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## Chairman's Foreword

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It is a great pleasure to present the *Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria Annual Report 2016-17*.

This year we continued to consolidate those advances made in the previous twelve months, with the aim of strengthening the long-term foundation of the Gardens for the future. Work started on implementing a fresh strategic plan, including a new whole-of-organisation structure that increases capability for the organisation by focusing on the social benefit and impact of our visitors and communities engaging with the natural world. The new organisational structure also provides a robust underpinning to support the organisation's viability and sustainability in terms of landscape succession, research, programs and external funding. A report on the economic value of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria was commissioned with the results due later this year, and the Board and Executive initiated a major project in May to develop a resonant, redefining new value proposition.

As well as strengthening the fabric of the organisation, work continued on the stewardship of both sites. Implementation of the *Landscape Succession Strategy - Melbourne Gardens 2016-2036: adapting a world-renowned botanical landscape to climate change* commenced with the completion of a climate vulnerability study of Melbourne Gardens' living collections. This ground-breaking strategy has attracted considerable international attention resulting in close collaborations with the University of California, Davis, and Cornell University, New York. Presentations about the strategy were made at conferences in Shanghai and Geneva, demonstrating RBGV's leadership in the urban response to climate change.

The Cranbourne Gardens Master Plan was launched in October and work started on key actions, with key objectives to improve visitor access to the site, and provide a significant investment in habitat protection for threatened plant and animal species in the south-east growth corridor in the City of Casey. Curatorial Management Plans were completed for the Australian Garden and captured important information for the future management of this award-winning Garden. At Melbourne Gardens the master-planning process got under way with extensive public consultation.

A series of workshops held with representatives of the Boon Wurrung Foundation, the Bunurong Land Council and the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council as part of the Aboriginal Heritage Values Project, improved our understanding of the Aboriginal sites and values within Melbourne Gardens and will be used in the development of the twenty-year Master Plan.

Melbourne Gardens sits at the heart of one of the most liveable cities in the world and Cranbourne Gardens sits on its burgeoning south-eastern border. Combined visitation to both sites peaked at more than 1.9 million during the year, confirming the Gardens to be increasingly popular with local, national and international visitors. Major events such as the inaugural *WEEKEND in the Gardens* concert series at Melbourne Gardens in March, and the month-long *Kangaroo Paw Celebration* at Cranbourne Gardens in November drew new audiences to both sites. Not only popular with locals and tourists, the Gardens is an important resource for early learning, primary and secondary schools, with more than 32,000 students undertaking education and learning programs during the year.

Central to everything we do is rigorous evidence-based research. Our botanists and horticulturists are leaders in their fields and international collaborations during the year led to breakthroughs in conservation genetics, taxonomy and systematics. Online research access to Type specimens held in the State Botanical Collection continues, with eleven more batches of images and associated metadata delivered to JSTOR for the Global Plants Initiative, bringing the number to 24,500 since the project commenced. Closer to home, VicFlora was relaunched on Threatened Species Day, providing online information on the plants of Victoria and 7,000 associated images.

In addition to Victorian Government support, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria enjoys the support of many wonderful donors, Friends' groups, and volunteers, as well as my colleagues on the Board of the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation. These committed supporters are joined in their efforts by dedicated and passionate staff. In the course of a year, we welcomed many new faces to the Gardens and farewelled others. The Board joins with me in thanking everyone who has contributed to the success of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria during the year.

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I present the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2017.



Ken Harrison AM  
Chairman  
Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria  
5 September 2017

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# HIGHLIGHTS

## THE YEAR IN FOCUS

In 2016–17, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria welcomed 1.9 million visitors to our gardens at Melbourne and Cranbourne. We engaged with countless children, families and young people, discovered new species and propagated threatened ones, and contributed to conservation and biodiversity goals for the state. As a scientific botanic gardens, we continued to play an important part in safeguarding plants and plant knowledge for the health and wellbeing of people and the planet.

- **RBGV succeeded in its international bid to host the 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in 2021**  
> **PAGE 49**
- **Executive Directors Chris Cole and Chris Russell presented on landscape succession and climate change strategies at the 6th Global Botanic Congress in Geneva**  
> **PAGE 52**
- **\$6.9 million was secured for 100% Recycled Water for Irrigation**  
> **PAGE 55**
- **350,000 children, their parents, grandparents and carers delighted in exploring The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden**  
> **PAGE 13**
- ***Cranbourne Gardens Master Plan 2016–2026: Connecting through Nature and Community* was published and publicly released in November 2016**  
> **PAGE 49**
- **Science staff made 52 public lectures and conference presentations, nationally and internationally**  
> **PAGE 29**
- **'Launch' of VicFlora acknowledged as best online flora website in Australia**  
> **PAGE 31**
- **32,775 students participated in education programs at Cranbourne Gardens or Melbourne Gardens**  
> **PAGE 40**
- **5,000 trees were identified, plotted and updated on the Melbourne Gardens' Living Collections Database, as part of the Strategic Tree Plan**  
> **PAGE 56**
- **Friends' groups at both sites provided strong support to RBGV, with combined donations totalling almost \$120,000**  
> **PAGE 66**

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# **OUR VISION**

# **LIFE IS SUSTAINED AND ENRICHED BY PLANTS**

Our vision is for a healthy planet and flourishing community, sustained and enriched by plants. Through iconic landscapes, horticultural excellence, scientific eminence and exceptional programs we make an enduring contribution to this vision.

Plants, along with fungi and algae, are fundamental to life on Earth. They provide the air we breathe, the food we eat, many of the medicines that heal us, and habitat and home for our planet's people and wildlife. Plants provide clothing, building materials for shelter and furniture, wood for heat and fire, and green sanctuary from the pressures of urbanisation and the impacts of unpredictable weather and climate change.

Plants give our lives inspiration and meaning.

We prosper and our planet benefits when we understand, appreciate and protect plants for their life-giving qualities. The actions we all take should be based on our knowledge and respect for the environment, plants and the people with whom we share the Earth.

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# **OUR MISSION**

# **EVERY INTERACTION WITH US ADVANCES THE UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF PLANTS**

Our mission is to use our two remarkable gardens, innovative science, significant state-owned botanical collection and skills in engagement and sharing knowledge to provide extraordinary opportunities for community engagement and cultural expression, recreation, learning and participation.

We seek every opportunity to interact with people from all walks of life, in person and online, to increase understanding of the role individuals play to safeguard plant life for the wellbeing of people and future of the planet. Through our position as an international botanic gardens, our mission is also to play a role in social cohesion and global connectivity, enhancing the experience of Melbourne as a vibrant, resilient city for local and international visitors.

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# OUR VALUES

## CREATIVE – WE ARE INVENTIVE AND ENTHUSIASTIC

Our curiosity allows us to find considered solutions to challenges. We use our resources wisely and draw upon our collective intelligence to answer questions. We have a joyful, positive and respectful approach that is expressed with a good sense of humour. Our inclusive and engaging style helps us to learn and share our knowledge in new and interesting ways.

## OPEN – WE MAKE TIME TO LISTEN, LEARN AND BE CLEAR

To help us achieve our vision we listen to each other and the community. We are friendly and respectful of different perspectives. We solve problems together because supporting and learning from each other results in better work. We share our knowledge because it helps people inside and outside our organisation understand the importance of plants.

## OUR CHARTER

**Under the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991*, the objectives of our organisation are:**

- To conserve, protect and improve the botanic gardens and managed land and their collections of living plants
- To conserve and enhance the State Botanical Collection and National Herbarium of Victoria
- To provide for the use of the State Botanical Collection or plants or plant specimens at the botanic gardens or managed land for scientific or reference purposes, consistent with accepted international practice
- To increase public knowledge and awareness of plants and plant communities
- To provide for the use of the Botanic Gardens for education, public enjoyment and tourism
- To provide for the carrying out of and contribution to research into biodiversity and the conservation of biodiversity.

## BRAVE – WE HAVE THE COURAGE TO CHANGE THINGS

We have the confidence to challenge established ways of thinking if it improves our collective understanding of plants. We embrace our responsibility to protect plants and biodiversity, whatever the role we play. We have the courage to try new things, and we help each other as we make these changes. We are positive, so we turn challenges into opportunities. We lead the way to inspire confidence and enthusiasm in others.

## REMARKABLE – WE LEAVE A LASTING IMPRESSION

We create experiences and special places that help everyone to learn and see the world differently. Whether our actions are big or small, they inspire people to think and act. We seek out knowledge and apply our learning, because we believe in the importance of plants. We do things that are different and exciting, if they help us achieve our vision. We are proud of our past and we are passionate about our future.

