

# Handbury Awards presented

Congratulations to our long-serving and hard-working volunteers! The work of some of our members has been formally recognised by the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AAFBG), at a function on Friday 5 May 2023.

The Handbury awards recognise exceptional contributions to an Australian Botanic Garden, Arboretum, or Park, by an AAFBG member group or individual from a member group. Our nominations of the following were successful:

- Rodger and Gwen Elliot (Individual awards)
- (CF) Growing Friends group (organisation award)

Handbury awards were also made to Friends members from botanic gardens at Sale, Camperdown and several other locations. A complete list will be available in the AAFBG newsletter.

The awards were presented at the AAFBG's 30th anniversary and AGM, which was hosted by the Melbourne Friends at RBG Melbourne. To further celebrate the 30th Anniversary and as a precursor to the AGM, on Thursday 4 May, the AAFBG members and delegates travelled to RBG Cranbourne, where they were welcomed with morning tea by the Friends Committee. Then followed a guided tour of the Australian Garden with Gardens Ambassadors, Barrie Gallacher and Eva Kowal. After lunch, the coach continued to Cruden Farm in Langwarrin.

The Cranbourne Friends is pleased to work with the AAFBG, which helps Friends groups through the vast country of Australia, to keep in contact. The 2024 conference and AGM will be held at the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden, Queensland.

A map of affiliate Friends groups of Australia and internationally can be viewed at <https://friendsbotanicgardens.org/>



From top: Award presentation at the AAFBG AGM; Growing Friends Barbara Jeffrey, Christine Strahan and Jennifer Potten, between Linda Beveridge and Bob Ducrou, of AAFBG; Gwen and Rodger Elliot with Erin Cosgriff, and below, with the AAFBG office-bearers.



A sumptuous morning tea was provided at Cranbourne for the delegates, including a birthday cake. Cake photos: Ewa Kowal



Photo above: Christine Strahan

At left: Alex Smart congratulated AAFBG on reaching 30 years, at their AGM at Mueller Hall.