

Cranbourne Friends

Royal Botanic Gardens Vic Inc.



CRANBOURNE FRIENDS

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

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Telopea speciosissima x monganensis ‘Braidwood Brilliant’ Warratah – Judith Cooke

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.

Many thanks to Janette Wilson for producing this report for us.



Left: Eucalyptus caesia Silver Princess
Illustration: Marg Kitchen

Below: 20th Anniversary display.
– Judith Cooke



President's Report

Electing a refreshed committee

From July 2025 the previous Committee worked towards the election of a new Committee and ensuring a strong future for the Cranbourne Friends. During 2025, two members were filling the four Executive positions (President, Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-President) which was exhausting and unsustainable in the longer term.

In October, a strong email appeal to members was sent out to try to get more people involved in running the organisation. We also considered ways in which the Friends organisation could operate more efficiently and ensure that volunteers could meet their responsibilities more easily.

Before the Annual General Meeting in November, the Committee received a number of nominations for executive and general positions on the Committee and a nomination for Naturelink editor, from well-qualified and enthusiastic members. This was also a time of change at the RBCV, with the Friends now reporting to Tim Sansom, the Executive Director, Living Collections and Environment. Vanessa Elvins has also been appointed to the role to manage Visitor Experience and Volunteers at RBCV.

At the Annual General Meeting in November, a new Committee was elected.

What happened in 2025

In August 2025, money the Friends contributed to Gardens' initiatives included \$80,000 for improvements



"...the Committee received a number of nominations for executive and general positions on the Committee and a nomination for Naturelink editor, from well-qualified and enthusiastic members."

to the Gardens' Nursery facilities which will provide more space for collected wild plants and research material; and \$50,000 for the concept plan for the Kids' Backyard and Rockpool Waterway area.

Later in the year, RBCV installed signs acknowledging the Friends' previous generous donations towards the boardwalk project in the Stringybark Garden, and for the plants and irrigation equipment for the Dry Riverbed Garden. Thank you to RBCV Infrastructure Director, Kevin Alexander, for arranging the notices.

Another welcome public recognition of the Friends was inclusion in the Victorian

Environmental Friends Network gallery:

<https://www.vefn.org.au/group/cranbourne-friends-royal-botanic-gardens-victoria-inc/>

Three major Friends activities held centre-stage between August and October: a major Banksia festival was conducted jointly with RBCV, and well-organised tours of the Grampians and Kangaroo Island took place. More information about these activities is reported later in this booklet.

After registration in 2024, the Friends now officially report to the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission in Canberra, rather than Consumer Affairs Victoria. Our 2025 Annual Report was uploaded to the ACNC after our AGM in November.

Rosemary Miller

Signage on the Stringybark Boardwalk – Peter Miller
Signage in the Dry River Bed – Peter Miller



President's Report

December - June

It was exciting to be welcomed as President to the Cranbourne Friends Committee of Management, and I quickly learned that I was in the hands of an experienced, enthusiastic and good bunch of people.

As with all change, there has been a period of adjustment in the committee as we settle into new roles and understand the exciting challenges ahead. As a 'newby' to volunteer organisations, I was not aware of the energy and time required to keep things moving forward and have been grateful for the support of our immediate past President and Secretary, as well as the current executive who continue to help guide me in this role. Special thanks to Susan as Secretary and Wendy as Treasurer who keep us on track and help us grow.

A special mention also to the RBCV team, in particular Tim Sansom who is our committee liaison with the RBCV organisation; Tim has brought a welcome and generous commitment to supporting the Friends and

"I quickly learned that I was in the hands of an experienced, enthusiastic and good bunch of people."

keeps us in-step with the strategies and directions of the Gardens.

With a new committee, our first few months have included finding our organisational feet - testing and re-drafting our policies to ensure that we are a modern organisation, reflecting the values of good governance and practice. We have loads of exciting things planned for the remainder of the year, including a re-focus on marketing for Friends, updating our technology and communications, and developing ways to support our Special Interest Groups who are the heart and soul of the Friends and who, combined, bring special talents, energy and beauty to the Gardens.

I am pleased to part of such a creative, committed and energetic bunch of wonderful people and look forward to the remainder of the year.

Clare Holland



Profile – Clare Holland

Possibly not many people would take time off from a holiday in Italy to respond to our call to arms. But for Clare, recently retired and a keen gardener, it felt like the right time for a new commitment, to explore the world of volunteering and offer her experience in committee-based careers to a new endeavour.

With a Masters Degree in Education amongst other qualifications, Clare has spent a lifetime working as an administrator in a range of senior management roles at several universities as well as the Australian Health Practitioner Agency (AHPRA). Now, as well as heading up the Friends Committee of Management, Clare works part-time in a policy role at the Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre, a not-for-profit organisation working to support migrants and refugees.

At Cranbourne she's greatly enjoying getting to know the Gardens better and is regularly amazed at the depth of knowledge and commitment of the Friends and the Cranbourne staff. Happily, she's also been struck by the camaraderie that has made the CoM such a cohesive group, and by the imagination and dedication to growing their talents she observes in members of our Events and Special Interest Groups.

A confessed "bit of an obsessive" when it comes to skills development generally, Clare is a passionate pickleball player, currently obsessed with learning top spin. The more meditative exercise, Tai chi, is also now a passion, and she has advanced enough after several years in what is also a martial art, to be entrusted with a sword...

Also a "mad book buyer", Clare reads across a wide range of literature, with philosophy a favourite. But she finds it hard to stay sitting still, so she's likely to be found renovating yet another part of her house or out in the garden doing the same thing. It's 1.5 acres in size, so there's plenty of room for change in this admittedly eclectic space that she has been re-imagining and re-inventing for over 40 years. An "ardent path-maker", Clare is often wielding a shovel and creating new links as areas are re-thought. She grows her own vegetables, is experimenting with growing flowers for developing her floristry skills and is (still) trying to propagate plants successfully, so they thrive in her new greenhouse. Clare regularly frequents local nurseries in search of more trees and shrubs, both native and exotic and will always find room for something interesting, even if the rabbits insist on eating them. She has also recently overseen the building of a pond which has added another peaceful element to the garden. And loving the look and feel of a beautiful stone wall she commissioned for the garden a few years ago, she hopes to one day tackle building a smaller second one herself.

Clare occasionally sits still for more sedentary experiences, like attending the theatre – and she's a keen movie goer – but perhaps unsurprisingly, admits that sometimes staying seated, even to finish knitting a blanket for her beloved new granddaughter, can be a challenge.

We are lucky to have such an energetic – and widely experienced – person leading the Friends Committee.

Helen Kennedy



Treasurer's Report

What a stimulating year we've had, in the Garden, as the Committee and in our various groups. Our incomes have increased despite negative outside influences, including the global financial crisis and war, resulting in less discretionary spending. All our categories have shown a good increase (see graph).

Many events, including tours and the Banksia Festival, planned in 2025, have taken place this year, their income boosting the totals significantly. The Banksia Festival was a successful conduit for increasing public awareness as well as providing members with walks and talks, displays, and sales of art and crafts. All generated good income. Tours included the Grampians Wildflower Tour, Kangaroo Island Tour and Mt Hotham Alpine Tour. Other good earners include our Whale Watching excursion and many interesting and well-attended Talks.

We remain committed to continuing to keep expenses as low as possible, wherever possible.

The marked increase of the Special Interest Groups income is mainly attributed to the Savvy Stitchers attending extra market days and continuing to develop their range to keep up with current trends. Congratulations and gratitude to everyone who is involved in these events and so, fundraising.

Expenses increased with the associated costs of producing and providing these exciting events.



"The Plant and Art sale income astonished us by continuing the upwards cycle."

One major Administration expense, the production of Naturelink, is now outsourced, decreasing the burden on volunteers while delivering a professional publication.

The Plant and Art sale income astonished us by continuing the upwards cycle. Due to limited space in our Nursery we may have reached our peak as we have no room to expand production; time will tell. The graph shows the steady increase of Growing

Friends' income and the decrease in their expenses.