## DEFINITIONS

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria is responsible to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria is responsible for Melbourne Gardens, Cranbourne Gardens, and the State Botanical Collection, based at the National Herbarium of Victoria. Throughout this document the organisation will be referred to as follows:

**Australian Garden** – refers to the Australian Garden at Cranbourne Gardens

**Cranbourne Gardens** – refers to the site at Cranbourne

**Herbarium** – refers to the National Herbarium of Victoria

**Melbourne Gardens** – refers to the site at Melbourne

**Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria** – refers to the body responsible for corporate governance

**Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria** – refers to the whole organisation, including the sites at Melbourne and Cranbourne, and the National Herbarium of Victoria

**State Botanical Collection** – refers to the irreplaceable resource of approximately 1.5 million dried specimens and comprehensive botanical library held in the National Herbarium of Victoria at Melbourne Gardens.

## Our Organisation

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The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria administers Melbourne Gardens, Cranbourne Gardens, and the National Herbarium of Victoria.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria incorporates two outstanding botanic gardens, a heritage-listed landscape in the heart of Melbourne and a contemporary native garden set within a natural bushland reserve at Cranbourne. It is also home to the State Botanical Collection (including 1.5 million preserved plants, algae and fungi) and is a regional hub for plant knowledge, with internationally-recognised biodiversity and conservation research programs.



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## MELBOURNE GARDENS

# MELBOURNE GARDENS HAS BEEN A TREASURED PART OF MELBOURNE'S CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC LIFE FOR OVER 170 YEARS. IT IS MUCH LOVED BY GENERATIONS OF VICTORIANS, AS WELL AS VISITORS FROM INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS.

It is also home to the National Herbarium of Victoria, where scientific laboratories and the Victorian Conservation Seedbank are based, and the historically-significant State Botanical Collection is held.

It is a sanctuary and haven for recreation and an important resource for education, conservation, science and horticulture. Melbourne Gardens extends over 38 hectares and houses a collection of more than 8,500 plant species from around the world, including diverse plant collections such as camellias, rainforest flora, cacti and succulents, roses, Californian species, herbs, perennials, cycads, plants from Southern China and, in the Rare and Threatened Species Collection, plants from south-eastern Australia.

Melbourne Gardens is also home to the historic Melbourne Observatory. Constructed in the early 1860s and expanded to include 22 rooms by 1902, the Melbourne Observatory and its instrumentation was an important centre for astronomy, responsible for time setting, meteorology, weights and measures standards, and surveying of the developing colony of Victoria. These distinctive buildings with their domed roofs are a feature of the Observatory Precinct at the main entrance to Melbourne Gardens.



Aerial view of Melbourne Gardens with Guilfoyles's Volcano  
Photo: Adrian Vittorio



## CRANBOURNE GARDENS

**CRANBOURNE GARDENS INCLUDES ONE OF VICTORIA'S MOST PRECIOUS AREAS OF REMNANT NATIVE BUSHLAND AND OFFERS VISITORS THE CHANCE TO EXPLORE HEATHLANDS, WETLANDS AND WOODLANDS ON THE 363-HECTARE SITE. AT ITS HEART IS THE AWARD-WINNING AUSTRALIAN GARDEN.**

Recognised as a site of State significance for flora and fauna conservation, with more than 25 species listed as endangered, threatened or at risk of extinction, including the Southern Brown Bandicoot. Facilities in the bushland include over ten kilometres of walking tracks, six kilometres of cycling tracks, a lookout tower, picturesque shelters, barbecues and picnic tables.

The international award-winning Australian Garden celebrates the beauty and diversity of Australian landscapes and features approximately 170,000 plants representing 1,700 different taxa. The innovative design of the Garden has won multiple international awards.





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## SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is the Victorian Government's major centre for botanical studies in plant identification, collection and classification. It includes the State Botanical Collection, founded in 1853 and housed in the National Herbarium of Victoria building at Melbourne Gardens. Research areas include biodiversity, classification, evolution, biogeography, molecular systematics, conservation and horticulture.

The State Botanical Collection is an irreplaceable resource of approximately 1.5 million dried specimens of plants, fungi and algae from Australia and many other countries. One of the most historically significant and among the top few collections in the world, the State Botanical Collection is an international scientific research resource used by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria staff as well as the global scientific community and industry. In addition, it contains the oldest and most comprehensive botanical library in Australia. Sitting alongside the State Botanical Collection is the Victorian Conservation Seedbank, an insurance policy against extinction for some of Victoria's rarest and most threatened plant species.

## EXPERIENCE AND ACCESS

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is a thriving hub for community engagement and diverse public programs, including major events, family, schools and early childhood programs, nature play activities, creative interpretive displays, art exhibitions, science seminars, plant happenings and much more. As an organisation, we are strongly focused on diversity and social inclusion, and in particular, the role and deep knowledge of the Aboriginal people, the Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders past present and future, and acknowledge our role in healing and ensuring representation for all First Peoples. RBGV's site interpretation also acknowledges our organisation's rich history and heritage, reflecting pride of place in the city of Melbourne as 'connective tissue' and an important green link to the Yarra River, Domain, arts and sports precincts, and St Kilda Road.

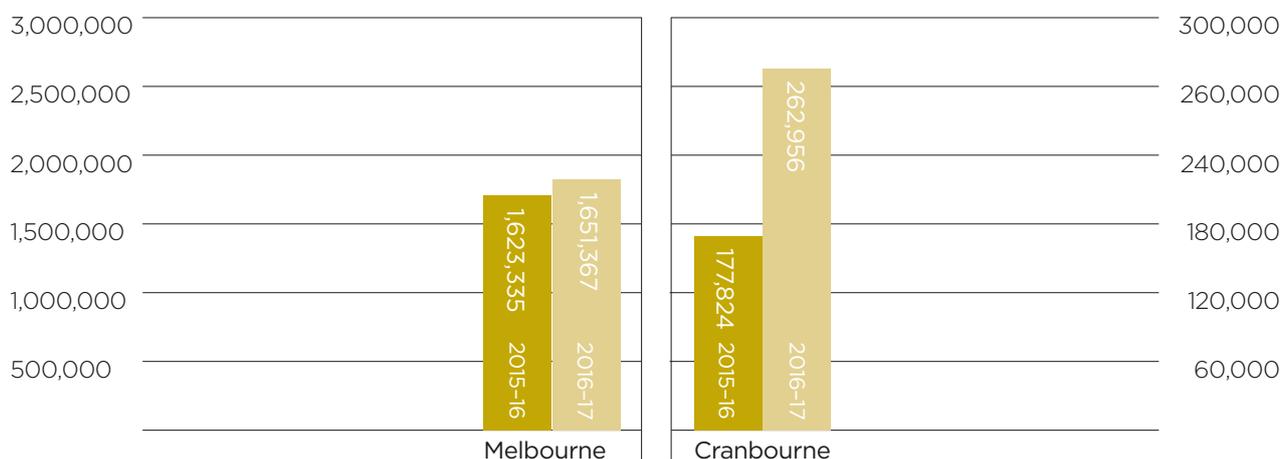
For visitors, our two sites also offer exceptional hospitality through award-winning onsite partners such as Jardin Tan (Vue Group), Gardens House (Atlantic Group), Blakes Feast, and Sorrento Catering; retail experiences through three vibrant shops in Melbourne and Cranbourne; and tremendous summer fun with live performances, Moonlight Cinema and Punting on the Lake at Melbourne Gardens, and at Cranbourne Gardens, the Woodland Picnic Area, extensive walking and cycling tracks, and many opportunities for nature and adventure experiences right on the doorstep of the city.

# ATTENDANCE FIGURES INCREASED AGAIN THIS YEAR, WITH 1.9 MILLION LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL VISITORS TO MELBOURNE GARDENS AND CRANBOURNE GARDENS

Table 1: Visitor numbers

	2016-17
<b>Cranbourne Gardens</b>	<b>262,956</b>
Including Australian Garden visitors	182,671
<b>Melbourne Gardens</b>	<b>1,651,367</b>
Including The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden visitors	357,953
<b>Total RBGV visitors (to both sites)</b>	<b>1,914,323</b>

Figure 1: Melbourne Gardens & Cranbourne Gardens



# Governance

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The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria is a statutory authority established under the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991*. The Royal Botanic Gardens Regulations 2014 make provision for the care, protection, management and improvement of the Melbourne Gardens, the Cranbourne Gardens and the Herbarium. The responsible Minister for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 was the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

The Board comprises seven members, including a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman, who are appointed by the Governor-in-Council on the recommendation of the Minister. Appointed Board members have a diversity of knowledge and expertise in the fields of botany, financial management, business management, public administration and nature conservation. The members are appointed for a term not exceeding four years, but are eligible for re-appointment. A quorum of the Board is four members.

