Berwick and Geelong as well as a big flower show at the Melbourne Gardens Herbarium.

Spreading her wings further, she coordinated trips to the Alps and the Kimberley. Following our highly successful trip to Far North Queensland, Nicky joined the Events sub-committee, because she "wanted to organise the *next* trip to Far North Queensland!" (now in the planning stage). She has also currently taken on the role of co-convenor of the big biennial Conference for ANPSA, the National Federation of Australian Plant Societies. This sold-out event runs in October 2024 over 3 weeks, involving lectures, day trips, a dinner and pre- and post-conference tours.

Juggling the wearing of at least two hats at the same time, in her role as Secretary, Nicky produces excellent Minutes for the Friends Events sub-committee and assists at its functions.



Photo: Tess Holderness

But the world of Australian plants has not been Nicky's only area of interest: In her younger years she was a volunteer umpire for various netball competitions – and lately, she has assisted with the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program through her grandchildren's school. Suffering from Lymphoedema led her to join their support society and yes, she eventually became Victorian President, serving three terms. And, while living in England for several years, she not only joined the committee of a walking group called the Ramblers, leading many walks including through Kew Gardens, she also became a volunteer bell-ringer in Barnett.

With a strong work ethic, Nicky brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as well as boundless enthusiasm to all her volunteer roles. She's immensely kind-hearted as many who have been helped by her in a sticky situation will attest. But, like many of us who give our time and energy, Nicky also readily acknowledges the enrichment she has gained from her involvement: huge satisfaction – and lots of laughs – from working and sharing experiences with like-minded others and developing strong friendships with people from all over the country.



*Friends In Focus member captures afternoon reflections.
Photo: Peter Williamson*

Social Media Report



Over the course of the 12 months from July 2023 to June 2024, the Cranbourne Friends Facebook page had a reach of over 27,000, with 2,100 interactions. As we don't pay for ads or post boosts, these numbers are organic. The page has 4,500 followers, which includes 261 new followers.



Our reach on Instagram over the same time frame was nearly 6,500. We have over 5,600 followers on Instagram, with 162 of those being new this year.

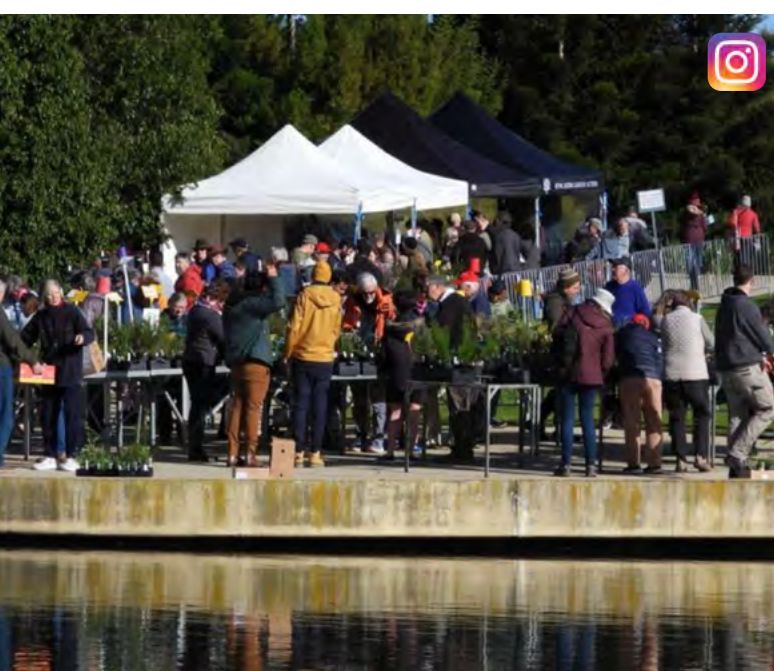
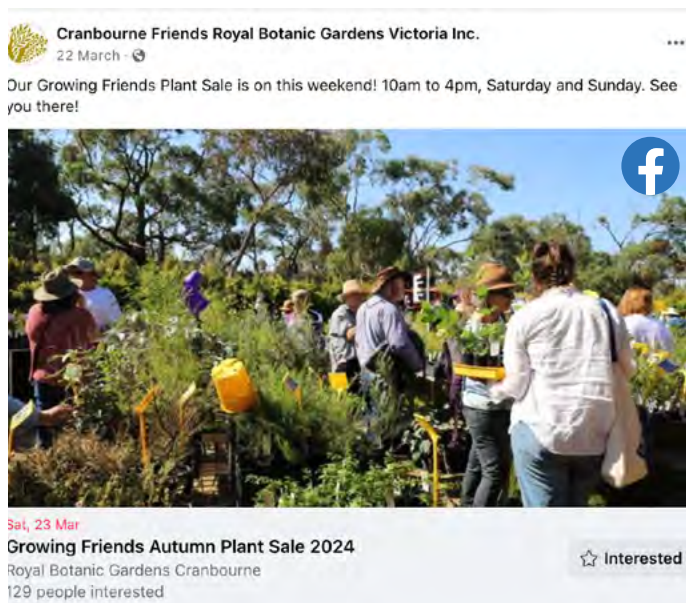
“As we don't pay for ads or post boosts, these numbers are organic.”