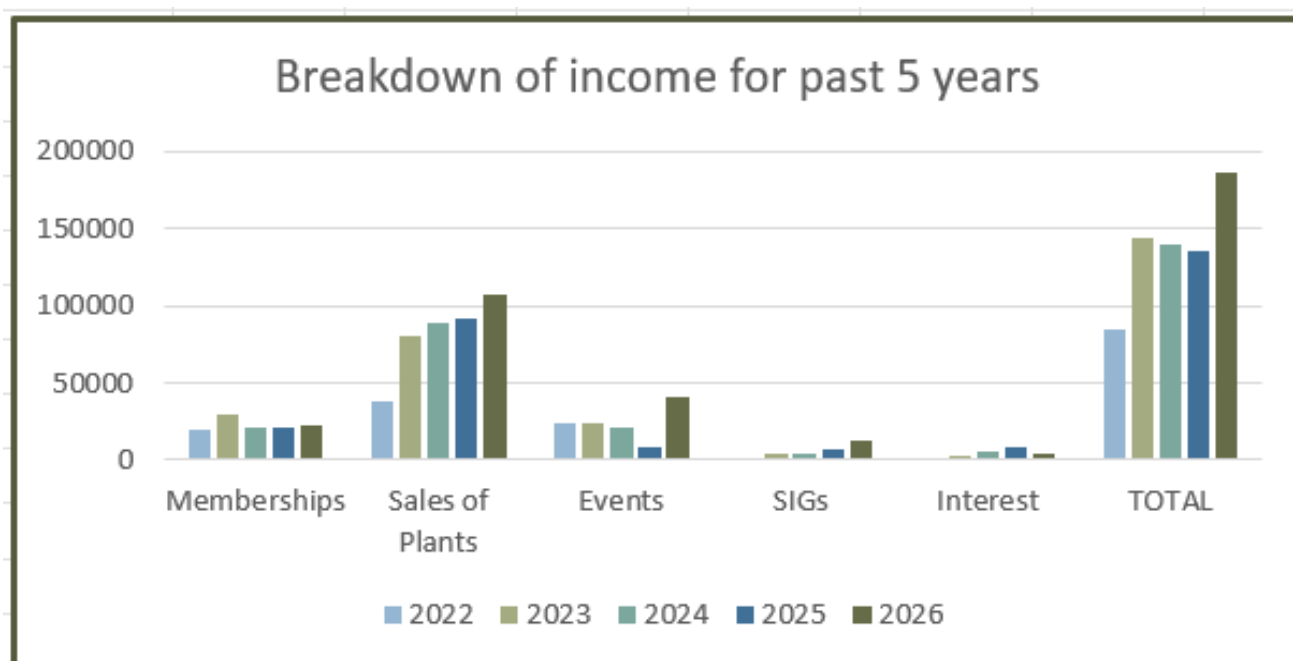
A 'good' problem has developed because of our success; we have reached the ATO threshold for GST this year. We are now, and will remain, registered for GST.

It has been exciting and satisfying to disburse some of our income to the Gardens to the following projects:

\$50,000 towards the concept plans for the Children's Waterplay Garden and \$80,000 towards the upgrade of the RBGV Cranbourne Plant Nursery.

We have recently pledged \$100,000 for the Meadow Garden upgrade. Two other donors have also pledged funding, and we look forward to seeing the changes soon.

This is made possible by the many members who participate in sale days and attend events. Behind the scenes, members are also growing the plants and





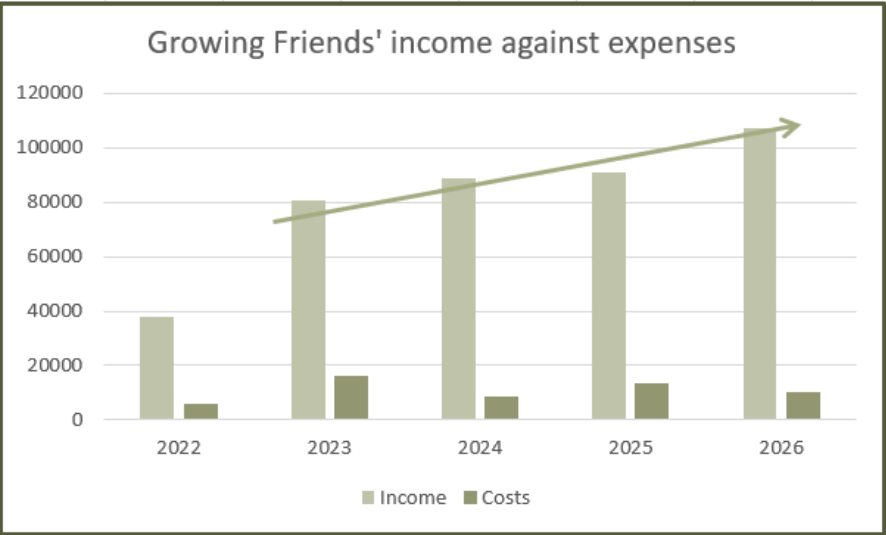
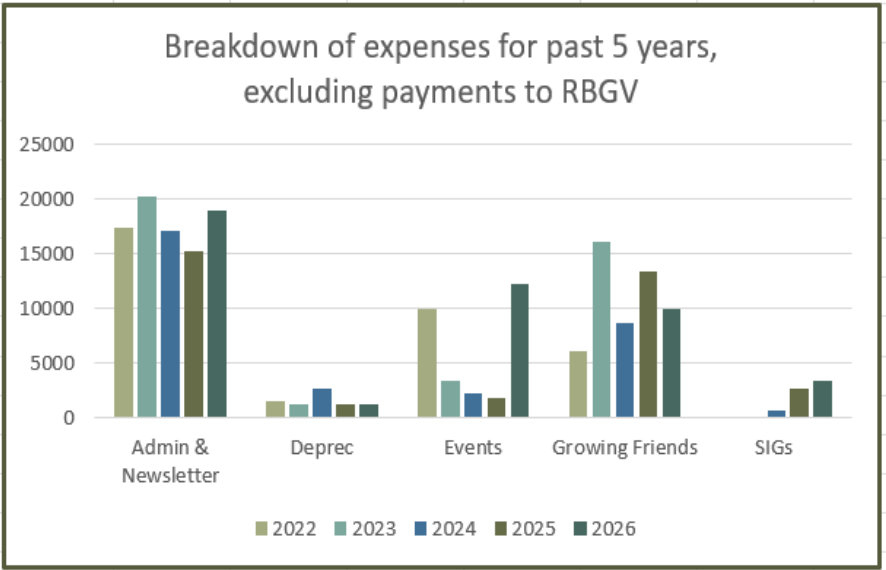
creating other items for sale, creating and organising events and tours, attending meetings and managing groups; a heartfelt thank you goes out to all these people. Our collective pleasure, involvement and knowledge are all enhanced as a result of what you do.

This year, thanks to a welcome increase in Committee numbers, the workload has been spread, enabling work on procedures and succession planning. We are looking forward to meeting more frequently with the SiGs groups in the coming year and getting to know you all better.

As part of our succession plan we would like to have a second person trained up as a back-up for all of the important tasks of the Committee and the SiGs. Would there be anyone experienced in accounts, with a little spare time, who would be interested in learning the very simple software process and act as a backup for me? This would entail some time to learn the procedures, but you would only be called on if I became suddenly unwell or unavailable.

Thanks

Wendy Herauville



Membership Report

It has been another busy year for membership, with the Friends continuing to attract new members while maintaining the support of those who have been part of our organisation for many years.

At 30 June 2026, the Cranbourne Friends had 715 financial members, up from 671 at the same time last year. This is a very pleasing result and reflects renewed growth in our membership following the decline recorded in 2024/25.

Throughout the year, new members have come to us through a range of Friends activities, events and connections with the Cranbourne Gardens. Our Special Interest Groups, plant sales, talks, tours and other activities all provide opportunities for people to discover the Friends and, importantly, to become part of an active community with a shared interest in Australian plants and the Gardens.

It is equally pleasing to see the continued loyalty of our existing members. Membership is about much more than numbers, and the ongoing involvement of members, whether regularly participating in Friends activities or simply maintaining their connection with the organisation, is greatly valued.

Our 2026/27 membership card features a wonderful photograph of a Southern Brown Bandicoot (*Isodon obesulus*), taken by Friends member Sharon Start. Once widespread across southern Australia, the Southern Brown Bandicoot is now threatened in Victoria, making Sharon's photograph a particularly fitting celebration of the important habitat provided by the Cranbourne Gardens and surrounding landscape.