The Board oversees the governance of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and may delegate its functions and powers to a committee of the Board, the Director and Chief Executive, any of the Board's members, or any of its employees. A member of the Board who, either directly or indirectly, has a conflict of interest or duties, or a direct or pecuniary interest in any matter before the Board, must declare the nature of the interest or conflict at a meeting of the Board. The member must not take any further part in the discussion or voting on the matter to which the declaration relates. The Director and Chief Executive has responsibility for the day-to-day management and control of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

## **Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria Members**

**Mr Kenneth Harrison AM, MBA, BBus, FCPA, FAICD**  
Chairman – appointed 10 December 2013  
Appointed to the Board 9 April 2012

Mr Harrison is an investment banker and pastoralist with a great interest in plants, the environment and nature and people. Keenly supporting the philanthropic sector he is Ambassador for the Royal Children's Hospital Leadership Circle, Governor of the Australian New Zealand College of Anaesthetists Foundation, Chairman of Barwon Health Research Leadership Circle, Chairman of Monash Health Leadership, Experience and Philanthropy, Ambassador for Australian Dental Association Evident Foundation, and Director Northern Bay College Future Fund.

## **Professor Rob Adams AM**

Appointed to the Board 9 April 2016

Professor Adams is Director City Design and Projects at the City of Melbourne and a member of the Cities of the Future Council of the World Economic Forum. He has made a significant contribution to the rejuvenation of central Melbourne over his 33-year tenure.

## **Professor Tony Bacic FAA**

Appointed to the Board 17 December 2013

Professor Bacic is a plant biologist with an extensive background in research and research training. His primary focus is on understanding plant growth and development with a view to ensuring a secure food supply and sustainable agriculture. He was Director of the Bio21 Molecular Science & Biotechnology Institute (until 31 December 2014), The University of Melbourne, Deputy Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Cell Walls, and was a long-serving member of the Maud Gibson Trust Advisory Committee.

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**Mrs Penny Fowler GAICD, BBus**

Deputy Chairman – appointed 9 April 2016  
Appointed to the Board 8 April 2014

With a background in business and marketing, Mrs Fowler is the Chairman of the Herald and Weekly Times Pty Ltd and the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal. She is also a board member of the Australian Ballet and the McClelland Sculpture Park & Gallery, actively involved in a range of community organisations and an ambassador for Second-Bite.

**Ms Jillian Riseley GAICD, MSt, BA**

Appointed to the Board 9 April 2016

Ms Riseley has 25 years’ experience in sustainability and public affairs. Previously Ms Riseley has held leadership roles in the corporate and private sectors and currently leads a range of social, economic and environmental impact investments (including as CEO of FairGo Group). Ms Riseley has extensive Board experience and is currently a Non-Executive Director and Board member on a range of private, public and government Boards including Launch Housing and Responsible Entities Ltd. Qualifications include a Masters in Sustainability Leadership from the University of Cambridge.

**Ms Susanne Williamson GAICD**

Appointed to the Board 9 April 2016

For 25 years, Ms Williamson has held senior marketing and fundraising positions at charities including the Heart Foundation, Arts Centre Melbourne and Monash University. Winner of multiple awards for her work in the non-profit and commercial sectors, she is currently Head of Fundraising at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

**Ms Jennifer Wolcott GAICD**

Appointed to the Board 15 December 2009

Ms Wolcott is currently Director Equality at the Department of Premier and Cabinet. She has more than 20 years’ experience in the Victorian public sector holding executive positions in the Environment Protection Authority, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the Department of Primary Industries and Parks Victoria, and has been a member of the Victorian Coastal Council. She has led a number of major inquiries, including the Independent Fiskville Investigation.

Table 2: Board attendance figures – from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

Board Member	No. of meetings eligible to attend	No. of meetings attended
Kenneth Harrison	9	7
Rob Adams	9	6
Tony Bacic	9	9
Penny Fowler	9	9
Jillian Riseley	9	8
Susanne Williamson	9	8
Jennifer Wolcott	9	7

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### Board committees

Most Board members participate in one or more Board Committees, which include:

- Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology Board of Management (due to ARCUE's closure, this committee concluded following its final meeting on 7 February 2017)
- Finance and Audit Committee
- Remuneration Committee
- Risk Committee

The Committees include Board members and other persons who bring special areas of expertise to the organisation.

#### Finance and Audit Committee

The Finance and Audit Committee consists of four independent members, appointed by the Board, usually for a term of three years. Under the Committee's Charter, the role of the Finance and Audit Committee is to oversee:

- the financial performance of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
- the financial reporting process
- the scope of work and performance of the internal and external auditors
- matters of accountability and internal control affecting the operations of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
- the effectiveness of management information systems and other systems of internal control, and
- the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's monitoring of compliance with laws and regulations.

Independent members of the Finance and Audit Committee in 2016-17 were Professor Tony Bacic (Committee Chairman 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017), Mr Ken Harrison AM (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017), Ms Jill Riseley (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017) and Ms Susanne Williamson (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017).

#### Remuneration Committee

Remuneration of Board members is fixed by the Governor-in-Council under Schedule 2 of the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991*. The Board appoints the Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and is responsible for the Director and Chief Executive's remuneration and performance, and for review of the Director and Chief Executive's decisions on Executive remuneration.

Members of the Remuneration Committee in 2016-17 were Professor Tony Bacic (Committee Chairman 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017), Mr Ken Harrison AM (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017), Ms Jill Riseley (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017) and Ms Susanne Williamson (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017).

#### Risk Committee

The Risk Committee consists of three members, appointed by the Board, usually for a term of three years. Under the Committee's Charter, the role of the Risk Committee is to oversee the operation and implementation of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's Risk Management Framework.

Members of the Risk Committee in 2016-17 were Ms Jennifer Wolcott (Committee Chairman 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017), Mrs Penny Fowler (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017) and Mr Ken Harrison AM (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017).

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## **Executive Team (as at 30 June 2017)**

### **Director and Chief Executive (2013)**

Professor Timothy J Entwisle PhD, BSc (Hons)

Leads and promotes Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria to achieve the highest standards in horticulture, science, financial management and a broad range of visitor and education programs.

Professor Entwisle is a highly respected scientist, scientific communicator and botanic gardens director. He took up the role of Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in March 2013, following two years in a senior role at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and eight years as Executive Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust in Sydney. Professor Entwisle is an Honorary Professorial Fellow at The University of Melbourne, and a regular contributor to print, radio, television and social media.

### **Executive Director Science (2006)**

Professor David Cantrill PhD, BSc (Hons)

Responsible for leading research into plant biodiversity, systematics, conservation, and management of the State Botanical Collection, with statutory responsibility under the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991* and the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981*.

Professor Cantrill worked as a senior research scientist in Europe for 15 years, first for the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge and later at the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm. He has published over 100 scientific articles; is an editor of *Grana*, an international journal for pollen studies; and sits on a number of international editorial and scientific advisory boards. His research interests focus on integrating information from fossil and living floras to understanding the origins of patterns of diversity in the southern hemisphere. He holds an honorary professorship with the School of BioSciences at The University of Melbourne.

### **Executive Director Corporate (1992)**

Jenny Steinicke BA, Grad Dip Bus

Responsible for initiating and co-ordinating projects to improve corporate governance and management, including financial management and planning, people and culture management, information services, project management, and legal, legislative and contractual matters. Ms Steinicke is also responsible for financial and project management of the new Herbarium project at Melbourne Gardens and the Recycled Irrigation Water projects at both Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens. She has over 20 years' experience in botanic gardens management, and previously held senior management positions in consumer affairs and education.

### **Executive Director Melbourne Gardens (2010)**

Chris Cole Dip Hort (Kew)

Responsible for horticultural planning and operations, including landscape planning, management and development of living plant collections and nursery operations at Melbourne Gardens. Mr Cole is also responsible for arboriculture and management of site facilities and infrastructure at Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens. He provides direction for managing the development and implementation of Integrated Water Management and Landscape Succession projects at Melbourne Gardens. He has over 15 years' experience in public and botanic gardens management and has worked at Hampton Court Palace, National Trust, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Townsville Botanic Gardens.

### **Executive Director Cranbourne Gardens (2001)**

Chris Russell BSc (Hons), Grad Dip Land Rehab

Responsible for the leadership, management and operation of Cranbourne Gardens encompassing the Australian Garden and significant conservation areas, including horticultural planning and operations, natural areas research and management, and development and implementation of the site Master Plan. Mr Russell is also responsible for delivery of capital works projects, strategic input into land-use planning and relationship management in the region, as well as organisational OHS and aspects of environmental systems management across Cranbourne and Melbourne sites. Prior to joining the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Mr Russell had experience in environmental management and capital projects with Parks Victoria (formerly National Parks Service Victoria), the building industry, and scientific research.

### **Executive Director Engagement and Impact (2016)**

Robin Penty, MFA (University of Melbourne), BFA (Hons)

Responsible for leading programming and audience development, visitor experience, access, fundraising, marketing, communications, business development and tourism, Ms Penty has worked in the arts and culture, higher education, not-for-profit and public sectors for over two decades. An experienced executive leader, Robin has held senior leadership roles in business development and marketing for two major national charitable organisations, and was head of participation and public programs at Arts Centre Melbourne for six years in the period leading up to Hamer Hall's redevelopment and reopening. With a lifelong commitment to social inclusion, learning and creative partnerships, Robin has worked in diverse roles as executive producer, arts programmer, qualitative researcher, strategy and planning consultant, and skilled facilitator.

