

Jubaea

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc. Newsletter

October 2023 Volume 23 Issue 3



FRIENDS OF
GEELONG
BOTANIC
GARDENS



Springtime in the 21st Century Garden

STEPHEN RYAN, OUR NEW PATRON

I thought as the new kid on the block that some of you might like to know a bit more about the person you have asked to be patron of the “Friends”, but before I do I feel the need to thank the group for the honour of being the titular head!

I also found it quite amusing when I told a close friend that this had happened and he said “Oh you have got to that age then!” It might well seem that I have, as a couple of years ago I was also installed as the patron of the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria.

So, who am I and what is my background in horticulture? One could almost say I was born to horticulture or at least took it in by osmosis living as I do at Mt. Macedon, a true Mecca for all plant lovers. My father started a plant nursery when I was 10 and I was in up to my neck immediately, serving customers, potting, weeding and propagating. As soon as I could I studied horticulture to obtain some papers and legitimacy and have

spent the rest of my life from 1980 running my own specialist nursery, *Dicksonia Rare Plants*.

I joined the Mt. Macedon Horticultural Society as a ten-year-old and by the age of nineteen was president and still am!

My media career started as at eighteen when I started a weekly column for a local newspaper which morphed into writing for several journals including that of the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria. Things didn't stop there however, as my dad being the perpetual entrepreneur got us a gig doing a gardening TV program with BTV 6 in Ballarat called “*I've got Gardenitis*” which was syndicated and lasted for about two years.

I have also written three books of my own as well as doing entries for two huge tomes, *Botanica* and *Flora*.

The lecture circuit also became a major part of what I did and there can't be many horticultural societies and garden clubs that I haven't spoken to in the state. I've even spoken interstate and in the Pacific Northwest in America where I did four talks.



Patron
Stephen Ryan

Radio beckoned and for quite some time I did Thursday afternoon with Derrick Guille which came about due to my long involvement with 3CR community radio that has now spanned over thirty years. I now do Saturday mornings on ABC Melbourne with Mat Preston every second week. I also followed Peter Cundall as host of Gardening Australia for three years.



Tugurium Garden

My mother once said "if you want something done then ask a busy person to do it" and I live by that. So apart from all of the above, my partner Craig and I also lead garden tours for Australians Studying Abroad and next year will travel to Madeira and the Azores and in 2025 to Normandy and Brittany.

Well, I hope this has given you all an insight into my background and may I do the "Friends" proud during my tenure as patron.

Stephen Ryan

PEGGY MUNTZ

Peggy took up residence in Jan Juc with her son's family (Richard, Sue and 3 daughters) overlooking Torquay and the Surf Coast in 2018. She immediately joined the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens and volunteered in the Friends Nursery weekly. She also undertook a 12 week course to become a Volunteer Guide.

At the same time she began to design the new garden at their home, Ironbark House with the help of Peter Shaw, *Ocean Grove Landscaping*. In 2022 she opened the garden to the Friends of GBG with proceeds to the Friends. Again, in 2023, Ironbark House was opened for Open Gardens Victoria with guided tours and food stalls. The Friends provided volunteer support for the weekend and Peggy donated her share of the income to the Friends.

Peggy joined the Friends committee of management where her talents and generosity were welcomed. She encouraged the committee to hold a regular High Tea and guided walk to welcome new Members. As part of the Events committee Peggy was a willing cook and hostess on various occasions, often driving home after dark!

During Covid lockdown, the Committee came up with the idea for a lecture series, via Zoom. Peggy chose to talk on Joseph Banks. A riveting, and comprehensive history taken from his

early formative years to the highly respected Botanist, who travelled to Australia with Captain Cook.

Before Ashley Filipovski (Curator), left his position at the GBG for the Botanic Gardens at Mount Tomah in the Blue Mountains, she joined him and the TV presenter, Livinia Nixon (Postcards), to promote our Botanic Gardens. Livinia Nixon has returned on numerous occasions with her family to enjoy the gardens.

Peggy's main passion is Conifers especially the *Sequoiadendron giganteum* - Giant Redwood, which celebrated its 150 years in August and is still growing in the 20th Century.

All the Friends will miss this vibrant, industrious friend and volunteer as she begins a new adventure in her unit overlooking the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. This is not Farewell but "à bienôt" - see you again soon, Peggy.

Beverley Stringer



Peggy Muntz and Gwen Anderson

The Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens

REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-23

Our Mission

The Friends support and promote the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park through:

- Volunteers who assist in maintaining the plantings in the Gardens
- Guides who support and inform visitors to the Gardens
- A nursery for propagation of plants and for revenue raising with sales to the public
- The Botanic Art School
- Library
- The Jubaea newsletter sent quarterly to all Friends and other interested persons
- An annual program of events, encouraging visitors to come to the Garden.
- The Gift Fund which provides financial support for projects and programs initiated by the Geelong Botanic Gardens.
- Subscriptions, volunteering activities, events, and the Friends' nursery, which provide major sources of funds for the Friends and therefore for the Gardens. These funds have more flexibility than the Gift Fund.