The Growing Friends Plant Sales always gain a lot of interest on social media, and these posts appeared top of the list in popularity over the past year on

both Facebook and Instagram. Posts about the Acacia Project in August and the call for volunteers to help plant out the Dry Riverbed in November rounded out the top posts.

Our social media demographic is made up primarily of women, with 80% of our followers on Facebook and over 65% on Instagram being women. The majority of our Facebook followers, at 64%, are based in Melbourne, conversely only 35% of our Instagram followers are metro based.

Tanya Johnson



Membership Report



Welcome to all our new members who joined us over the past year! We hope you're finding your membership rewarding and enjoying the many activities and opportunities available through Cranbourne Friends, RBCV.

Over the course of the last financial year, we have observed a slight decline in new memberships and renewals, likely influenced by broader economic conditions. We do expect that the membership will rebuild over the year as members who have forgotten to renew, remember to do so, and we enrol more plant lovers. It's heartening to see existing members continuing to renew, while also welcoming fresh faces into our vibrant community.

One of the key highlights this year has been the popularity of our Growing Friends plant sales, favoured occasions for newcomers to join and members to renew their memberships. This year's membership card featured a stunning photograph of *Banksia marginata*,

Below: Enjoy a picnic in nature at Stringybark Picnic Area and meet the bushland wildlife. Photo: Janette Wilson
Right: This year's card features Banksia marginata. Photo: Sharon Start.

taken in the Bushland at Cranbourne Gardens by one of our talented members, Sharon Start.

Looking ahead, our primary focus will be to enhance our visual presence within the Gardens, ensuring that more visitors become aware of who we are, what we do, and why they should consider joining us. We also plan to leverage our social media platforms more effectively to showcase our initiatives, events, and the many benefits that come with being a member.

We are excited about the opportunities ahead and are committed to fostering a thriving, engaged community that supports and celebrates the beauty and significance of the Cranbourne Gardens, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

Alexandra Stalder



Treasurer's Report



The end of the financial year seems to have come at an amazing pace, yet again, this year. Personally, I enjoyed a fantastic trip to The Otways with the Cranbourne Friends and have had the privilege of meeting and getting to know, my first grandchild. As a community, we are all aware of the 'increase in cost of living' and the 'housing crisis', being experienced by many in varying ways. This may have had an effect on our membership renewal uptake.

"While preparing the graphs for this report I have noticed a significant trend, showing last year was indeed a breakout year in so many ways."

While preparing the graphs for this report I have noticed a significant trend, showing last year was indeed a breakout year in so many ways. We left the restrictions of the pandemic behind with a multitude of events and happenings. The Committee strove to increase our presence with the goal of increasing our membership numbers as well. However, there has been a dip in the income from membership subscriptions.

The external pressures of the world do not appear to have affected Events or Plant Sales. Plant Sales have bucked the trend with their highest income to date, while the income from Events has remained reasonably static. Wonderful trips to the Otways, Baw Baw and Sicily contributed greatly. Two of our Special Interest Groups, the Botanical Illustrators and the Botanical Fabricators have maintained their increased incomes from last year. Well done to them.

Growing Friends expenses and administration costs have been reined in significantly, increasing our profits.

It has been gratifying to see the results of last year's disbursements to the Garden – the Stringy Bark Boardwalk