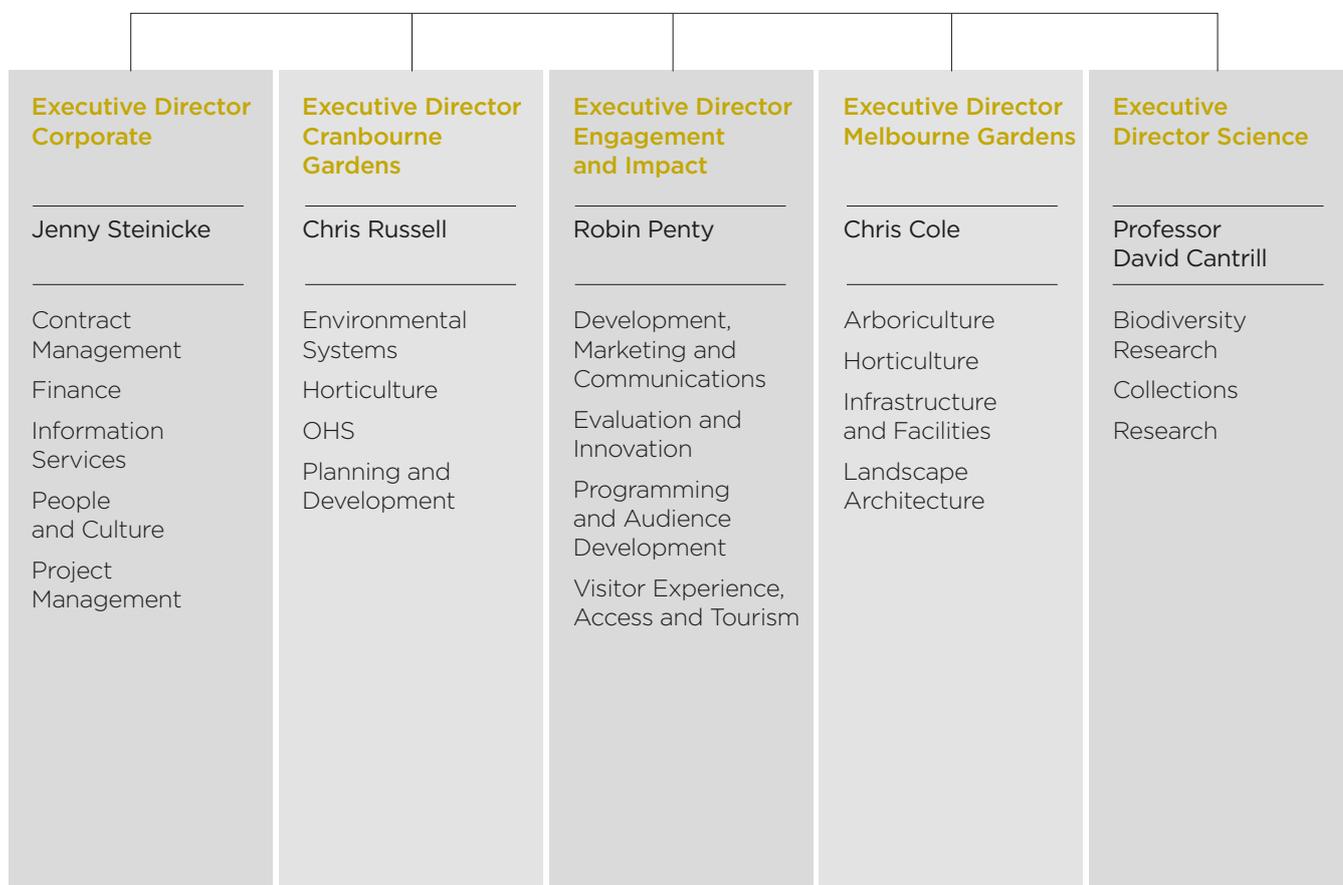
Robin's team at Arts Centre Melbourne was recognised by the State government on four occasions for leadership in community, disability access, digital and public programs, and her projects have won national awards through AbAF (now Creative Partnerships Australia) and the Australia Council.

# Organisational Structure and Key Functional Areas

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## DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Professor Timothy J Entwisle



## Our People

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Our work is transformational; it is also about people. It contributes to the lives of people and is healing, restorative, life-giving and even spiritual; a sense of being connected in some way to the patterns of life which transcend our own current lifetime. (Corporate Plan 2014-2019)



Horticulture Team Leader Russell Larke  
working in the Research Garden  
Photo: Adrian Vittorio

## PUBLIC SECTOR VALUES AND EMPLOYMENT PRINCIPLES

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria adopts policies and practices that are consistent with the *Public Administration Act 2004*. We are committed to applying merit and equity principles when appointing employees. The selection processes ensure that applicants are assessed and evaluated fairly and equitably, on the basis of key selection criteria and other accountabilities, without discrimination.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria has introduced policies and practices that are consistent with VPSC's employment standards and provide for fair treatment, career opportunities and the early resolution of workplace issues. Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria has advised its employees on how to avoid conflicts of interest, how to respond to offers of gifts and hospitality, and how it deals with misconduct.

Table 3: Summary of employment levels as at June 2017 and June 2016

	Total Headcount (includes ongoing, Fixed term, Fixed task and Casual)	Ongoing employees				Fixed term, Fixed task and Casual	
		Number (Headcount)	Full-time (Headcount)	Part-time (Headcount)	FTE	Headcount	FTE
June 2017	209	134	101	33	117.54	75	33.73
June 2016	208	141	101	40	124.91	67	33.21

Table 4: Details of employment levels re: gender, age and classification

	June 2017			June 2016		
	Total Headcount (includes Ongoing, Fixed term, Fixed task & Casual)	Ongoing	Fixed term, Fixed task and Casual	Total Headcount (includes Ongoing, Fixed term, Fixed task & Casual)	Ongoing	Fixed term, Fixed task & Casual
					Number (Headcount)	Headcount
	209			208		
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	85	68	17	87	69	18
Female	124	66	58	121	72	49
<b>Age</b>						
Under 25	1	0	1	0	0	0
25-34	24	8	16	18	8	10
35-44	54	37	17	59	45	14
45-54	65	47	18	72	57	15
55-64	49	35	14	40	27	13
Over 64	16	7	9	19	12	7
<b>Classification</b>						
Staff	159	96	63	158	97	61
Line Manager	35	29	6	31	29	2
Branch Manager	9	9	0	13	13	0
Executives	6	0	6	6	0	6

Notes: All figures reflect employment levels during the last full pay period in June of each year.  
 Excluded are those employees on leave without pay or absent on secondment, or casuals who were not paid in the final pay period.  
 Ongoing employees include people engaged on an open-ended contract of employment.  
 FTE means Full-time staff equivalent.

## EMPLOYEE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria is committed to the development of a skilled and professional workforce, and to providing safe and equitable working conditions for all. All new employees are provided with a thorough induction pack upon commencement. The relevant Line Manager steps the employee through the induction pack and provides other formal support during the orientation period.

The 2016–17 development program included face-to-face sessions on Equal Opportunity, Sunsmart, and the Performance Review System. Employees also attended conferences, seminars, field-trips and technical training appropriate to their respective roles.

Topics covered by e-learning modules included Equal Opportunity, Bullying and Harassment, Code of Conduct, Duty of Care, Risk Management, Job-specific modules (for example, Hazardous Substances), and Fraud and Corruption Awareness. All new employees complete the suite of existing e-learning modules within three months of commencement. All other employees complete e-learning modules on an annual basis.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO)

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria has an Equal Opportunity Committee that meets on an as needs basis, arranges EO training sessions, acts as Contact Officers for any EO issues and monitors compliance with the Victorian *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*.

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS)

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's OHS Working Group and OHS Committee continued to oversee development and implementation of OHS initiatives to ensure a healthy and safe workplace.

The Guide to the RBGV OHS System (previously referred to as the 'Safety Tool Kit') was rolled out to employees, providing improved understanding and more efficient use of the organisation safety management system.

Implementation of a Learning Management System was deferred until completion of the Organisation Structure Review and other key projects within the People and Culture team.

Organisation-wide Sunsmart training was conducted in addition to specific competency training within functional groups.

OHS responsibilities and approaches were clarified between Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and both the Cranbourne and Melbourne Friends groups, assisted by both groups commissioning OHS reviews by an independent consultant.

## WorkCover Claims

WorkCover data relating to claims lodged in 2016–17 and in the previous year are reported in Table 5. As at 30 June 2017, 13 new WorkCover claims had been received. The OHS Committee and Return to Work Co-ordinator continue to monitor all WorkCover claims and incidents.