Volunteers in the Geelong Botanic Gardens

Listed below is the approximate number of volunteer hours @ \$46.62 per hour in this financial year. (This does not include all volunteering, only that which was done in the Geelong Botanic Gardens).

• Weeders 408 hours	\$19,020
• Perennial border 822 hours	\$42,797
• Rose Growers 660 hours`	\$30,769
• Guides and tours 347hours	\$16,177
Total hours, 2,237 hours	Total value \$108,763

*Based on November 2020 to November 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures, volunteers are worth **\$46.62 per hour**. This is based on the cost of replacing volunteers with paid garden staff only and does not include the cost of administration.*

These are the figures an organisation can include in project budgeting and grant applications.

Challenges this Financial Year

- The Friends now have two licences with the City of Greater Geelong: one for the building and another for the Nursery which are renewed annually. The content of these was significantly different this year. It took several months of negotiations to finalise these licences and to reach an agreement that the Friends felt able to sign. The agreement will provide a working document for commencing future licence negotiations.
- Ensuring that all aspects of the Friends governance meet the highest standards, enabling us to maintain our independence and autonomy.
- Liaising effectively with the changing landscape of the City of Geelong restructure.
- Maintaining volunteer enthusiasm for all FGBG programs while dealing with change.
- Providing a continuing income for the Friends by focusing on catering and hosting horticultural groups as another source of revenue, particularly important with uncertainty around the continuation of the propagation and sale of plants.
- Compromising and negotiating on issues which do not significantly affect the day-to-day operation of the Friends.

Friends' Plant Nursery

Joint Coordinators: Liz Bennetto and Judy Fyfe

The Growers have had a busy and eventful year. The year began with the Geelong Botanic Gardens then Coordinator, Ashley Filipovski's plan to review the Friends' Nursery and to create a master plan for its development. All volunteer groups participated in brainstorming, planning ideas for the Nursery, and a planning group was convened to address their suggestions. Three main areas were identified as needing improvement:

- Working facilities for Growers
- Making the nursery attractive for customers
- Finding new methods for marketing and sales.

The planning group met regularly under Ashley's guidance and their recommendations were collated to form a Master Plan for the Friends' Nursery. After Ashley's unexpected departure, planning was steered by Renee and Tristan.

The year 2023 has brought many changes:

- The Nursery Coordinator, Leanne Barnes resigned in December 2022 and Liz Bennetto and Judy Fyfe stepped up as joint interim Coordinators of the Nursery. There was much discussion before the role was formally defined. The Growers' team members agreed to help by taking on new responsibilities.
- Kellee Reissinger was appointed the Geelong Botanic Gardens Coordinator and is developing new collection management policies which will lead to changes to plant collections in the Gardens and to the redevelopment of the whole space to enable accreditation of the Geelong Botanic Garden nursery. This will mean changes to stock offered by the Friends' Nursery.
- There have been new regulations about routines and processes, new work areas, changes to pot sizes and propagation methods and to the species offered for sale. Problems with propagation facilities have been discouraging for our propagators. Mixed messages about working conditions and permitted activities have sometimes made life difficult in the Nursery.
- Recent problems with a large *Brachychiton populneus* in the Nursery have made movement between working areas difficult for volunteers.

Nursery coordinators have remained positive and are encouraged to work together to overcome difficulties. The Growers have been very supportive of each other and have tolerated changing conditions and directions.

Wednesday morning meetings provide the opportunity for valuable discussion. We appreciate Growers' willingness to share in decision making and responsibilities; a great team effort has been needed and has made our work much more rewarding.

On the positive side, weekly sales have consistently risen, with sales up to \$500 recorded, though the cold winter has deterred some customers recently. Friends' Nursery has had several successful Saturday sales during the year, and we are planning a series of Spring Sales to coincide with the Geelong Nature Festival and the GBG Open Day.

A trolley of plants is prepared for the Guides' Discovery Table each month, resulting in some sales.

We now have a system for recording plants sold. This enables us to decide on what are the popular plants and to complete reports for the Geelong Botanic Gardens Coordinator. We also record where customers live and how they hear about the nursery. This will assist with marketing. Growers look forward to continuing to work together to promote Geelong Botanic Garden plants, to raise funds for the Friends and to enjoy volunteering at the Friends' Nursery.

Geelong School of Botanical Art

Coordinator: Pammi Pryor

Late last year we produced the first Geelong Botanic Gardens School of Botanic Art Diary. This proved to be a worthy endeavour as it was both admired and a financial success.

Each term 20 classes are held. We continue to have 4 tutors. The reputation of the school brings students from as far as Swan Hill, Melbourne and Melton for classes.