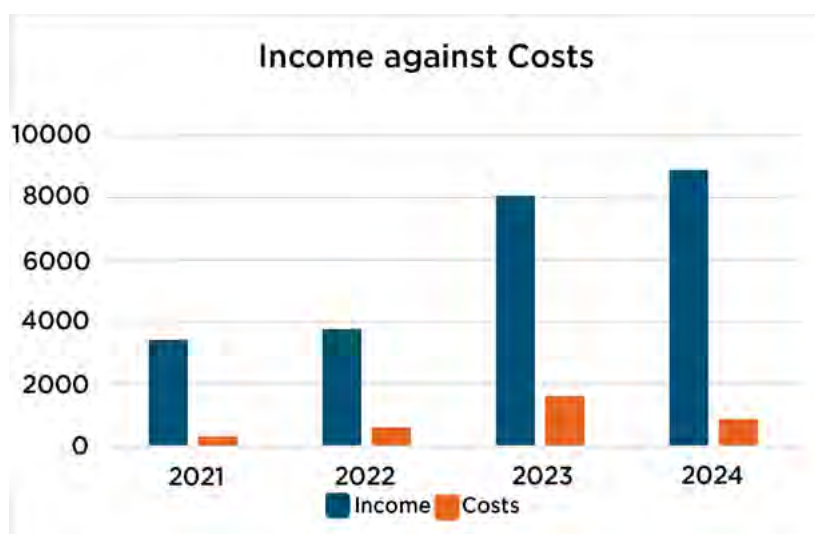
is a wonderful spot to sit and contemplate our busy lives, as well as providing necessary protection for the Xanthorrhoea.

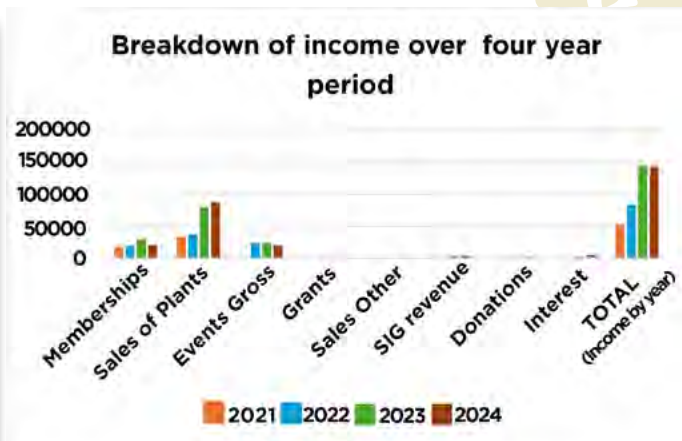
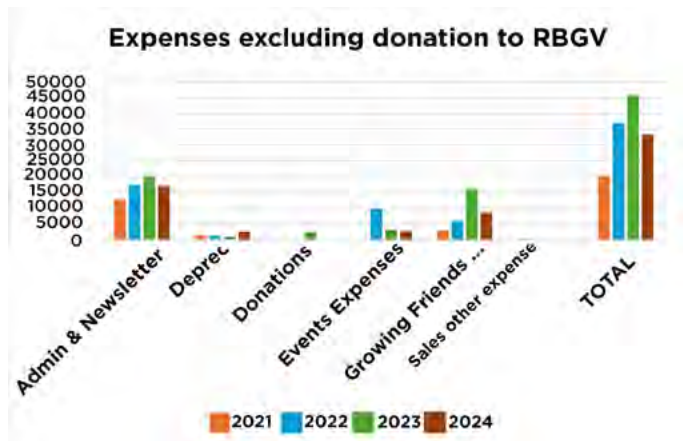
The Dry Riverbed has been transformed with masses of plantings, with more to come. Our contribution towards the irrigation system is keeping these plants well-watered. I also love seeing the plant name signs appearing gradually throughout the Garden to make plant identification that much easier for all.

This year the RBGV has seen some significant changes in senior management positions, resulting in attention being focused on learning new jobs and keeping both Gardens running smoothly. We have heard that a project funding wish list will soon be forthcoming from our Acting Director and we will be able to further assist in funding the forward vision of our wonderful Garden.

This year, as always, I would like to thank all the members who take the time to volunteer their services so that we can accomplish the 'work' that we do. Special thanks this year to Erin Cosgriff and Jennifer Potten (President and Secretary, respectively) for their guidance to me personally and for their untiring giving of time, energy and talents to the Gardens. They will be sorely missed. Here's hoping we see many more faces and hands helping and enjoying the activities, events, planning, administration and camaraderie of volunteering – it could be you.