Table 5: WorkCover claims for the past two years

	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
Minor Claims <sup>1</sup>	10	12	9
Standard Claims <sup>2</sup>	3	5	5
Total all Claims	13	17	14
No. of Lost Time Standard Claims per 100 FTE	0	4.43	6.72
Average Cost per Claim RBGV <sup>3</sup> (\$)	314.69	1,435.99	1,150.46

On commencement, all new employees are provided with 'Return to Work Obligations' information sheets, and current Worksafe posters are visible on all notice boards.

<sup>1</sup> **Minor Claims** - Less than 10 days' time lost and/or under \$692 medical and like expenses (non-recoverable).

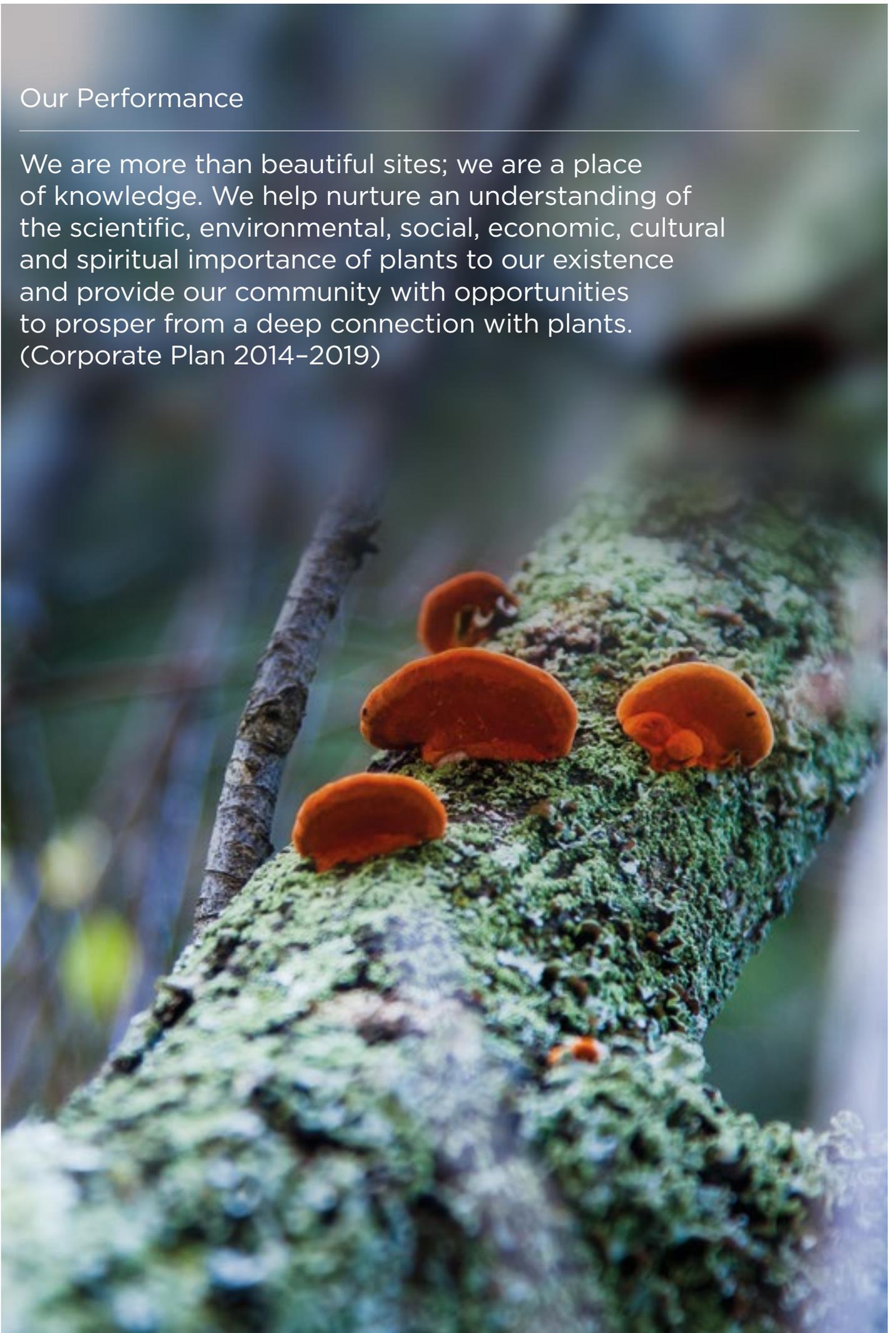
<sup>2</sup> **Standard Claims** - Greater than 10 days' time lost and/or greater than \$692 medical and like expenses. Some salary costs may be recoverable from insurers.

<sup>3</sup> **Average cost per claim RBGV** - Claims costs paid by RBGV for less than 10 days' time lost and/or under \$692 medical and like expenses (ie non-recoverable from insurer).

## Our Performance

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We are more than beautiful sites; we are a place of knowledge. We help nurture an understanding of the scientific, environmental, social, economic, cultural and spiritual importance of plants to our existence and provide our community with opportunities to prosper from a deep connection with plants. (Corporate Plan 2014-2019)



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## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### Revenue Generation and Budgetary Objectives

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's income is primarily annual recurrent funding from the Victorian Government, supplemented by income generated through grants, donations, fund-generating programs, business operations and investment. The annual recurrent budget is allocated to salaries, operating costs and minor capital works.

The main budgetary objectives of the organisation in 2016-17 were to:

- maintain and improve the two botanic gardens and curate their living collections
- pursue scientific research on the Australian flora and improve the curation and storage of the State Botanical Collection
- interpret and use the living collections and State Botanical Collection to advance the understanding and appreciation of plants
- complete the fire protection system upgrade works in Melbourne
- plan for the Integrated Water Management project at both Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens, and
- identify and implement new business opportunities building on the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's brand, while fostering expansion of current revenue sources.

### Income from Government

During 2016-17, annual funding provided by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) was applied to achieve the Board's main budgetary objectives and also used to enable repair or replacement of the most urgent of those assets requiring attention, including the maintenance of garden paths and kerbs, the upgrade and relocation of the bulk fuel tank, bowser, and other infrastructure to improve compliance with fuel safety requirements, reconstruction of internal Gardens' boardwalks, replacement of office and garden equipment and vehicles, the upgrade of irrigation system monitoring and testing communication components to maintain telephone network compatibility and the replacement of flooring and carpeting in existing buildings in both Melbourne and Cranbourne.

Works on the Fire Protection System project at Melbourne Gardens continued with the replacement of the major supply line between Anderson Street and Princes Lawn and the branch line to the Terrace Café, along with the installation of fire hydrants in strategic locations across the Melbourne Gardens site. Other works funded via risk-related minor asset monies received from DEWLP was applied to the purchase of a new HVAC system for the Herbarium building to replace the current system that is no longer functioning effectively, and safety improvement path works around the Fern Gully at Melbourne Gardens.

In 2017-18, it is expected that the Fire Protection System project remaining works consists of minor rectification and turf reinstatement works, scheduled to be undertaken early in the year. Further work to be undertaken in 2017-18 includes replacement of the HVAC system servicing the Observatory site, and preparation, design and permitting for the Recycled Irrigation Water Project at Melbourne and Cranbourne, the latter of which will be funded via additional capital funding to be received from DEWLP during the year.

Table 6: Financial results for 2016-17

	2016-17 \$
<b>Government and other grant funding</b>	
- Parks and Reserves Trust Account grants	15,364,241
- Commonwealth Government	182,296
- Other grants	346,138
<b>Philanthropic donations and other contributed revenue</b>	<b>2,223,767</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>3,980,818</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(23,777,886)</b>
<b>Net result</b>	<b>(1,680,626)</b>

### Comparison of financial performance and position

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's overall operating result for the financial year ended 30 June 2017 did not vary significantly as compared to the net operating result for the financial year ended 30 June 2016.

Significant movements in Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's revenue and expenses include:

- a decrease in Parks and Reserves Trust Account (PRTA) funding, mainly due to the inclusion of additional one off funding included the prior year PRTA grant related to the implementation of the Enterprise Agreement and supplementation funding for 2016-17 year received in advance,
- a decrease in sponsorship and other income due to the closure of the ARCUE-related projects and associated funding, and
- a decrease in employee expenses due to an increase in staff departures and resulting vacancies during 2016-17. This also resulted in a decrease in employee provisions in the balance sheet

With respect to the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's financial position, other significant movements include:

- an increase in the value of property, plant and equipment assets due to asset additions purchased during the year
- a lower cash and deposits balance as at 30 June 2017, mainly due to the prior year inclusion of one-off additional funding from the Parks and Reserves Trust Account in advance in June 2016, which was spent during 2016-17.

There were no events occurring after the balance date which may significantly affect the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's operations in subsequent reporting periods.