Our Biennial Exhibition, *Inspired by Nature 8*, will be held at the Waterfront Gallery, Alfred Deakin Ministerial Library, Deakin University Waterfront Campus, Saturday 4 November to Saturday 9 December 2023. The exhibition will feature stunning botanical art works by both tutors and students of the Geelong School of Botanical Art. All works will be for sale.

Weeding Group

Coordinator: Peter Jablonsky

The weeders have been kept busy every week working at all sites in the gardens. There are always weeds proliferating everywhere and it has been a challenge to keep on top of it. Due to the amazing commitment and hard work of the team we rise to the challenge every week!!

We have welcomed some new members and now have eight enthusiastic, members dedicated to the removal of all weeds. The team share wonderful humour, happiness and recipes each week.

We are always searching for the perfect lemon tart recipe, so would welcome new members with expertise in this area (please share the perfect tart recipe with the Catering Group when you find it).

Perennial Border

Team Leader: Jan Cheyne

Our team of ten volunteers continue to nurture the Perennial Border through the seasons. It will soon be coming into its new spring growth. We continue to tinker with colour and texture, so that there is always something new and interesting to see. This year we plan to extend into the north which is very shady and therefore challenging, so researching plants that will survive in that environment is taking time.

The Gardens staff are very supportive of this venture, and are nurturing plants for us in their nursery, and in time, when we have more stock, will clear the area for us. We're very excited!

Heritage Rose Growers

Team Leader: Margaret Ward

With great attention and care, this dedicated group again looked after the Heritage Rose Collection. The challenge this year has been adjusting to the Occupational Health and Safety requirements which are to ensure the wellbeing of the team. No longer are stools from home, or battery-operated secateurs allowed. Instead, the GBG horticulture staff now undertake the more challenging tasks.

Rosslyn Jablonski has written an excellent booklet, ***The Heritage Rose Collection in the Geelong Botanic Gardens***. The booklet is a collaboration with long standing members of the Rose Growers and discusses rose care using the combined knowledge they have gathered over approximately 25 years, the booklet features photos of each rose in the Gardens with descriptions and explanatory notes of the care needed for each dedicated species. This will be of great benefit to the next generation of Heritage Rose Volunteers. The FGBG calendar for 2024 will feature roses from the Heritage Collection.

On Monday 6 November the Friends are holding a Rose Lovers Day at the GBG. The booklet will be launched at this event.

Guides

Coordinator: Gwen Anderson

Over the past 12 months we have seen plenty of activities for the guides.

- We have enjoyed a professional development session every 2 months.
- We all have Working with Children Checks
- We have had 3 more guides update their First Aid Training
- We have been involved in the winter series of lectures.

Despite low attendances for our walks, we contributed 788 hours volunteering in some way towards the Gardens.

- We have spent 347 hours 29 minutes guiding visitors in the Gardens
- We have raised \$1024.40 for the Friends through donations and booked walks.
- We have taken 1027 visitors on tours through the Gardens
- We have spoken to 227 people who have visited the Discovery Table.

We have been patiently waiting for the Tea House to reopen as we believe not having this facility has impacted on the numbers of visitors to the gardens.

We need new guides to boost the number of walks offered and hope our advertising for volunteers has some impact.

Library

Team Leader: Luanne Thornton

- Library volunteers have been going through the archive cupboard and disposing of lots of unneeded material from years gone by. It is careful work as there are important items that need to be kept for various reasons. These items have been added to the Friends Library archive.
- The Friends History timeline continues to be kept up to date. A list of headings has been developed by Dale Gordon which will help with the organization of the material. It is the main project at the moment. It highlights nearly 40 years of Friends' contribution to the Geelong Botanic Gardens, telling a story that includes a snapshot of the activities undertaken as part of our interaction with the Gardens. Most of the information has now been collected and we are at the editing stage. Already it covers approximately 50 pages.

Each year Friends and the public donate horticulture books to the library. Those in poor condition or which are already held in the Library are sold to raise money for the Friends.

The catalogue is kept up to date with new purchases and donations as they are received. The library is used by the Guides to research presentations, tours, and to highlight a *plant of the month* each month. It is also used by the School of Botanic Art and the Growers as a resource for their programs. There are 3 volunteers currently in our little team. Library volunteers do a range of tasks pertaining to the libraries and the Friends' history.

Meralyn Roberts, who was the previous librarian and has volunteered for over 20 years has stepped back due to ill health, but her contribution has been impressive, from her photo and newspaper cutting books and collections, to set up the library catalogue and the embroidering a picture of the 21st Century Garden now displayed on the wall near the library.