During the coming year, we hope to build on this positive membership growth and continue finding new ways to introduce visitors to the Friends. With so much happening across the organisation, there are many opportunities to encourage people to join and discover what the Friends have to offer.

Finally, thank you to all our members for being part of the Cranbourne Friends. Whether you joined this year or have been a member for decades, your membership helps sustain a strong and vibrant Friends community.

Alexandra Stalder

Right: This year's card features the Southern Brown Bandicoot – Sharon Start

*Howson Hill's rejuvenation continues –
Janette Wilson*



Social Media Report

Over the 25/26 year, our top Facebook post was promoting Dave Witty's talk on 'What The Trees See' in February. The post has 16.8K views, 86 reactions and 109 interactions. It was also shared 9 times and had a reach of 12.2K.

On Instagram, the Royal Botanic Gardens Vic account published throwback photos in collaboration with the Cranbourne Friends account before the 20th anniversary celebrations. This post had 15.6K views, 415 interactions, 377 likes and a reach of 8.2K.



We currently have 5,139 followers on Facebook and 5,722 on Instagram. Over both platforms we have more women followers than men (79.3% on Facebook and 65.8% on Instagram). As in previous years, the majority of our followers are based in Melbourne.

If you don't already, please like and follow our social media pages.

Tanya Johnson



Facebook

Views: 124.3K
Content Interactions: 2.6K (up 63%)
Follows: 535 (up 78.3%)
Visits: 13.9K

www.facebook.com/rbgfriendscranbourne



Instagram

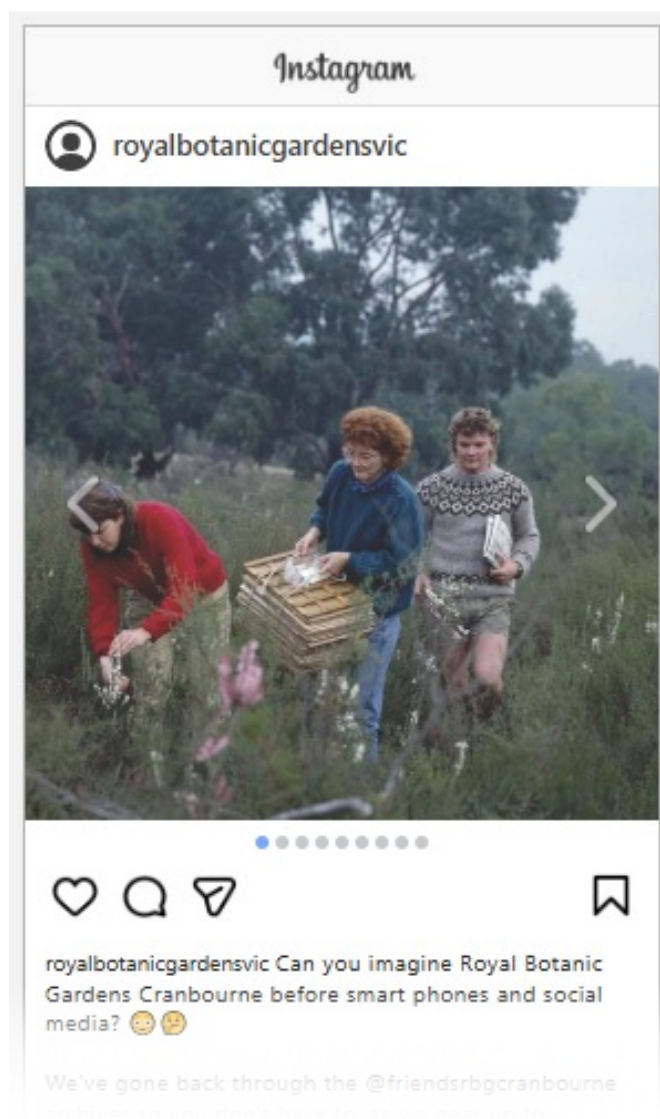
Reach: 9.2K
Content Interactions: 1.5K (up 100%)
Follows: 342
Visits: 1.2K (up 77.6%)

www.instagram.com/friendsrbgcranbourne



Above: Facebook post promoting Dave Witty's talk on 'What The Trees See' in February.

Right: Instagram post in March with throwback photos.



Events Sub-Committee Report

It has been quite an extraordinary annual calendar of events. Included were the Banksia Festival, trips to the Grampians, Kangaroo Island, and Mt Hotham, Nature Journaling and Fungi workshops as well as a great range of public talks and Open House presentations.

The Reunion in June of people that helped make the Australian Garden the gem it is today was another real highlight. This level of engagement is only possible because of the enormous energy of the team of people that comprise the Events Committee as well as some outside help (thanks Jill Burness for your wonderful leadership on the Grampians Tour).

The Events Committee is convened by Mick Robertson who also led the organization of the Banksia Festival, Wendy Herauville who still works and somehow finds time to be Friends Treasurer, organized and led the her first Tour interstate to Kangaroo Island. Nicky Zanen is Events Secretary, 2IC and co-led with Alex Stalder, the Annual Alpine trip to Mt Hotham this year. Alex also runs Membership while working amazing hours for the Federal Government. Linda Lee joined us this year and she has been looking after the website as well as standing in as the Bookings Officer. Tanya Johnson has continued doing a great job on Social Media so that not just our membership knows what we are up to. Helen Davidson also joined us this year and has taken over the editing of Naturelink. By far the longest serving members are Tim and Helen Morrow who provide us with great continuity with Tim also running our Audio-Visual Systems. Tony and Louise Anderson have, apparently, been taking it easy while Tony recovers from serious medical setbacks but have still done enormous work in bumping us in and out of our venues and are now working on the planning of a New Zealand Tour.



We meet monthly, usually on Zoom for an hour and a half and often less formally while we are planning events and supporting each other in the actual execution of those gigs. Generally speaking we run 2 or 3 events a month between us, many of which are presentations by outside or inside experts and are thus not too demanding of our time and are a lot of fun to be involved with. RBCV is a wonderful institution, possesses some great resources and has terrific staff who are really dedicated to their work and are happy to explain what they do for our collective benefit.

Our group has worked hard to bring such a full program of events to the membership and beyond, but it is fulfilling work. Of course we would be happy to have more members. We would love a booking officer and you might have an idea for an event that you would like to run on our behalf. That would be a great way to introduce yourself to the team and our processes.

The Banksia Festival engaged most of the Special Interest Groups, showcasing the range of activities the Cranbourne Friends are involved in and demonstrating that to membership and the general public. It included a fabulous exhibition of Banksia related artworks, plant sales, a series of talks and workshops as well as guided walking tours.

20th Anniversary Reunion-RBCV, Above; Floral Emblem – Judith Cooke



Events Sub-Committee Report (Cont.)



Jill's Grampians Tour was a highly choreographed dance across the western plains of Victoria through and about the Grampians/Gariwerd National Park. It took in some of the most outstanding Australian plant collections and gardens - commercial, private and public in nature. This was a self drive tour led by the inimitable Neil and Wendy Marriot. Such a treat for 34 lucky members.

Wendy's Kangaroo Island Interstate tour was based around the considerable talents of Helen Kennedy's son Hamish who is a tour Leader and driver for *SeaLink*. It criss-crossed this remarkable and diverse island which is still recovering from catastrophic fires, an all-too-common reality in our climate-challenged times.

On the fire theme, this year's Alpine trip to Mt Hotham got off to a shaky start when fires blocked the Northeastern approaches to Mt Hotham at the critical time. The Gippsland approach was not affected nor were the alpine areas so the tour was able to go ahead more or less as planned in cool, clear and sunny conditions. It was another very successful self-drive tour based in one of the ski lodges.

A whale-watching afternoon searching for Humpbacks out in front of Phillip Island on a bumpy sea was led by Nicky who took our biggest tour group of 38 on a fun and very successful jaunt.

This year we had quite a number of presentations including:

Stephen Ryan's passionate dissertation on 19th century botanic artist Ellis Rowan that raised \$1000 to help properly recognize her great contribution to her chosen field of endeavor.

Former RBGV employee Luke Saffigna presented a thoughtful and visually stunning talk on tourism in the Antarctic.