Table 7: Five-year comparison of financial results

	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13
		\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Government and other grant funding</b>					
Parks and Reserves Trust Account grants	15,364,241	15,942,218	14,536,099	14,292,000	14,289,000
Commonwealth Government	182,296	168,711	64,217	0	120,000
Other grants	346,138	751,481	631,346	378,450	426,892
<b>Philanthropic donations and other contributed revenue</b>	2,223,767	1,613,427	1,771,407	1,882,990	1,371,924
<b>Other income</b>	3,980,818	5,088,499	5,285,075	5,308,180	5,292,853
<b>Total expenses</b>	(23,777,886)	(25,253,887)	(22,749,249)	(22,733,521)	(22,034,830)
<b>Net result</b>	<b>(1,680,626)</b>	<b>(1,689,551)</b>	<b>(461,105)</b>	<b>(871,901)</b>	<b>(534,161)</b>
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	(208,811)	1,490,429	2,134,640	847,928	(1,623,215)
<b>Total assets</b>	611,520,208	613,975,705	421,812,214	421,799,557	422,753,073
<b>Total liabilities</b>	5,598,201	6,373,072	5,157,402	4,683,640	4,842,404

## Our Achievements

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The *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991* requires that the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria prepares a Corporate Plan outlining the strategies the Board intends to adopt to achieve the objectives of the Act and the priorities and targets of the Board. The *Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria Corporate Plan 2014-2019 - Sustaining life* - sets out the Board's long-term strategic focus and the four themes that inform the five-year planning cycle, with associated strategic actions required to achieve the objectives of the Act.

Our strategic focus for the life of the Corporate Plan 2014-2019 is encapsulated in the four themes that support our vision and mission:

1. Discovery and sharing knowledge
2. Inspiring plant learning
3. Creating special places
4. Towards a sustainable future.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria Business Plan 2016-17 adopts the structure of the four Corporate Plan strategic themes and detailed specific actions for the reporting period.

Our Achievements reports against the Specific Actions and Performance Measures identified in the Business Plan, as well as ongoing work that relates to the Corporate Plan Strategic Themes, including future initiatives.

This financial year was the third year of the current corporate planning cycle.

## 1: Discovery and sharing knowledge

# YEAR IN REVIEW

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV) is committed to excellence in plant science research, focusing on biodiversity and conservation research, and the provision of information and identification services for plants and fungi.

Our scientists play a key role in discovering and naming plants (taxonomy) and in elucidating their relationships and evolutionary history (systematics); our biodiversity research covers ecology and biogeography. This research underpins a range of conservation and biodiversity management initiatives including mitigating against climate change impacts. State Botanical Collection herbaria specimens and data provide a valuable resource for scientists nationally and internationally.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria achieved the following Budget Paper No. 3 output performance measure in the 2016-17 reporting period:

Table 8: Performance against objectives

BP3 Output performance measures	Specimens curated in State Botanical Collection
QQTC	Quantity
Unit of measure	number
2016-17 target	12,100
2016-17 actual	28,209*
Variance	0
Result	✓

\* Additional funding secured from private donors and trusts through the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria has enabled the employment of project staff and resulted in an increase in curation rates.

#### Key

- ✓ performance target achieved or exceeded or expected to be achieved.
- performance target not achieved - exceeds 5% variance.
- ° performance target not achieved. Within 5% variance.

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# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- RBGV contributed to the Victorian Government **biodiversity** plan – *Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037*, released by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change in April
- 35 lectures, presentations and talks were made by RBGV Science staff and 17 conference presentations delivered, among these the monthly **public Science** Seminar Series in Mueller Hall
- **Research** into Australian populations of Mimosa Bush established that they are distinct, suggesting the possibility of pre-European human-mediated dispersal across the Pacific Ocean
- 34 volumes of *Muelleria*, RBGV’s research journal, were scanned and are now providing **online access** to botanical information dating back to the first volume published in 1955
- 9,532 foreign-collected specimens were databased and edited as part of the **Foreign Collection Project**
- ‘Launch’ of VicFlora widely acknowledged as **best online flora** in Australia, and leader internationally
- 2,196 Australian and foreign vascular, fungi and lichen Type specimens were imaged, and eleven batches sent to JSTOR’s **Global Plants Initiative**; now in its sixth year, 24,500 Type specimens from the State Botanical Collection are now available at JSTOR

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## IMPACT SNAPSHOT: SCIENCE AND SERENDIPITY

Fresh eyes led to the discovery of a new Victorian species in February when a visiting research team from Japan identified a difference in *Brachyscome* species amongst over 4,000 specimen sheets.

Led by Professor Emeritus Kuniaki Watanabe of Kobe University, the team examined all 4,397 *Brachyscome* specimen sheets held in the Herbarium.

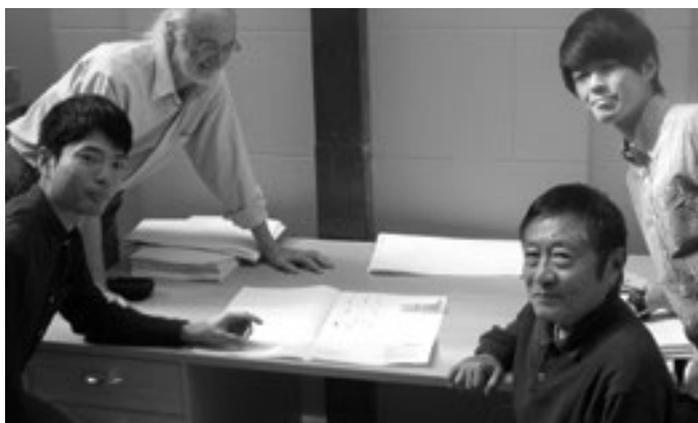
Hidden amongst the *Brachyscome lineariloba* specimens was *Brachyscome dichromosomatica*, a new species for Victoria. Closely allied to the common mallee species (*B. lineariloba*), an examination showed that *B. dichromosomatica* is quite distinct – a distinction that Professor Watanabe was able to identify.

The new Victorian record is from Neds Corner, a Trust for Nature conservation reserve in the far north-west corner of the State. Its distribution was known and recorded from fairly close to the Victorian border in both New South Wales and South Australia, however, the positive identification has filled a gap in the geographical and floral map.

The research team is studying phylogeny and chromosomal evolution in *Brachyscome* and they readily spotted the subtle distinguishing characteristic – a well-defined ring of ligulate florets (these are the outer ‘petals’ on a daisy flower), compared to the tiny ligulate florets of *D. lineariloba*.

Remarkably, as the species name suggests, *Brachyscome dichromosomatica* has just two pairs of chromosomes, and according to Professor Watanabe there are only five plant species known to have such a low number of chromosomes: another daisy (*Haplopappus gracilis*), two grasses (*Colpodium versicolor*, *Zingeria bibersteiniana*) and *Ornithogalum tenuifolium*, a member of the Asparagus family.

l to r: Dr Shota Sakaguchi (Kyoto University), RBGV's Senior Conservation Botanist Neville Walsh, Prof. Emer. Kuniaki Watanabe (Kobe University) and Hiroyuki Kondo (Kyoto University) inspect the *Brachyscome dichromosomatica* specimen sheet  
Photo: Wayne Gebert



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## 1.1 SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

### Interactive key created for Australian waxcaps

Work on an ABRS-funded project to create an interactive key to Australian waxcaps commenced in December. The project team comprises RBGV's Sapphire McMullan-Fisher and Tom May and Western Australian-based Kevin Thiele. Waxcaps are mushrooms in the Hygrophoraceae, and are often brightly coloured. Several species are listed on conservation threat status lists in Australia. The key will use the framework created for *FunKey - Key to Agarics*, a key to the genera of Australian mushrooms, previously developed at RBGV. Around 100 species will be included, and additional characters, specific to waxcaps will be added to the *FunKey* framework. *FunKey - Key to Waxcaps* will draw on crowd-sourcing for coding-up individual species, and a system and manual will be developed that can be used for further keys to other groups of fungi.

### International collaboration for conservation genetics

Conservation Geneticist Liz James hosted Yoshi Suyama (Tohoku University, Japan) who has been collaborating on a project on the conservation genetics and clonality of *Olearia passerinoides*. RBGV also hosted Kuniake Watanabe (Kobe, Japan), Shota Sakaguchi and Hiroyuki Kondo (Kyoto University, Japan) who sampled MEL *Brachyscome* collections with help from collections staff.

In January, samples of *Grevillea renwickiana* from a newly-discovered location in NSW were genotyped and were found to represent two new clones, bringing the total of known *G. renwickiana* clones to ten. In June, *G. infecunda* was sampled and genotyped from a new location at Anglesea. The new plants are under threat from future Alcoa mine rehabilitation which, as currently proposed, will result in the loss of all plants. The information regarding the clonal identity of the new plants has been provided to DELWP, Alcoa and ANGAIR to be considered during negotiations on rehabilitation planning.