Events, Fund Raising and Catering

Coordinator: Allison Martland

The Events Program for 2022/23 was once again diverse, catering for a range of interests and budgets, with most events open to the public and members. This program is an important part of the fundraising that is necessary for not-for profit, fully self-funded organisations such as Friends. The program also fulfills several of the Friends' purposes, as listed in the Statement of Purposes in our Rules of Incorporation:

- to encourage the community to support and appreciate Geelong Botanic Gardens
- to provide for information, education, interpretation, public programs, and activities
- to promote and increase membership and conduct activities for the benefit of members
- to carry out appropriate activities that raise funds for the Association, the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park

Although annual financial contributions to Geelong Botanic Gardens projects are funded mainly from public donations to the Gift Fund, the Friends do support some Geelong Botanic Gardens projects from their own funds, including from funds raised from events. Many thanks to our dedicated Events Team, including the very talented Catering Team, for all the planning and hard work it takes to consistently offer an engaging program of such a high standard.

This financial year Friends general funds provided:

- \$3000 to fund GBG staff to attend professional development at the International Congress of Botanic Gardens in Melbourne
- Catering morning tea for the Alexandra Club.
- The 2022 AGM guest speaker Tracey Carter from Geelong Tourism
- The On-line Winter Lectures series, featuring ten guest speakers. This attracted 40 members and guests, helping people to remain connected and learning over the cold winter months.
- Our popular annual Cooking Demonstration and Lunch featuring fresh winter produce
- Coach Tours and Self-drive Tours taking members and guests to a local Succulents Garden and Nursery; to the Historic Geelong Paper Mill tour; to magnificent gardens and nurseries in the Yarra Valley; a train trip to Melbourne University Systems Garden and a tour of the hidden gardens at Parliament House
- Garden Openings for the Friends included: a wonderful coastal garden as part of the Open Gardens Victoria Scheme, hosted by the Friends; four amazing gardens in the Leopold and Barwon Heads district for our annual Through the Garden Gates.
- Supper with a Movie nights are always popular – “Dare to be Wild” at The Hub proved a successful change of venue for the Friends.
- The Friends welcomed sixty senior members of the public for morning tea and guided tour of the GBG, as part of Seniors Week festivities.
- The Events Team catered for 85 members of the International Plant Propagation Society, providing a 3-course dinner, as part of their conference held in Geelong.
- A High Tea and a guided walk to welcome new members is held every 6 months. We also held a thank you afternoon tea for retiring volunteers.
- The annual Friends' Christmas Picnic featured a plant auction and our first Trivia Quiz.
- The annual Winter Lunch was held at Truffleduck Receptions with guest speaker John Arnott, presenting *Cultivating Conservation: The Emergence of Conservation in Botanic Gardens*.

Wadawurrung Connection Project

Coordinator: Liz Bennetto

This project aims to establish a strong connection between Geelong Botanic Gardens and the Wadawurrung community by working collaboratively to develop community awareness of Wadawurrung culture, with emphasis on their use of plants for food, medicine and materials, their conservation of resources and their methods of land care.

This will be done through establishing enhanced plantings, signage, walking trails and community education. A large sign at the entrance to the Gardens will acknowledge the Wadawurrung people and interpretive signage will explain their use of plants. Guided walks will be held regularly, and self-guided walks will be made available on-line via the website and printed in hard copy. Celebrations of the project will be held with the Wadawurrung community and the general community.

Wadawurrung approval has already been sought for the project via meetings with the Traditional Owners. They will be involved in confirming detailed action plans, and by consulting on plant selection, signage, and interpretation. They will assist with selecting appropriate plants, providing correct Wadawurrung names for plant labels, advising on interpretation of culture, approving promotional materials, and celebrating the Wadawurrung culture through ceremony and publications.

In 2022 we applied for a First Nations Cultural Heritage Grant to support the project. We were successful in obtaining a grant for \$23,000. Over the next few months, we will be working together with the GBG team and the Wadawurrung community to make this project a reality. We aim to make Geelong Botanic Gardens a recognized destination for community education on Wadawurrung culture, particularly on plant use and conservation.

The Gift Fund

The principal object of the Trustee (Friends) is to conserve, protect and enhance the Geelong Botanic Gardens and to encourage support and appreciation of the Gardens by the community. (Trust Deed, November 1996). This year the Gift Fund policy was reviewed and clarified. Funded projects this year:

- The Gardens staff requested bench seats for the Conservatory so that visitors can sit in comfort when enjoying the conservatory.
- The refurbishment of the largest pond in the fern garden. This has been approved.

The Friends, through Australian Taxation law, are required to expend a specified percentage of held funds annually. The Gift Fund is significant for the Friends. It allows people who have an attachment to the Gardens to donate in a legally protected manner. Trust donations have gift deductibility status.

Occupational Health and Safety {OHS}

Coordinators: Charles Pond and Ian Martland

Fortunately, no physical injuries have been incurred this year to date.

Any queries concerning acceptable working procedures have been dealt with in a timely manner, facilitated by easy and open access to Gardens' staff. Communication channels with Gardens' staff remain open and are operating effectively.

Ian Martland has agreed to be the OHS representative for volunteers in the following groups; Growers (nursery), Perennial Border and Rose Growers.