Banksia Festival; Basketry display – Tess Holderness, Below: Savvy Stitchers stall – Peter Miller, Banksia Café quilt – Wendy Smart

Bill Aitichison led a terrific and hilarious presentation and walk through the AG highlighting Acacias.

Tricia Stewart secured a \$3 million federal grant to do some restoration work in the Wylie's Creek Wetland and gave a great presentation on the scope and nature of the work planned and just underway.

Author Dave Witty presented on his recently published book "What the Trees See" in a very well-supported talk in the Auditorium.

Helen Lovell, Neutrog's Brand Ambassador, gave a presentation on the fertilizer of choice for the Australian Garden, also in the Auditorium.



Events Sub-Committee

RBGV Cranbourne's charming new Director of Horticulture Tex Moon, came and gave a talk and walk in a bleak and rainy AG, highlighting recent and future developments.

Local Wildlife Rescue angel Michelle Curtain came and talked about the work she does in the area including support for RBGV Cranbourne.

And finally our own John Arnott presented on the work he is involved in, re-establishing the historically significant Burendong Gardens in Central NSW.

Events raised \$28,604 for the Gardens. An amazing year of activities that will be hard to top but we will do our best!

Mick Robertson



Grampians tour – Jill Burness. Top; Near the Gulgurn Manja Aboriginal rock art gallery, Left and Right; finding Drosera aberrans in the Wama bushland Bottom Left: Sealion Boardwalk Kangaroo Island Tour – Janette Wilson Bottom right: The Kangaroo Island group with tour driver – Hamish Kennedy



Events Sub-Committee



This Page Clockwise:
 Top Left: Mt Hotham Carmichael Falls - Ross Garner
 Top Right: Mt Hotham Alpine Tour
 Centre Left: Time to re-fuel - Gail Stiffe
 Centre Right: Group walk – Alexandra Stalder
 A quick rest – Alexandra Stalder



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

Members of the Friends Committee of Management

President	Clare Holland
Vice-President	John Arnott
Secretary	Susan Delaney
Treasurer	Wendy Herauville
Membership Secretary	Alexander Stalder
Ordinary Member	Jill Burness
Ordinary Member	Erin Cosgriff
Ordinary Member	Helen Kennedy
Ordinary Member	Marion King
Ordinary Member	Kim (Katherine) McKee
Ordinary Member	Mick Robertson
Ordinary Member	Paul Sierakowski

Members of the Events Sub-Committee

Convenor	Mick Robertson
Minute Secretary	Nicky Zanen
Administration/Promotions	Linda Lee
Bookings	Linda Lee
IT Facilitator	Tim Morrow
Social Media	Tanya Johnson
Member	Helen Morrow
Member	Wendy Herauville
Member	Tony Anderson
Member	Louise Anderson
Member	Helen Davidson
RBGV Liaison	Vanessa Elvins

Special Interest Group Coordinators

Botanical Illustrators	Margaret Kitchen
Botanical Weaving	Tess Holderness (to June 2026)
Friends in Focus	Email contact – Judith Cooke
Friends in the Gardens	Christine Kenyon
Growing Friends	Marjanne Rook (to June 2026)
Herbarium Collectors	Nola Foster
Savvy Stitchers	Jenny Rollason and Bev Williamson



*Committee members 2026:
Left to Right; Back - Clare, Susan, Wendy
Front - Marion, Mick, John, Jill, Erin, Helen
Absent - Paul, Alexandra, Kim*



Special Interest Group reports

Botanical Illustrators Report

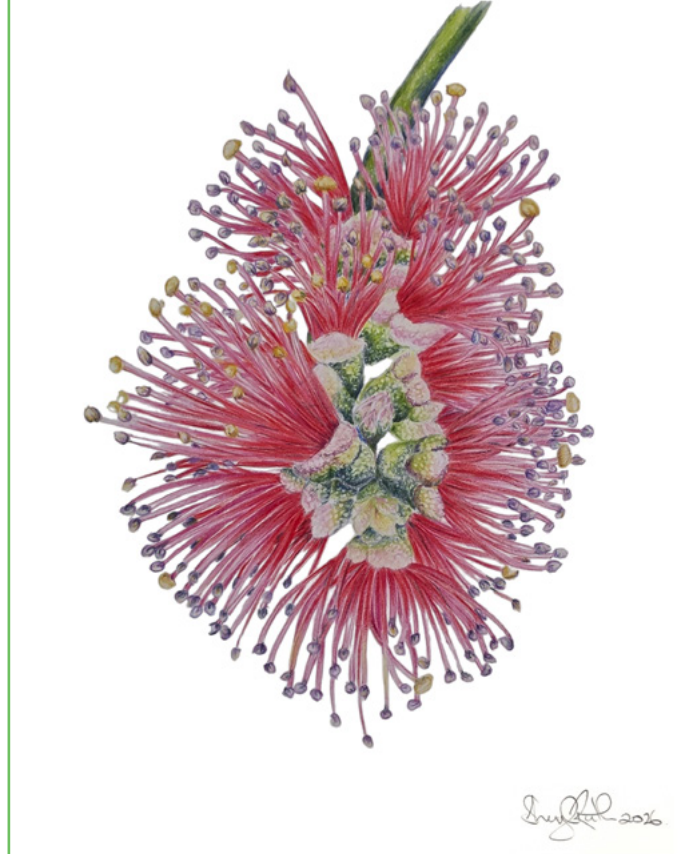
The Botanical Illustrators have completed the last year with a variety of different activities, all associated with presenting plants in different art forms. The group has maintained a healthy membership and provided several in-house activities which have enhanced the members' work.

In early August we participated in the Australian Plant Society's FJC Rogers Epacrid Seminar, providing an exhibition of art encompassing the subfamily Epacridoidea, of the Ericaceae family. Our artwork included linocuts, coloured pencil, graphite and watercolours. We were fortunate to sell some of our artworks, along with the usual cards representing our endeavours.

The Friends conducted the Banksia Festival in mid-August and once again a number of our paintings were on display, along with our cards. Our artwork was just one aspect of the art exhibition held in the Auditorium.

Later in the year we held an in-house session focussing on illustrating flowers and plants on black paper. Our members utilised pencils, pastels and gouache. Working

Hakea verrucosa, Marg Holloway, .



Callistemon e-workshop, Sheryl Ruth.

on a black surface provided a challenge and a different perspective on how to depict plants on paper. It proved to be an enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

During the start of 2026 we welcomed new members and decided temporarily to meet monthly to save on fuel costs as most members live some distance from Cranbourne.

The group was again present at the Growing Friends plant sales, selling cards and calendar bookmarks, the proceeds of which all go to the Friends and the Gardens.

In June, we began a coloured pencil *Callistemon* e-workshop. After a brief talk, members enthusiastically started drawing the flower section by section, or floret by floret. Each participant downloaded instructions and diagrams prepared by Janet Matthews, a noted coloured pencil artist, showing each stage of the process. This format allows members to work at their own pace whilst sharing advice and support within the group.

It will be our principal activity for the next couple of months.

Thanks must go to Kerry Robinson, Jan Maslen, Jenny Rollason and Chris Grevis-Jones for all their help, encouragement and contributions to the group over the year.

Margaret Kitchen

Special Interest Group reports

Botanical Weaving Reflections

Creative collaborations have been a theme over the past year - from creating displays for the Visitor Centre (VC) and the Elliot Centre, to decorating the VC with handmade woven works at Christmas time to add some sustainability-inspired botanical bling.

The Banksia Festival was another catalyst for collective creativity, with pop up displays featuring members' work, informal weaving demonstrations, and workshops held in collaboration with First Nations artist and cultural educator, Sammy Trist.

With a shared interest in ecology as well as creativity, last September we co-hosted, with Casey Council, introductory and advanced training sessions with respected Nature Journaling educator and ecologist, Dr Paula Peeters. Proceeds from this fundraising initiative were donated to the Cranbourne Friends.

Reflecting back over the past few years more broadly - it's been a wonderful journey of discovery. A trio of Garden Ambassadors first hosted a series of Indigenous facilitated weaving workshops, early in 2024, which proved popular and generated the interest that led to monthly 'weaving circles'. The aim was to create a welcoming environment to support further discussions and explorations in working with native plant fibres, and to provide informal opportunities for ongoing learning and practice.