### Taxonomy

Work by Senior Conservation Botanist Neville Walsh with John Semple (University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada) *et al.* clarified the taxonomy of the introduced, chiefly American genus of *Solidago* (the Goldenrods) in Australia. A weedy species in Australia, there has been much misapplication of names in this group and the detailed work conducted by Semple and his team has elucidated these. By applying his draft taxonomy to MEL specimens and wild-growing plants in Victoria, Neville was able to determine that, contrary to our former understanding, there are two species naturalised in the State, *S. chilensis* and *S. altissima*.

RBGV researchers contributed to the identification of a new species of *Thismia*, a genus of bizarre subterranean mostly tropical plants, that lack chlorophyll and depend on fungal associations for nutrient uptake. The genus is represented in Australia and New Zealand by five closely related species of temperate (not tropical) forests, and they form an association with a very small range of fungi.

The fungi must be present for the *Thismia* to be able to colonise new sites. DNA analysis of both the plants and the fungi suggested that the likely age of colonisation of the genus into New Zealand from Australia was within the last 2 million years, and that the spread of the one Tasmanian species probably occurred in the last 20,000 years or so. In all cases, the genus probably persisted in relatively stable refugia during periods of glaciation. The study also indicated a likely new, cryptic species of *Thismia* in NSW, distinguished by its different fungal symbiont and DNA rather than any morphological differences detected to date. This research was led by Belgian expert in the *Thismia* group, Vincent Merckx.

### Systematics

In 2017, a research paper was published on the genetics and distribution of the widespread species, *Vachellia farnesiana* (formerly *Acacia farnesiana*, commonly called Mimosa Bush). It had been assumed that the plant was transferred across the Atlantic to southern Europe by Spanish explorers, and then spread across the Old World tropics (including Australia) through a combination of chance long-distance and human-mediated dispersal. Our findings showed that the Australian populations of Mimosa bush are genetically distinct and that arrival of the species in the continent was independent of these European colonial activities. This suggests the possibility of pre-European human-mediated dispersal across the Pacific Ocean.

RBGV staff were involved in the most comprehensive re-assessment and publication of new phylogenetically-based classifications of legumes (e.g. peas, Acacia, Senna). This overturned the long-used and traditional classification of the legumes into three subfamilies. This classification, while generally easily usable, was recognised as not ideal, as it did not reflect the natural (evolutionary) relationships and transitional forms (intermediate morphologies) in this extremely economically-important group of flowering plants.

### VicFlora website redevelopment

A new improved version of VicFlora was publicly-launched on Threatened Species Day in September through social media, generating interest from throughout Australia. The release represented a significant step forward in making information about the plants of Victoria accessible, including over 7,000 images and a re-branded 'front end'. Significant progress continued to be made on the VicFlora project. All existing species profiles are now populated with text. Staff continued updating and editing existing text, maps and keys, and commenced uploading images of plants, with 1,330 new images added this year. Feedback received since the public launch has been extremely positive, with experts in the field considering it the best State e-flora in the country.

Since the launch, website traffic has more than doubled from an average of 76 to 227 sessions per day with peak use being during the business week and dropping off over the weekends.

September to December sessions

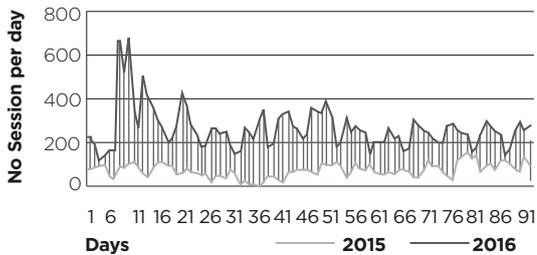


Figure 2: Comparison of website traffic for VicFlora, September to December 2015 and 2016

### Publications and citations

The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) is the authoritative source for managing bibliographic databases of online refereed academic journals. ISI publishes calendar-year citation reports as well as the print-based Science Citation Index. In 2016-17, Science Division staff achieved publication in 27 ISI-refereed journals, and similarly, five research papers by ARCUE staff were accepted for publication.

ISI Citations to RBGV research

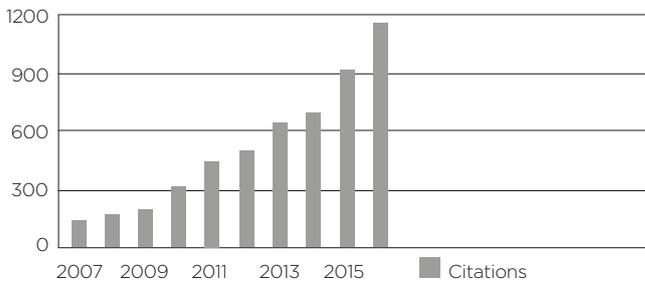


Figure 3: In the 12 months to December 2016, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's research was cited 1,149 times in ISI-refereed journals

Number of ISI publications

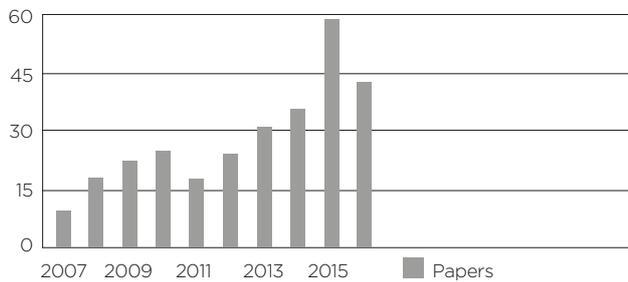


Figure 4: In the 12 months to December 2016, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's researchers authored or co-authored 43 publications in ISI-refereed journals; 15 publications were in journals with Impact Factors greater than 2

## 1.2 CONTRIBUTIONS TO RARE AND THREATENED SPECIES

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria staff contributed to the implementation of State, Territory and Federal Government management plans for the conservation of plants and ecosystems. As well, they participated in research and planning to further the objectives of biodiversity conservation of threatened species.

### Mountain Invasions Research Network

Senior Conservation Botanist Neville Walsh worked with Mountain Invasions Research Network (MIREN) colleagues in Kosciuszko National Park for the third measuring of vegetation transects established in 2006 along roads leading to mountain summit areas (e.g. Kiandra, Mt Kosciuszko, Falls Creek in Australia) to monitor the movement of exotic species in mountain ecosystems. The same survey method is being employed by mountain ecologists in Europe, USA (including Hawaii), South America, Canary Islands and Himalayas and the results are aggregated to determine presence or absence of global trends. MIREN is a global network based in Zurich, Switzerland, dedicated to measuring the movement of invasive exotic species in mountain systems through the world due to climate change or the road-transport of seeds. Common to most mountain systems are sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* group), and creeping bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), but new exotic species are encountered with each survey.

### Multi-site regional conservation collection

Planning for *Care for the Rare*, an ambitious program that aims to establish a multi-site conservation collection across a number of botanic gardens in the State, progressed with an assessment of plants suited for inclusion in the program completed, and Expressions of Interest from participating regional botanic gardens in Victoria sought. This program is being developed in partnership with BGANZ Victoria, with the support of the Maud Gibson Trust.

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## 1.3 COLLECTIONS, CURATION AND DIGITAL ACCESS

### Foreign Collection Project

Historically-significant specimen sheets were discovered as a result of the ongoing curation of the Foreign Collection. They included eight sheets thought to be part of Bauhin's Herbarium, that predate Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's oldest known collections, and an additional 28 sheets from the Petiver Herbarium dated to 1696. Predating the Linnean binomial system of names, the names on the specimen sheets consist of four or five Latin words. Bauhin (1560-1624) collected in the late 1500s and early 1600s, and most of this collection is located in Basel. If confirmed, these sheets will be the oldest collections held by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and older than those reported by our Royal Botanic Gardens counterparts at Kew and Edinburgh. These recent discoveries further highlight the importance of the Foreign Collection.

### Acquisition of rare *Banks' Florilegium*

Sydney Parkinson, the scientific illustrator on Captain James Cook's first voyage around the world, created 743 illustrations of plants observed during the expedition. Joseph Banks commissioned copper-plate engravings of these illustrations, however, they were never published, and the exquisite plates sat unused in the British Museum for over 200 years. Between 1980 and 1990, one hundred sets, comprising 34 volumes, were printed in colour using traditional techniques, to form the *Banks' Florilegium*. The Victorian Government purchased a set and custody of the volumes was shared between the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (15 volumes depicting the Australian flora), and the State Library of Victoria (the remaining volumes depicting plants collected in Madeira, Brazil, Tierra del Fuego, the Society Islands, New Zealand, and Java).

In late 2016, our two institutions collaborated to purchase a rarely offered, pristine set for £37,500 (split 50 per cent RBGV/SLV) thus enabling both institutions to finally hold complete sets of this significant publication. The purchase is an important addition to the State Botanical Collection and offers wonderful exhibition potential following the Herbarium redevelopment.