The required 3 monthly OHS meetings have been timetabled to be held immediately following Wednesday morning tea. Volunteers and group coordinators are given several weeks' notice so any nagging minor or major issues can be aired. Attendance has been good, attendees have spoken freely and any issues raised have been dealt with effectively.

Joint Activities with the Friends and the Geelong Botanic Gardens

Geelong City provides venues for Friends activities for minimal cost under licence.

The following collaborative projects have received grants:

- The Wadawurrung Connection
- Restoration of the Traill Fountain.
- Jointly hosting Horticultural Tour Groups: Friends provided catering and guided tours
- Sponsoring professional development for Geelong Botanic Gardens Horticulturalists e.g., BGANZ Conference. These opportunities are not funded from the Trust, but from everyday fundraising by the Friends.
- Providing Volunteers for the gardens: Tour Guides, Perennial Border, Heritage Roses and Weeders Volunteers.
- The Gardens staff provide cutting material for the Growers to propagate in the nursery
- Plants in the nursery are available to the Gardens' staff.
- The Friends and Geelong Botanic Gardens share goods and chattels.

The Traill Fountain

- In 2022 the Friends were notified of their success in obtaining a grant of \$35,000 from the Living Heritage Program, Heritage Victoria to conserve the Traill Fountain,

- In late 2022 it became evident that the condition of the fountain was worse than was determined in the conservationists' report for the grant application. Following consultation with Heritage Victoria, Geelong City and the Friends it was agreed to prepare a variation to the grant. The purpose of the grant was officially changed to gain permission for the grant funds to be used to re-evaluate the fountain from a structural engineers' perspective. The cost of the conservation will now be greater than the grant.
- The City of Greater Geelong has committed to fund the additional amount for conservation in the 2023-24 budget.

Special Guests this year

- Lance Mann and his wife provided information about the bequest of his uncle, John Mann.
- Chris Dance reviewed the 21st Century Garden and shared his original renderings.
- Councillors Anthony Aitken encouraged volunteers at the Volunteers Lunch
- Belinda Maloney visited for morning tea.
- Jane Edmanson had dinner with Allison, Rose and Denise and talked about possible shared ventures.
- John Arnott spoke at our Winter Lunch.

Organisational Strengthening

Changes have been implemented to strengthen the Friends organisation

- Occupational health and safety meetings now held 3 monthly.
- Coordinators meetings are held twice yearly.
- Review and update of existing policies and identification of gaps is being addressed.
- Key finance persons are now police checked

Professional Affiliations

- Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand
- Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens
- Volunteering Geelong
- Gardens Club of Australia
- Tourism Geelong

Challenges moving forward

- That Friends remain a relevant, viable and productive organisation able to continue its primary purpose of supporting the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park into the future.
- That the Friends continue to engage a vibrant membership to achieve our vision
- And most importantly, that Friends can continue to offer the programs and volunteering at the Gardens that have been our practice for nearly 40 years.

To the Committee members, Volunteers and Staff:

My sincere thanks for your contribution. Without you all doing what you do, no matter how small, the Friends would not continue and be the positive benefit to the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Community that it is.

Denise Feldman, FGBG President



Lyn Gadd and Mathew Kinross-Smith receiving their Honorary Life Membership awards



Patron, Stephen Ryan, as guest speaker engaging the room

FGBG TREASURERS REPORT 2022-2023

I am pleased to present the Treasurers report for the 2022-23 financial year for the Friends of Geelong Botanical Gardens.

There has been a pleasing change from last year's deficit of over twenty-seven thousand dollars to a profit of \$9589.91 this financial year.

Nursery sales have increased since the end of covid lockdowns and we have had three weekend Nursery sales for September and October.

Sales of the Friends 2023 calendar diary resulted in a pleasing profit of over \$4000.

Grants for the year included \$35,000 from Heritage Victoria for the restoration of the Traill Fountain. The restoration of the Fountain was due to start but structural issues have caused a delay. The project requires a detailed and costly engineers report, currently underway. It had been anticipated that the Gift Fund would finance some of the costs, however the COGG is now involved with the management of the restoration and possible financing.

A grant has also been received for the Wadawurrung project in partnership with the GBG. This involves labelling plants used by and important to local indigenous people.

Botanical Art classes are still operating successfully with our four Tutors Amanda A, Amanda B, John and Craig. This contributes to our income partially from the student fees.

Membership has increased since the covid peak with an increase in receipts from walks and talks with the guides

The City has imposed considerable changes to the Friends Licence for the use of the building premises via the gardens administration causing a great deal of stress for the Friends Committee. We now have to pay an annual rental fee of \$1,100 for the use of the building facilities which in previous years was a 'peppercorn' fee of \$15. Also, we are now being charged a licence fee of \$440 for the use of the Friends' nursery.

This year's Profit and Loss Statements are available to view from our office and our documents are currently being audited by our accountants, Davidsons, and a report will also be available from the office in the near future.

GIFT FUND

The Friends have used the Gift Fund to purchase several bench seats, which have been installed in the refurbished conservatory.