Some of the group's members have been on this journey since the beginning, others have joined along the way. The sharing of skills and ideas, and the chance to connect with like-minded individuals has evolved into an inspiring little community of creatives. Thank you to all who have been a part of this - we have valued your presence and participation, and our collective experimentation.

Thank you to the current and former Friends' Committee members, for supporting a Special Interest Group dedicated to Botanical Weaving. Gratitude also goes to Mick Robertson and the Events sub-Committee for encouraging us to plan for those initial weaving workshops, which ultimately led on to the revival of a weaving group.

Recent changes to Botanical Weaving Coordination

Heralding a new chapter for the weaving group, Tess Holderness has stepped back from the coordination role (as well as Garden Ambassador and Tour Guiding duties at the gardens), following her relocation to far East Gippsland.

As part of these mid-year changes, the group warmly welcomed Paivi Salo, one of the more experienced members of the weaving circle, into the 'Interim Coordinator' role. Paivi will continue to guide the group through to the end of the year, while the search for a longer term replacement continues.

We are grateful to Paivi for putting her hand up to enable the continuation of the monthly gatherings. The morning and afternoon sessions have been merged into one extended gathering, with participants invited to contribute towards more of a 'shared responsibility' model. We wish Paivi all the best for the months ahead.

In-house activities - Working with She-Oak wood and fibres

A number of group members, including Paivi, have led some special skill sharing activities over the past year, highlighting different techniques or plant fibres. At our June session, Anneke Fortuyn guided participants in an activity featuring She-Oak branchlets and wood cuttings. She demonstrated a method of 'coiling and stitching' around a small wooden centrepiece. Anneke, originally from the Netherlands, has already created a beautiful collation of personal works and is enjoying experimenting more with Australian native plant fibres.

The wisdom in the room! The generosity of sharing ideas and resources, and the opportunity to learn from each other is one of the highlights of being involved with the weaving group.

Tess Holderness



Top: Paivi Salo
Left: Weaving group working at table, Right: Tess Holderness with the new Interim Coordinator of the Botanical Weaving Group, Paivi Salo. – Zac



Special Interest Group reports

Friends in Focus Report

The group had an eventful year, with lots of opportunities to develop our photography. Attendance fluctuated, with as many as seven members in two months and several months when only three members were present.

We were pleased to welcome two new members during the year.

Our meetings almost inevitably coincided with challenging weather, which ranged from unseasonal wet and wintry conditions in November to extreme heat in January when the Bushland was closed. When possible we concluded our meetings with refreshments in the cafe.

In July 2025 we acknowledged National Tree Day by photographing some of the iconic trees in the Garden, including the Wollemi Pine (*Wollemia nobilis*) and the bottle trees (*Brachychiton rupestris*). We also spent some time on the Eucalypt Walk.

In August we focused on Banksias in anticipation of the upcoming Banksia Festival, while in September, National Wattle Day had us photographing the many Acacia species in flower in the Gardens. Thanks to Amy for organising the October meeting, when I was unable to be present.

In April 2026, again in very challenging conditions, we attempted to develop a collection of images to record the festivities marking the 20th Anniversary of the Australia Garden.

We held two “Show and Tells” during the year, in November and May, when members exhibited examples of their recent work in various formats. Some members made additional visits to the Gardens during

Friends in Focus: Laurie Living, Prue Wright, Peter Williamson Aleena Venugopal – JVCooke



Botanic Gardens Week later in May, finding ways to illustrate the theme “Where our health grows”.

Wildlife sightings are always a bonus, particularly if they pose for photographs. These included a close encounter with a young Tiger Snake, several bandicoots and a variety of insects and bird species, including a rare sighting of Glossy Black Cockatoos.

Members attended and photographed other Friends events, including the Mt Hotham trip, Walk and Talk with Tex Moon, Fungi Workshop with Tom May, Open House talks, and Plant Sales. Members also entered images for the Friends' membership card and regularly contribute their photographs for Naturelink and Quicklink. One member assisted the Growing Friends by photographing some large plants in pots for publicity purposes. Some members regularly post images of their sightings to the iNaturalist database and on social media.

Our monthly newsletter, the *Cranbourne Lens*, continues to provide opportunities for members to share their photography and enjoy others' contributions. The 75th issue was published in June.

Judith Cooke

Doryanthes excelsa – JVCooke



Special Interest Group reports

Friends in the Garden (FIGs)

Friends in the Garden continue to assist the AG horticulture staff with those extra garden-enhancing needs under the direction of our horticulture supervisor, Mathieu Lascostes. Our Whatsapp group is used for reminders and for keeping the group informed of what will happen on each day we are in the Australian Garden.

Mathieu Lascostes prepares a variety of projects for us, explaining the reasoning and skills involved in each project, so that our sessions are interesting and informative. Mathieu is always appreciative of our efforts and the staff in general often comment positively on our achievements.

FIGs continues to attract new members with 6-10 attending on each day. In June 2026 we have 24 members with seven newcomers; we have lost only one member in this time.

In June 2026, Barrie Gallacher died. Barrie was one of the founding members of FIGs and rarely missed a FIGs day in the Australian Garden. Always attentive and ready to share his knowledge, he will be greatly missed by all in the group.

Members are always willing to take on, and share the extra work when needed. This year the group has a small sub-group planning and preparing a 2027 calendar, highlighting our endeavours. The calendar will be for FIGs members.

During the past 12 months:

We helped with the annual clearing of Syzygium hedge clippings and kangaroo paw prunings across the AG.

The Bloodwood Garden was raked and swept – a frequent activity, especially after a wind or rain event. The *Lomandra confertifolia* planted along the Bloodwood Garden swales in 2025 have grown and filled in the bare areas.

The Red Sand Garden needs constant attention. Our 2025-2026 *Acacia sulcata* planting behind the lunettes



Above: Red Sand Garden – FIGs members weeding 'pigface' at the edge of the Red Sand Garden – SDeLANEY

has been successful with very few plants lost over the summer.

The Ficus Fingers were raked and weeded and we learned of Mathieu's program for improving the health of the trees (Naturelink, summer 2025 article).

We helped Scott Levy in the Gondwana Garden with weeding and mulching.

In July Matthieu decided that the garden beds near the entrance to the car park could do with a spruce. Over two months, old shrubs were removed, the area weeded, compost and mulch laid and then the beds were replanted with *Orthrosanthus multiflorus* and the small shrub *Callistemon pearsonii*. The eastern-most carpark garden rejuvenation includes: removing the melaleuca shrubs and *Ficinia nodosa*; replacing the old soil and adding before fresh *Prostanthera nivea* shrubs and *Ficinia nodosa* were planted.

The group was visited by Matt Howard, a team Leader from Melbourne Gardens, who would like to copy our Cranbourne FIGs model at Melbourne.

In December, the group had an end-of-year outing to Heronswood with a guided tour of the garden. We then enjoyed a gourmet, shared picnic lunch and nursery tour at Seawinds.

I am so proud of this happy, friendly and hard-working group.

Christine Kenyon

Bottom Left: Carpark Callistemon planted and protected in the carpark entrance garden. – CKenyon

Below: 4 June 2026 Box Garden team, the enthusiastic FIGs team in the Box Garden. – BJones



Special Interest Group reports

Growing Friends report

Although each year may seem the same as each preceding one, this year was not quite one of them. The Banksia Festival sale, a half-price in-house plant sale, three ticket sales, a Bonsai workshop and the sale of mounded Elkhorns added something different to our usual sales.

Our sales year started with the August Banksia Festival for which hundreds of banksias were propagated and sold. Many of the Banksias were rather special and were sold in record time - sales totalled almost \$4,000.

Then a bumper Spring sale with what seemed a record number of customers eager to buy a record number of plants and very few left by Sunday afternoon. The following Autumn sale was not as busy, with fewer and smaller purchases. This left us with quite a few left-over plants and so we decided to hold a half-price plant-sale in the nursery over several days in May.

We bumped up our income by holding three ticket sales, the price for each one being a very large beautiful plant.

In response to a special request, we held a 'How to make a Bonsai' workshop. The workshop was held in the nursery – it, and the Bonsai, was a gift from one of our regular customers to their staff.