Wendy Herauville





In the Stringybark Garden, the Friends contributed to soil remediation and the planting of additional large Xanthorrhoea and Kingia species, after a new protective boardwalk was installed. Photo: Janette Wilson



CRANBOURNE FRIENDS BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

ABN 43 551 008 609

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Kevin Jessup | Chartered Accountant

0407 545 288

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Profit and Loss

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2023	2024
Income		
Membership Subscriptions	29,804.00	20,861.00
Sales of Plants by Growing Friends	80,511.30	88,850.70
Events Gross Receipts	24,197.41	20,569.68
Grants Received	1,000.00	900.00
Sales Other	270.00	898.40
Exhibitions & SIG Revenue	4,155.10	4,077.40
Donations	1,962.50	1,743.02
Interest	2,810.66	5,736.35
Total Income	144,710.97	143,636.55
Expenses		
Administration & Newsletter Expenses (Note 1)	19,834.91	17,068.80
Depreciation	1,176.09	2,714.00
Donations	2,500.00	–
Donations to Royal Botanic Gardens	112,050.00	29,612.98
Events Expenses	3,382.19	2,844.92
Purchases & Supplies – Growing Friends	16,109.74	8,699.05
Total Expenses	155,052.93	60,939.75
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	(10,341.98)	82,696.80

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Notes to the Accounts

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2023	2024
Note 1: Administration & Newsletter Expenses		
Accounting & Licence Fees	474.40	768.00
Audit Fee	495.00	825.00
Bank Fees	30.00	–
Catering Costs – Open House & Other	390.85	371.84
Cleaning	–	–
Filing & Statutory Fees	–	262.40
General Expenses	2,170.98	325.56
Gifts and Tributes	481.11	288.32
Insurances	422.95	–
Membership – Printing, Stationery & Postage	1,884.95	1,446.80
Merchant Fees – Tidy HQ, Stripe etc	3,029.47	3,087.48
<i>Naturelink</i> – Printing & Postage	7,944.56	7,613.53
Office Expenses	230.89	–
Publicity	247.50	–
Subscriptions	675.00	1,350.87
Telephone	1,102.50	550.00
Website & Domain Name	254.75	179.00
	19,834.91	17,068.80

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Balance Sheet

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2023	2024	2024
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank			
National Bank – Current Accounts	8,848.68	24,652.21	
National Bank – Term Deposit #1	122,023.24	166,360.07	
National Bank – Term Deposit #2	55,474.66	30,937.51	
National Bank – Savings Account	437.14	10,437.14	
	186,783.72		232,386.93
Cash on Hand	120.00		49.00
Sundry Debtors	–		4,842.19
Total Current Assets	186,903.72		237,278.12
Fixed Assets			
Plant & Equipment – at cost	29,776.06	20,189.06	
Less Provision for Depreciation	(24,277.09)	(13,258.09)	
	5,498.97		6,930.97
NET ASSETS	192,402.69		244,209.09
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	27,857.07	972.86	
Advanced Bookings	4,628.60	–	
Total Liabilities	32,485.67		972.86
NET ASSETS	159,917.02		243,236.23
Represented by:			
Equity			
Retained Earnings – brought forward	170,881.39		160,539.43
Current Earnings – 2022	(10,341.96)		82,696.80
TOTAL EQUITY	160,539.43		243,236.23

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 2024.

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 2024 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

18th July 2024

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Certificate by Members of the Committee

We, Erin Cosgriff and Wendy Herauville, 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 2024.

Erin Cosgriff
ERIN COSGRIFF

Wendy Herauville
WENDY HERAUVILLE

19 July 2024
Dated

Statement by Members of the Committee

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 2024 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
ERIN COSGRIFF

Wendy Herauville
WENDY HERAUVILLE

19 July 2024
Dated

Seeking New Members

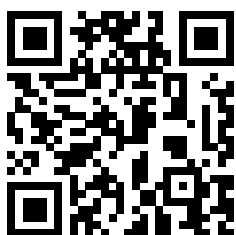
We invite you to reflect on the unique ways your skills and passions can contribute to the ongoing success of the Cranbourne Friends. Our theme of 'cultivating appreciation, commitment, and connection' speaks to the heart of what we do—fostering the care of our natural environment, a steadfast dedication to its preservation, and a strong bond within this group of like-minded friends. As

we face a critical need for more hands and minds to share the load, we encourage you to join us in expanding our efforts. Whether you bring a green thumb, organizational prowess, or creative flair, your involvement can make a meaningful impact. Let's work together to build a future where our shared commitment to the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Cranbourne grows even stronger.

***"It's fun, you get to meet wonderful people,
and most importantly you become involved in
purposeful efforts that take you outside of yourself
and contribute to actions important to our future
and to that of the generations yet to come."***



Trig Point Lookout. Photo: Janette Wilson. Design: Janette Wilson Design



Contact:

The President
president@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

The Secretary
secretary@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

The Membership Secretary
membership@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

The Cranbourne Friends
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.,
Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne
Cnr Ballarto Road and Botanic Drive,
Cranbourne VIC 3977



www.facebook.com/rbgfriendscranbourne



www.instagram.com/friendsrbgcranbourne