The Committee has also approved the request for the restoration of the pond in the fernery which has yet to be commenced.

It was anticipated that considerable funding would be required from the Gift Fund for the Fernery pond and the Traill Fountain. As a result the expenditure from the Fund for this year will be below the requirement for such a fund.

In conclusion I would like to thank our office staff Tracey and Sally for their very competent support. Also, Judy Fyfe for helping me undertake Treasurers duties.

Barrie Satchell, FGBG Treasurer

FGBG GIFT FUND

The Gift Fund currently has \$ 414,278.68 The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund is registered with the Australian Taxation Office to receive donations, which are tax-deductible. This Fund may only be used to support special projects and programs within, and initiated by, Geelong Botanic Gardens. It may not be used to support the Friends or Friends activities.

The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens are very appreciative of your generous donations to the Gift Fund and would like to thank you.

To make a donation to the GIFT FUND online, go to

<https://fgbg.tidyhq.com/public/shop/products>

or at the Friends' Office ph. 5222 6053

INSPIRED BY NATURE 8 EXHIBITION

The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens are pleased to announce, Geelong School of Botanical Art's:

INSPIRED BY NATURE 8 EXHIBITION

4 November to 9 December 2023
Monday – Saturday 10 am – 4 pm

At the Waterfront Gallery, Deakin University Geelong
Entry via Cunningham Street.

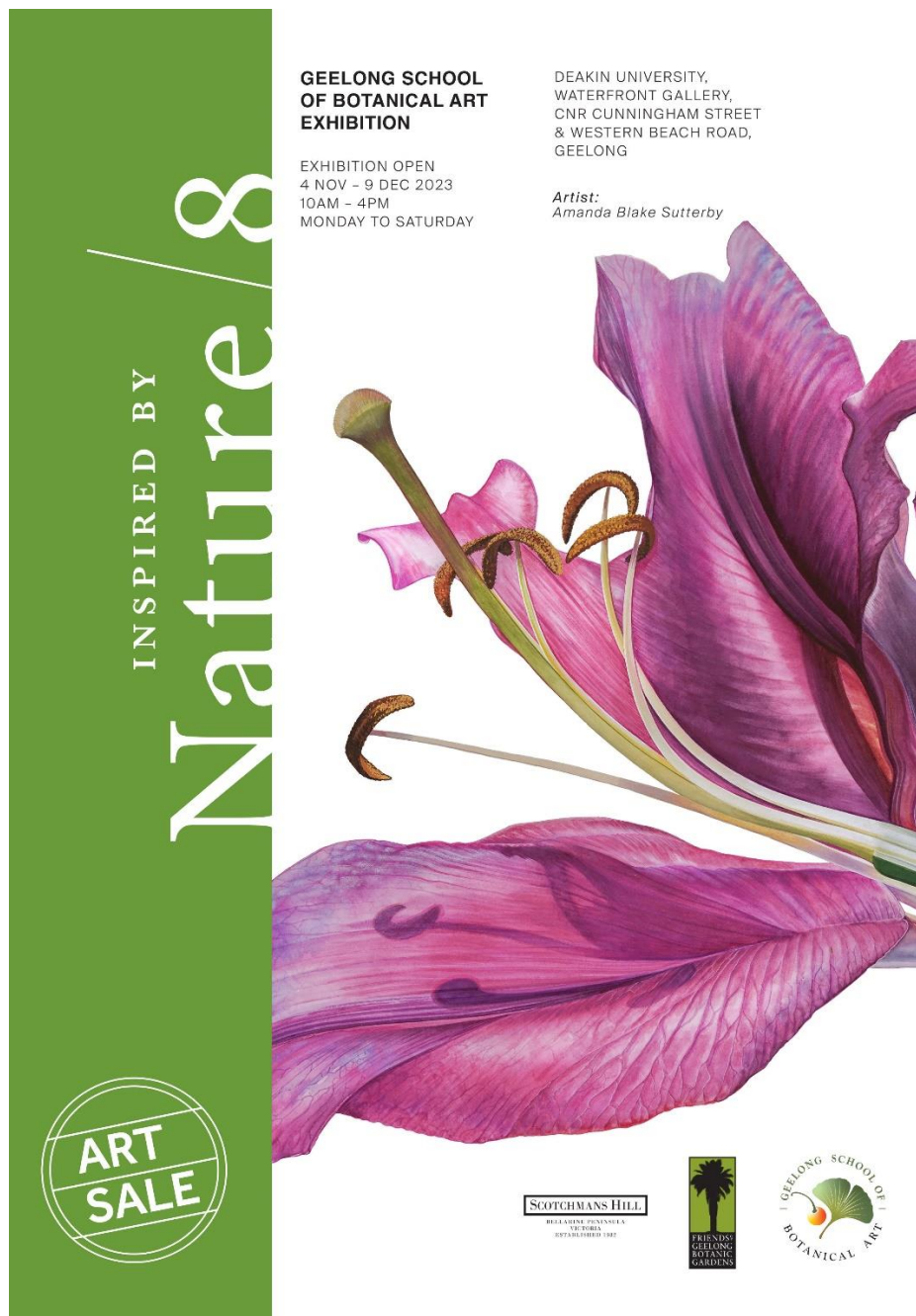
This upcoming exhibition will feature exceptional botanical art created by the talented students and tutors of our school. The artwork ranges from grand portrayals of flora to intricate depictions of plant life, all executed with remarkable technique