Mounding Elkhorns was a first for us. We took some to the plant-sales, still quite small. Now, months later, we think that it takes more than a year to have them come into their own thus a few more developed ones will be ready for the next sale.

Once again, the City of Casey organised the issue of vouchers for three free plants through their Gardens 4 Wildlife program and lent us a few of their willing volunteers to assist us at plant-sales in our G4W section. Once again, the Gardens' shop also issued us with 10% discount vouchers for our customers to redeem at the shop for the duration of the plant-sale.

Thus, with another busy year behind us, I am pleased to report that once again, we had a record income – this time over \$107,000. We must have sold a record number of plants. Such records never cease to amaze me.

It is always good to know, and is a vote of confidence, that as well as thousands of our plants being sought after and ending up in customers' gardens, more and more ended up in both the Cranbourne and Melbourne Gardens as well as a few landscapers' projects.

Finally – a big 'thank you' to the Growing Friends volunteers, customers, committee members and the, forever helpful, Cranbourne Gardens staff.

Marjanne Rook

Left: Plants waiting for voracious enthusiasts to be ushered into the sale. Top and Below: Crowds during the sale, many took advantage of the seating, with customers bagging goodies everywhere.



Special Interest Group reports

Herbarium Collectors

Most of the year has been spent once again on cataloguing the collection. That is: filing each sample under its field note number. The 300's, now completed, fill three large bins. They were collected in 2005, a very productive year, one when we had two separate groups out in the field.

It's slow work and often includes correcting less efficient preservation methods and less detailed recording used in our earlier days.

Very little field work this year, due to the drought conditions and hungry Wallabies. However, a wired-off section protecting *Eriochilus cucullatus* (Parson's Bands) is producing a good number of this lovely orchid. Although we have collected it previously its numbers have been scarce.

Finally, we learned of an exciting discovery by Trisha Stewart, Team Leader Natural Systems, out in the Grass Lands, of *Dianella amoena* Matted Flax-Lily, not found on site before. We will collect a sample next Summer when it's in flower.

Nola Foster

Nola, Lyn, Sue and Catherine (from back) cataloguing native plant specimens – Larry Hills



Savvy Stitchers

Savvy Stitchers have completed another pleasant and productive year. We enjoy our monthly meetings, as we discuss projects, select fabrics and celebrate birthdays. In October 2025 we held a stall in conjunction with the Growing Friends spring plant sale. We were pleased to take \$1957 in sales.



Bandicoots made for the 20th birthday – Bev Williamson



November saw us being inspired by the yearly craft sale in the old Tooradin Hall, directly followed by a debriefing and end of year lunch in the Tides restaurant.



Some Gardens staff wondered if they could do some pre-Christmas shopping, as they are occupied elsewhere on plant sale days. Accordingly, they joined us in the Elliot Centre and chose

items to the value of \$1033. If they choose to, we will repeat the experience in December 2027.

This year started with our March stall once again alongside the plant sale. A busy two days resulted in \$2000 in sales.

In April the Australian Garden celebrated its twentieth birthday, highlighting bandicoots – and Bev worked out a pattern we used to sew toy bandicoots. It was a wild weather weekend and so we were very relieved to be able to set up in the Visitors Centre instead of the planned marquee. Despite low visitor numbers our sales amounted to \$616. It's always interesting to see what customers choose. Napery, aprons, bags and cushions are always popular.

Our next stall in October will display some items sewn for Christmas.

It pleased us to contribute \$5606 to the Gardens' funds, and have fun at the same time.

Bev Williamson and Jenny Rollason

L to R: Standing; Betty, Bev, Jenny, Cathy. Seated; Joy, Marion





Profile – Marion King

A life-long curiosity and love of new challenges made Marion answer the call to arms and to join the Friends Committee of Management.

It came after a long and rewarding career as a Librarian Manager, first at Homes Glen TAFE, followed by six years at the helm of at the Victorian Parliamentary Library, in Parliament House, Spring Street, where Marion's terrific team met the research needs of Members of Parliament, parliamentary committees and the staff supporting them. This truly dynamic environment was an exciting place to work; she loved gaining insights into the functioning of government. And Marion was happy to meet the expectation that, when Parliament was sitting, she and her staff would work long hours, often 9am to 12 midnight when instant feedback was required.

Marion says "Learning new things always excites me" so, drawn to the creative, artistic world since childhood, she relished having the time to pursue a number of different areas of interest in retirement. Having attended a Growing Friends sale and being inspired by the beauty of the plants added to her garden, Marion joined the Friends, and then the Botanical Illustrators. Developing her ability to depict the intricacy of delicate native plants is now a huge pleasure. She's also joined the FiGs, enjoying the hard work and getting to know at close quarters the plants in the Australian Garden. Photography,

once a passion, was taken up again and, a lover of classical music, Marion learned to play the recorder. She's always been a keen dancer, regularly attending the ballet – but Marion might be the only CoM member to also learn the graceful art of Chinese fan dancing! A different gateway into a new culture... which is opened for others when the group performs to appreciative audiences at nursing homes. And of course, because reading is central to her life and takes her into another "different world," she belongs to a book group.

Her partner is French, so not surprisingly, speaking that beautiful language is now part of everyday life for Marion. And they love travelling to and exploring Japan; they have visited all three main islands – Honshu, Shikoku

and Kyushu. Another bonus of the relationship is the great variety of organic fruit and vegetables that is produced for their table, the result of his career as an organic vegetable grower. And their large property provides plenty of space for Marion to continue exploring her interest in native plants.

Also a keen cook, Marion shares with Paul Skierakowski a devotion to two culinary activities: she makes both the family yoghurt and bread.

The CoM warmly welcomed another talented member.

Helen Kennedy



The Long History of Botanic Illustration

People have been illustrating plants for almost as long as they have been creating art; however, the first recorded use of art to illustrate and identify plants was by Pliny the Elder who was working, studying and recording plants early in the First Century AD. He credits an earlier doctor, Krateuas, as the first botanic illustrator. Indeed, physicians and herbalists were the original botanic illustrators as they needed to identify and remember the plants that had medicinal as well as toxic effects.

The oldest surviving manuscript that includes botanic illustration is the Codex Vindobonensis 93 from the Fifth Century. It contains some works by ancient medical writers like Dioscorides, Antonius Musa and Apuleius within the 'De Materia Medica'. Its botanical drawings are reported to have been the standard for nearly 1000 years. Older herbals, books with illustrations and notes by physicians of the time, are listed in the records. Unfortunately, only copies survive.

As photography developed, the need for the skills of the botanic illustrator began to wane. A photograph is able to record an image of a plant - but it is only a snapshot in time. The skill and patience of the botanic illustrator is able to produce a scientific image that covers the entire life cycle of a plant on a single page, highlighting diagnostic features and exploring microscopic details as needed. This illustrative skill is still highly prized in some areas with VicFlora, the website of the floral database of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Victoria, including line drawings in some of its descriptions.

The Royal Botanic Gardens of Victoria

The Royal Botanic Gardens Herbarium library holds books from the 16th Century with both black and white and hand-coloured illustrations used to record



Acacia leprosa and Anthochaera chrysoptera – Kerry Robinson

and identify flora. When printing was relatively new the books produced were expensive so the number of individual copies made was small. Images were often wood cuts or etchings, just black and white. Sometimes the pictures were hand painted to produce coloured images, as this aided in the identification of the species depicted.

The Herbarium also holds a number of original artworks of indigenous species in its archives. Some of these works go hand in hand with delicate, preserved indigenous plant specimens held in the Herbarium.

Botanic Art or Botanic Illustration?

Botanic Art is any type of artistic, accurate representation of plants. Although usually accurate, it is focused on being aesthetically pleasing. Botanic Illustration, on the other hand, is defined as the scientifically accurate representation of a plant demonstrating the diagnostic features to scale so that a



Left: *Banksia integrifolia*, graphite by Kerry Robinson

Right: *Dioscorides' De Materia Medica*



plant can be identified from the image. It supports and enhances the textual description of the species.

The Cranbourne Botanic Gardens

In her book, *Of Friends & Gardens*, Carolyn Landon gives a description of the formation of the Friends Special Interest Group, the Botanical Illustrators. She comments that the need for botanic illustrators at the Cranbourne Gardens was identified as early as 1993, but with nowhere suitable to meet on site, a group began in the home of John Armstrong. In 2002, the Armstrong group presented a series of nine paintings to the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. This series of artworks formed the beginnings of a collection that became known as The Cranbourne Collection, which was to be stored at the Melbourne Herbarium until Cranbourne could house and support its own Herbarium and records. Although not part of the Cranbourne Gardens, the Armstrong art group continued to meet off-site.

The Friends special interest group, the Botanical Illustrators, officially met on site for the first time in February 2006. It was formed by a group of enthusiastic botanic artists to help fill an identified need in the Cranbourne Friends for Botanic Illustration.

The small band of artists met twice a month with an aim to encourage and educate members about botanic illustration in a supportive, positive environment.



Acacia suaveolens, watercolour by Jenny Rollason in the Cranbourne Collection



Botanic illustration of Acacia sp by artist Marg Holloway

Over the years the location of the meetings changed as better and more suitable accommodation was identified and became available. Exhibitions of the Friends' work were mounted at the Gardens and workshops and presentations from experienced well-known artists continued to develop the artists' skillsets and interests.

In Recent Times

Members of the now Botanical Illustrators Special Group continue to meet twice a month, supporting each other in their botanic illustration journey with a friendly camaraderie. Some of their work still contributes to the Cranbourne Collection. Already noted as an important link to the Cranbourne Herbarium by the founding Gardens directors, the climate changes due to global warming will likely increase the significance of the Botanical Illustrators group. The diversity and components of the remnant indigenous plant species in the Cranbourne Conservation Area are likely to evolve as the environmental conditions change into the future, leaving only their pictorial record.

During the year, the Botanic Illustrators group holds exhibitions and provides workshops in a variety of media and at diverse levels of experience, encouraging its member artists to improve their skills and expand their interests.

The next exhibition is planned for 2027 at the Australian Native Plants Society FJC Rogers Seminar to be held in Gippsland.

Each year, a number of original artworks produced by the special interest group members are reproduced on cards which are sold to raise funds that support the work of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, including at the 20th anniversary celebrations. The works reproduced here represent artworks produced by current Botanic Illustrators using a variety of mediums.

Kerry Robinson

Tess Holderness – the Random Weaver

Tess took over the Friends Special Interest Group called the Basket Makers in early 2024, after it had been in abeyance for some time. A move to a new home located far from the Gardens has now meant that she's had to relinquish her role, having brought the group back to vibrant life in a new iteration known as the Botanical Weavers.

With two other Garden Ambassadors, Tess initially planned a trial series of Indigenous Weaving Workshops; these were a great success and to her delight Tess quickly discovered a lot of 'wisdom in the room' as past members rejoined the group.

Things grew apace from there. Tess invited weavers of many differing talents to meetings, greatly expanding the knowledge base, and took the group on visits to the Basket Weavers of Victoria. Always open to new ideas, Tess also ran two highly successful Nature Journaling workshops; she also organised both a weaving workshop and display as part of the Friends Banksia Festival.

A warm and quietly welcoming figure, Tess often sat outside with newcomers to the group, leading them through random weaving techniques with lomandra leaves they'd gathered in the Depot area, gently encouraging and sharing her knowledge.

We extend our sincere thanks and best wishes to Tess. Her dedication, commitment and valued contributions to the Friends have been greatly appreciated, and we will miss her. Meticulous to the last, Tess left everything in good order as she oversaw the Weavers' transition to their next stage.

Helen Kennedy

*Top: Annekes Pine and Plam basket – Tess;
Centre: Tess RBGV Cranbourne Tour – MB;
Below: Work in progress – Zac*



Thank You Marjanne Rook

As many members will be aware, Marjanne Rook decided this year to stand down as the Coordinator of the Growing Friends. Over the years, she has been a stalwart of the Cranbourne Friends and undertaken various roles as they were needed.

Marjanne first became involved with the Gardens as a member of the Growing Friends in 2006. Over the years, she volunteered on the Friends Committee until 2017, and then the Activities Committee (later renamed as the Events Sub-Committee) until 2020. Filling much-needed gaps, Marjanne undertook the demanding role of Activities Booking Officer during 2016-2017, and volunteered to run Bookfest in 2016 - involving many hours of extra work. More recently, she reorganised the library layout in the Elliot Centre (with the help of her husband, Alf Reina) and refreshed some of the furniture.

But without a doubt, her greatest input has been with the Growing Friends. This group of volunteers has grown and prospered under her superb organisation and leadership, with 20+ members now attending the Growing Friends nursery, every Thursday.

The Growing Friends nursery we know and enjoy visiting today is in its third iteration. The first, in 1993, was a basic and humble site, based in the Australian Garden car park. The second site was built in 1996 inside the Depot fence - still small, but adequate. This second site was always a temporary solution, but it worked for nearly fifteen years. In 2008, Marjanne was asked to be a Joint Coordinator of the Growing Friends (with Don Dower) and began using her administrative skills to secure the future success of the group.

In 2011, the volunteers were asked to make way for the construction of an Administration Building that was needed to accommodate the steady increase in staff, due to the ongoing development of the Australian Garden. For two years, the Growing Friends waited patiently for a new location, and were invited to share some space in the Gardens nursery - with no idea where they would end up.

Eventually, it was decided that the third Growing Friends nursery would be established in a former staff car park area within the Depot. It had been used as a plant quarantine area during the construction of the Australian Garden. Alex Smart project-managed the design and the installation of the new propagating shed (now called Alex's Shed) and the possum-proof outdoor area. Marjanne checked every detail of the new plans and oversaw the detailed design of the interior and exterior layout. Every bench, fridge, library shelf, plant label storage rack and office space. She found good second-hand equipment and tables on the internet and elsewhere, saving precious dollars and making sure the Growing Friends would have a practical and comfortable work area - and of course, a place for morning tea and lunch. Countless hours of work and ingenuity by both Alex and Marjanne reaped huge rewards. And all paid for by the Cranbourne Friends, due to the success of previous plant sales. By 2014, the new nursery was ready for occupation. Compared to all previous iterations it was a palace, and ready to expand its existing and enthusiastic group.

On 1 February 2015, the new Growing Friends Nursery and the Elliot Centre were both officially opened by the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency Alex Chernov AC QC. A special event

marking 24 years of the Friend's existence. After the move into the new accommodation, efficiency and plant production escalated. The proceeds from the plant sales set new records and the reputation of the Friends nursery gained significant momentum. The Growing Friends were even borrowing space from the Garden's nursery to accommodate an increasing number of plants. In addition to her involvement selling hundreds of plants during the ongoing Plant Sales, the Kangaroo Paw Celebration in 2016, and the Banksia Festival in 2025, Marjanne always found time to bake her famous shortbread for the Friends.

Not surprisingly, Marjanne's commitment did not go unnoticed. On 27 November 2016, at the Annual General Meeting, she was awarded an Honorary Life Membership for her valuable contribution to the Cranbourne Friends. And again, in June 2020, she was recognised by the City of Casey as their World Environment Day 2020 Volunteer for her then 12 years as the coordinator of the Growing Friends.

In May 2023, the work of the Growing Friends as a whole was recognised at the 30th anniversary of the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens. They won the prestigious Hanbury Award for their "exceptional contributions to the education, advocacy, and financial benefit of the Cranbourne Gardens."