and skill. The exhibition will present a blend of contemporary and traditional botanical art, offering a comprehensive exploration of the structural botany of plants and showcasing individual artistic expressions through the varied use of watercolour, coloured pencil, graphite, pen, and gouache.

Notably, all artwork on display will be available for purchase, making it an excellent opportunity for art collectors or individuals looking to enhance their living spaces with beautiful botanical creations.

Pammi Pryor

Coordinator, Geelong School of Botanical Art



INSPIRED BY Nature 8

ART SALE

GEELONG SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL ART EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION OPEN
4 NOV – 9 DEC 2023
10AM – 4PM
MONDAY TO SATURDAY

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY,
WATERFRONT GALLERY,
CNR CUNNINGHAM STREET
& WESTERN BEACH ROAD,
GEELONG

Artist:
Amanda Blake Sutterby

SCOTCHMANS HILL
BELLARINE PENINSULA
VICTORIA
ESTABLISHED 1987

FRIENDS OF GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

GEELONG SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL ART

JOHN PASTORIZA-PINOL

20 YEARS AT GEELONG SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL ART

We congratulate and celebrate with John, his 20-year association with Geelong School of Botanical Art, from his student days with Margaret Muffet, to the dedicated and valued tutor he has become here in Geelong. John's extraordinary accomplishments since those humble student days is astounding. The many awards and accolades have afforded him international recognition with much demand on his time, to teach, run workshops and contribute to florilegium's, here in Victoria, nationally and overseas.

We feel so fortunate here at the school to have John as a tutor, colleague, and friend. The following comments from some of his colleagues and students highlight just how valued he is: -

"I know John for over 20 years! As a friend and tutor, he is a happy, dedicated, generous person. Always ready to take on miniatures or enlargements, hairs or light, paper or velum challenges, I am sure I missed others. Anyone who has been attending John's classes are lucky to have the best tutor, mentor and friend. Congratulations John Salud !!!"

Dolores Skowronski - Malloni



John Pastoriza-Pinol

"You can always trust John to take a very complex structure and break it down into manageable pieces for us mortals"

Fiona Sutherland



John teaching at Geelong School of Botanical Art

"I had seen John's work before I met him and was instantly transfixed by the clarity and luminosity of his work. Immediately I knew I had to attend his class in Geelong. That was well over ten years ago (13-14?) and during that time I have learnt so very much – from his famous masking fluid technique, to his polychromatic studies, to his out there colour palette. To me, he is the ultimate contemporary botanical artist, who uses his mathematical and chemistry background in a unique way making him such a highly respected international artist. We have been so very fortunate to have him at Geelong for 20 years. His influence on the School and the artists is profound and can be seen in the quality of the work his students/artists have produced, many of whom have gone on to exhibit in national and international exhibitions. When it comes to knowledge sharing, John is incredibly generous making each class a rich learning experience. Personally, he has been incredibly supportive of me and my art practice and encouraged me to go on to teach Melbourne. I know that I would not be the artist I am today if I hadn't met John and started attending his classes all those years ago and developed my Tim Tam addiction."

Thank you John xxxxx

Amanda Ahmed



Editorial Team:

Luanne Thornton, Dale Gordon, Anne Bourke, Tracey Tilbury.

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FGBG Committee:

President: Denise Feldman

Vice Presidents: Jan Cheyne and Carol Richardson

Treasurer: Judy Fyfe

Secretary: Rosslyn Jablonsky

Committee Members: Tilly Brunton, Peggy Muntz, Charles Pond, Barrie Satchell, Helen Zournazis, David Murdoch.

Patron: Stephen Ryan

Website: www.friendsgbg.org.au

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DIARY DATES AT A GLANCE

JUBAEA SUBMISSIONS for the next Edition are due by 8 January 2024.
All articles including high resolution photos (jpeg) can be sent to the FGBG Office



OCTOBER

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'PLANT ADAPTION'

Sunday 8 October, 2.00 pm Meet at the Front Gates

This themed walk demonstrates some of the impressive features plants have developed to cope in desert or arid growing regions, in low water environments or during drought. We will explore some of the plants in the Geelong Botanic Gardens describing the strategies which they employ. Gold coin donation.

BOTANIC GARDENS OPEN DAY

Sunday 8 October, 10.00 am to 2.00 pm.