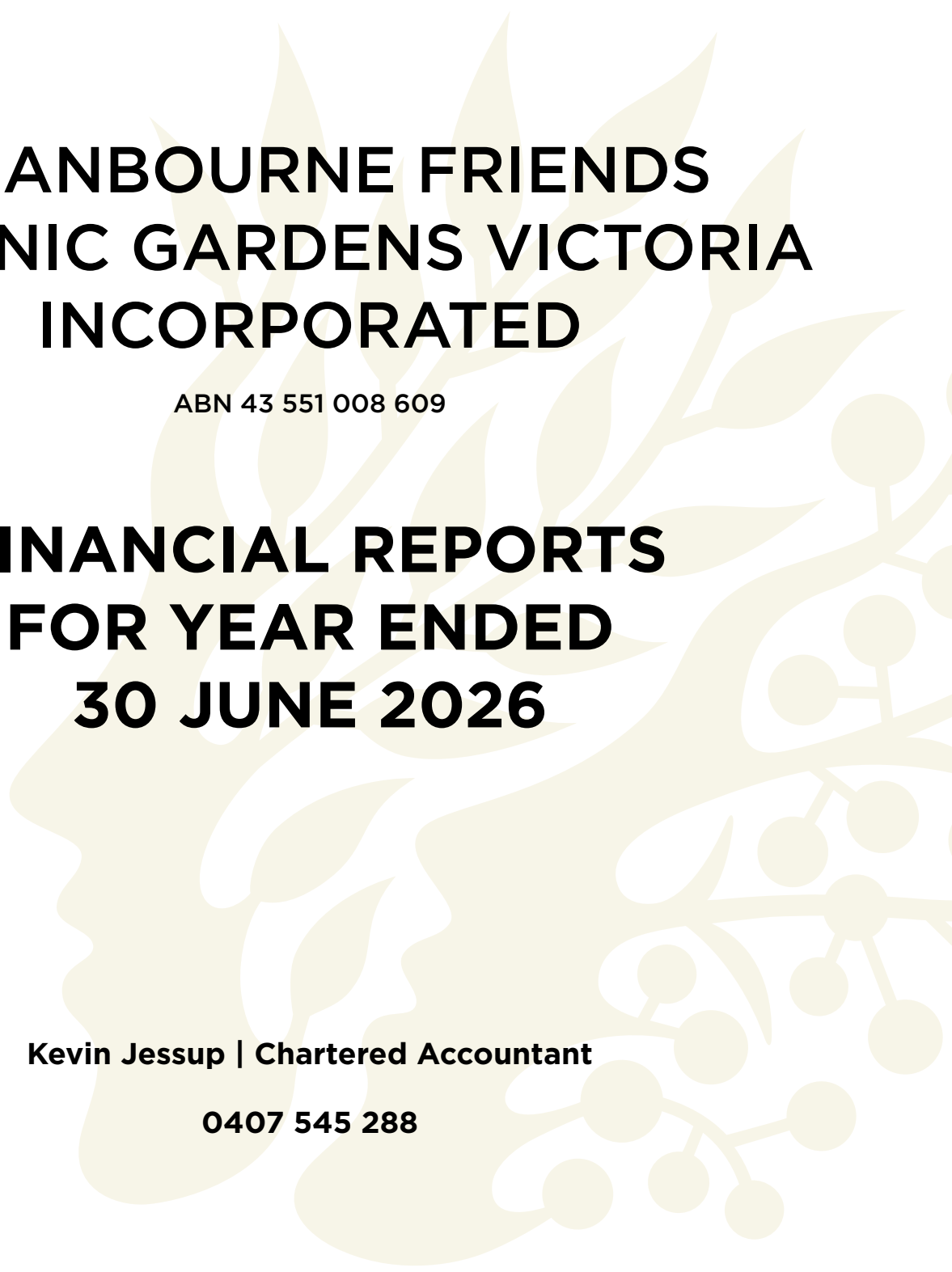
What most people never saw was the time taken by Marjanne responding to emails, organising the purchase of additional plant stock and materials, doing extra watering when needed, managing the GF finances, and preparing for the plant sales. She liaised with the RBGV Education Staff for the propagation of colourful tube stock for school groups, coordinated the production of plants for landscape architects, and supplied indigenous plants to the City of Casey. She became one of Victoria's 'go to' people if you were looking for cutting-edge, new species or native plants that were difficult to source.

As stated by one of the RBGV staff: "You do a wonderful job running that nursery, not just a plant production nursery, but a place where people can come, connect, share, learn and grow." (Ollie Sherlock, RBGV Natural Systems Officer, 2020). Marjanne has been a powerhouse for the Cranbourne Friends and her legacy is truly appreciated. We are fortunate that Marjanne will continue to bring her hard work, knowledge, and experience to the Growing Friends team and, undoubtedly, to whatever other roles and tasks arise within the Cranbourne Friends.

Prepared by Jill Burness, with input from: Rodger Elliot, Helen Kennedy and Rosemary Miller.



Marjanne receiving her Honorary Life Membership in November 2016 – Judith Cooke



CRANBOURNE FRIENDS BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA INCORPORATED

ABN 43 551 008 609

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

Kevin Jessup | Chartered Accountant

0407 545 288

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Profit and Loss

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	2025	2026
Income		
Membership Subscriptions	20,659.00	22,072.70
Sales of Plants by Growing Friends	91,195.48	107,239.20
Events Net Receipts	8,725.82	40,879.10
Sales Other	2,283.00	814.54
Special Interest Groups Revenue	7,277.59	12,697.82
Proceeds from Raffle	–	3,336.01
Donations	188.40	40.00
Interest Received	8,087.76	4,013.38
Total Income	138,417.05	191,092.75
Expenses		
Administration & Newsletter Expenses (Note 1)	15,222.39	18,930.23
Depreciation	1,229.00	1,283.00
Donations	700.00	–
Donations to Royal Botanic Gardens	50,000.00	130,000.00
Events Expenses	1740.05	12,275.07
Purchases & Supplies – Growing Friends	13,423.67	9,990.92
Special Interest Groups Expenses	2,686.18	3,375.89
Total Expenses	85,001.29	175,855.11
Net Income/(Loss)	53,415.76	15,237.64
Changes in Equity		
Balance at 1 July 2025	243,236.23	296,651.99
Current Earnings – 2026	53,415.76	15,237.64
Balance at 30 June 2026	296,651.99	311,889.63

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Notes to the Accounts

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	2025	2026
Note 1: Administration & Newsletter Expenses		
Accounting & Licence Fees	840.00	879.54
Audit Fee	748.00	748.00
Catering Costs – Open House & Other	–	95.45
Filing & Statutory Fees	49.00	–
General Expenses	1,581.89	2,312.08
Gifts and Tributes	200.00	34.88
Insurances	600.44	559.50
Membership – Printing, Stationery & Postage	3,313.00	1,594.70
Merchant Fees – Tidy HQ, Stripe etc	3,470.37	3,586.29
<i>Naturelink</i> – Printing & Postage	2,707.81	6,485.52
Subscriptions	911.29	1,582.65
Telephone & Internet	600.00	704.55
Website & Domain Name	200.59	347.07
Total Income	15,222.39	18,930.23

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Balance Sheet

For the Year Ended 30 June 2026

	2025	2026	2026
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank			
National Bank – Current Accounts	173,756.37	125,786.33	
National Bank – Term Deposit #1	140,000.00	143,982.46	
National Bank – Term Deposit #3	–	50,000.00	
National Bank – Savings Account	10,437.14	10,522.15	
	324,193.51		330,290.94
Cash on Hand	120.00		98.00
Sundry Debtors	610.50		690.00
Total Current Assets	324,924.01		331,078.94
Fixed Assets			
Plant & Equipment	21,563.06	24,228.06	
Accumulated Depreciation	(14,487.09)	(15,770.09)	
	7,075.97		8,457.97
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	331,999.98		339,536.91
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	–	2,170.00	
GST Payable	–	1,507.58	
National Tours Holding Account	35,347.99	23,969.70	
Total Liabilities	35,347.99		27,647.28
NET ASSETS	298,651.99		311,889.63
Represented by:			
Equity			
Retained Earnings – brought forward	243,236.23		296,651.99
Current Earnings – 2026	53,415.76		15,237.64
TOTAL EQUITY	296,651.99		311,889.63

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 2026.

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 2026 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

14th July 2026

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Certificate by Members of the Committee

We, Clare Holland 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 2026.

Clare Holland

CLARE HOLLAND

Wendy Herauville

WENDY HERAUVILLE

14 July 2026

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 2026 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:

Clare Holland

CLARE HOLLAND

Wendy Herauville

WENDY HERAUVILLE

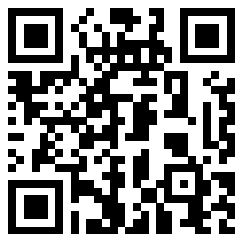
14 July 2026

Dated

Seeking New Members

"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."

Photo: Janette Wilson | Design: Janette Wilson-Design



Contact:

The President
president@rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au

The Secretary
secretary@rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au

The Membership Secretary
membership@rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au

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



www.facebook.com/rbgfriendscanbourne



www.instagram.com/friendsrbgcranbourne