Join us to celebrate the role that plants play in our lives! Learn about the vital work botanic gardens play to conserve plants for future generations, within their respective communities. Highlights include food, music, entertainment for all ages, and take-home memories such as photos and of course a plant! Where: Geelong Botanic Gardens. Refer to [City of Greater Geelong Website](http://www.cityofgreatergeelong.vic.gov.au)

SPRING PLANT SALES @ the Friends' Nursery

September - October

Every Wednesday, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Sun 8 October 10.00 am – 4.00 pm.

Sat-Sun 28-29 October, 11.00 am – 3.00 pm.

A huge range of plants sourced from the Geelong Botanic Gardens are available at special prices.

Located at the rear of Geelong Botanic Gardens.

THROUGH THE GARDEN GATES

Monday 23 October, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Our popular self-drive tour of 4 gardens, this year is in the inner Geelong area. They range from an historic Victorian garden to newly established eclectic gardens, featuring a variety of styles, the tour ends at the final garden with afternoon tea and sale of plants propagated from members' own gardens. \$35 members and \$45 non-members. BYO or purchase your own lunch. Bookings by Monday 16th October at [Online www.friendsgbg.org.au](http://www.friendsgbg.org.au) or at the Friends' Office 5222 6053.

GEELONG NATURE FESTIVAL

Saturday and Sunday 28-29 October @ GBG

Discover the wonder of 'Our Backyard' at this year's Geelong Nature Festival. An exciting, multi-dimensional six-week event, showcasing Geelong's natural wonders through September and October.

Refer to [City of Greater Geelong Website](http://www.cityofgreatergeelong.vic.gov.au) for all the details.

NOVEMBER

ROSE LOVER'S DAY

Monday 6 November, 1.00 – 5.00 pm

Join other Rose Lovers to learn about Rose history and classifications from Jane Edmanson, Peter Ades, and John Niewestee.

The three speakers will share their invaluable knowledge and passion for horticulture and gardens, with demonstrations of pruning and propagation by John Niewestee. Discover why our very own GBG Heritage Rose Collection is so special. \$45 FGBG Members or \$50 non-members, includes Afternoon Tea and Door Prize.

Bookings: [Online at www.friendsgbg.org.au](http://www.friendsgbg.org.au)

or at the Friends' Office 5222 6053

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'GEELONG'S LONG GREEN SPINE'

Sunday 12 November, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates

Passing through the middle of Geelong, is a path lined with trees and plants. You'll discover mature trees and recently planted garden beds. Explore why a garden is sunken and visit pines from Gallipoli. You'll see plants in full spring bloom and the imaginative use of diverse and unusual plants in the middle of the shopping area. We will walk three blocks from Fenwick Street to Bellarine Street. Gold coin donation appreciated.

INSPIRED BY NATURE 8

Geelong School of Botanical Art Exhibition

Saturday 4 November to Saturday 9 December

Open Monday to Saturday 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Exhibition Gallery, Deakin University, Waterfront Campus

See Page 10 for more details.

FERRY & COACH TRIP TO BELEURA

Thursday 16 November, Arrive Queenscliff Ferry terminal 7.30am

Return to Queenscliff terminal 4.45pm. Maximum 40 people.

Meet at Queenscliff to take the ferry to Sorrento and a bus to historic Beleura house and garden. Morning tea and lunch are included. BYO or purchase afternoon tea. Beleura, its grounds and interiors reflect the life of composer John Tallis who bequeathed Beleura to Victoria. Its original gardens are maintained by a Friends group, who lead tours of the House and Garden. Tickets include ferry fares, morning tea, entry, lunch and two tours. \$110 members and \$120 non-members. Bookings due by Friday 3 November at [Online at www.friendsgbg.org.au](http://www.friendsgbg.org.au) or at the Friends' Office on 5222 6053.

DECEMBER

FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS PICNIC & QUIZ

Friday 1 December, 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

5.30 – 6.30 Join the Friends at our annual Christmas BYO Picnic at the Visitor Facility in the Gardens. Bring family and friends, to begin the Festive Season at a relaxed and informal gathering. Featuring a huge Christmas raffle. Tea and coffee will be provided. BYO alcohol.

At 6.30 – 7.30 Make your own group or join a group on the night, to enjoy a fun quiz with a horticultural theme. Lots of fun and a prize to win! RSVP by Wednesday 29th November

- **No Guided Walk on Sun 24 Dec and Sun 31 Dec.**
- **The Nursery will be open as normal each Wednesday through the Christmas period.**
- **The Office will close on Thursday 21 Dec at 1.00 pm.**

JANUARY 2024

- **The Office will re-open on Friday 5 Jan at 10.00 am.**

THEMED GUIDED WALK 'PACIFIC RIM GARDEN'

Sunday 14 January, 2.00 pm at the Front Gates

Discover some of the amazing trees that grow around our Pacific Rim. Many of these are rare and threatened in their native habitat. This important collection is displayed in the attractive southern extension to the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Gold coin donation.