### Virtual Regional Identification Network

Several key components towards establishing a virtual regional identification network were put in place including VicFlora. As part of a pilot project, scanning of exemplar herbarium specimens of each taxon of Victorian Eucalyptus species commenced. The key component to establishing the network is being able to construct a regional flora, including cut-down identification keys, by putting a geographic overlay on the VicFlora data. Software development for this element was facilitated by the Atlas of Living Australia.

## 1.4 LOOKING AHEAD

**Science Strategy** – Preparatory work commenced on the scope and consultation required for a whole-of-site organisation Science Strategy to be completed in 2017-18

### Cranbourne Gardens Centre for Plant Conservation

– Scoping work for the establishment of this facility, incorporating a seed bank, orchid conservation laboratory and public participation gallery, to commence in 2017-18

### Care for the Rare: Multi-site regional botanic garden conservation collection

– Applications for participating gardens to be assessed with associated garden visits scheduled for September to October 2017

## 1.5 OVERVIEW OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### Long-term Strategy 1.1: Consolidating and focussing scientific research

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
1.1.2	Develop and implement the whole-of-organisation Science Strategy by 31 December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning commenced</li> </ul>
1.1.3	Integrate ARCUE, Plant Sciences and Biodiversity and Cranbourne Gardens ecology programs into a cohesive (but not necessarily co-located) science program by 31 December 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science Division was created</li> <li>• ARCUE ceased business operations as at 31 December 2016; this decision was in part due to the cessation of long-term funding and a reduction in earned revenue from ARCUE's business operations</li> </ul>
1.1.4	Develop new or existing partnerships and consolidations in Australia and internationally to achieve better scientific outcomes and understanding by 30 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This action did not proceed due to closure of ARCUE</li> </ul>
	Undertake \$0.5 million worth of commercial ecological research projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This action did not proceed due to closure of ARCUE</li> </ul>

### Long-term strategy 1.2: Providing plant information to people where and how they want it

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
1.2.2	Establish a regional or virtual identification network in Victoria linked to e-Flora by 30 June 2016, to provide increased public accessibility to fundamental knowledge of Victoria's vascular flora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VicFlora phase 2 successfully released</li> <li>• Funding for imaging received</li> <li>• Pilot project to image exemplars and diagnostic features of Victorian Eucalypt species is in progress</li> </ul>

### Long-term strategy 1.3: Making a major contribution to solving plant-related and ecological problems

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
1.3.1	Establish an integrated and broader scoped Victorian Grassland Conservation Program, including research into the population and life history structure of threatened grassland communities, discovery and classification of new species, seed banking, propagation, management and restoration by 30 June 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No funding has been identified</li> <li>• This will remain an aspirational program, but the likelihood of delivery has been impacted by closure of ARCUE and the loss of key expertise</li> </ul>
1.3.2	Depending on the outcome of 1.3.1, scope the capacity and facilities needed for a major seed banking and plant propagation centre for the conservation of Victoria's most-at-risk plant ecosystems by 30 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary discussions on the purpose of the centre have commenced as part of preparations for the Science Strategy</li> </ul>
1.3.7	Through BGANZ Victoria, explore RBGV leading the establishment of a multi-site regional botanic garden conservation collection with associated interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of rare and threatened flora of Victoria suited for inclusion in the program completed</li> <li>• EOI for participation by regional gardens in circulation</li> <li>• Discussed at BGANZ Vic Executive with in principle support to fund elements of the program</li> </ul>

### Long-term strategy 1.4: Restoring and unlocking the Herbarium's World Collection

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
1.4.1	Mount, database and curate the non-Australian component of the Herbarium collection (rich in specimens of historic and scientific importance) by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9,532 foreign-collected specimens databased and edited as part of the Foreign Collection Project</li> <li>• 3,752 foreign-collected specimens mounted</li> </ul>
	Mount, database and curate the Australian component of the State Botanical Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7,037 Australian specimens mounted, remounted and curated</li> </ul>

## 2: Inspiring Plant Learning

# YEAR IN REVIEW

As a result of the Organisation Structure Review project this year, a new Engagement and Impact division was created, confirming Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's commitment to and capacity for achieving its mission to inspire people to environmental action through a renewed focus on engagement activity with scale and social benefit. In October, we created and appointed a new executive role, Executive Director Engagement and Impact, to lead this important work. Considerable effort followed in reviewing positions and establishing an optimum structure, and the search began in May to fill key leadership roles, including Head Programming and Audience Development and Head Development, Marketing and Communications.

Work commenced in February on the development of Communications, Engagement and Event strategies as part of a comprehensive Engagement and Impact Plan, to be completed in 2017-18. A strategic workshop was held with the Board and Executive Team in May toward developing a new core value proposition, with strong communications and advocacy tools as the desired set of outputs. Marlin Communications and Precise Value, two specialist communications organisations, were contracted to work with the Board in the autumn and assist in developing new 'territories' for marketing, fundraising and business development activity, with the medium and long-term aim of securing and attracting new audiences and funders. An increased investment in major events and programming also commenced.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria achieved the following Budget Paper No. 3 output performance measure in the 2016-17 reporting period:

Table 9: Performance against objective

BP3 Output performance measures	Visitors to Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens
QOTCV	Quantity
Unit of measure	number
2016-17 target	1.6-2 million
2016-17 actual	1.91 million
Variance	0
Result	✓

Key

- ✓ performance target achieved or exceeded or expected to be achieved.
- performance target not achieved - exceeds 5% variance.
- ° performance target not achieved. Within 5% variance.

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# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **1.9 million visitors** across both sites – a record number of local, national and international visitors engaging with living collections and the environment
- 13,500 people attended the **inaugural A WEEKEND in the Gardens** concert series, featuring headline artists John Farnham, Boy and Bear, Ice House and other artists
- 32,775 students participated in **onsite education programs** and 326 teachers attended professional development programs
- November’s month-long **Kangaroo Paw Celebration** welcomed 19,346 visitors to Cranbourne Gardens compared with 13,720 at the same time the previous year
- Melbourne Gardens hosted the 11th Australasian **Plant Conservation Conference**, bringing together 150 conservation scientists and practitioners
- 3,500 people attended the **8th Family Fun Day** at Cranbourne Gardens, a free event held in partnership with the City of Casey and South East Water
- Over 2,000 people attended artist Jeannie Baker’s **national-touring Circle Exhibition**
- 2,650 international tourists joined weekly **Aboriginal Heritage Walk** tours as part of an agreement with USA tour operator Grand Circle Travel, boosting revenue and participation

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## IMPACT SNAPSHOT: CARING FOR KIDS AND COUNTRY

An innovative Indigenous Student Internship Program that aims to give Aboriginal students work experience at the Gardens is now in its final year.

Funded by the Department of Education and Training through its Strategic Partnerships Program, the Program has engaged with five students from secondary schools across Melbourne, who have worked alongside Indigenous Heritage Guides, and with education and horticulture staff, experiencing a range of roles.

Program Coordinator Ellen Regos has overseen the Program and says 'the highlight of the program has been the impact it's had on the students, with some making future career decisions based on their experiences.

'The Program runs over 10 days, either consecutively or across numerous weeks. Staff endeavour to tailor the program to student's interests, with an effort made to incorporate a diversity of tasks.'

Areas of interest have included Aboriginal cultural programs, botany, environmental education and early childhood programs, history, horticulture, land management and ecology.

Most recently, we welcomed the first special needs intern who has been working with Lenka Vanderboom, one of RBGV's permanent Aboriginal Heritage Guides.

Feedback from staff about the interns has been positive. Of Gian, who completed the program in 2016, his horticulture mentor says she was most impressed with his grasp of plant family names: 'he made me feel like I was working with a future botanist'.

And of Kane, his carer and foster sister Margaret Ritchie says he is using his learnings from the internship at home and at school: 'He's getting up earlier and is on time for school, and very excited to be engaged in meaningful employment through the internship.'

Lenka says she has enjoyed facilitating part of the program and acknowledged that 'it's a great opportunity for students to be engaged in cultural development and workplace training.'

Indigenous student intern Kane Lynch with his carer and foster sister Margaret Ritchie at Melbourne Gardens  
Photo: Lenka Vanderboom



## 2.1 PROGRAMMING AND MAJOR EVENTS

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria visitation increased again this year at almost 2 million across both Cranbourne Gardens and Melbourne Gardens, with visitors to Melbourne Gardens higher than the previous year at 1,651,367, and Cranbourne Gardens recording 262,956 visitors, a more than 30 per cent increase on the previous year. New programs and major events contributed significantly to boosting visitor numbers, with a peak of 19,346 visitors to Cranbourne Gardens during the *Kangaroo Paw Celebration*.

Now in its eighteenth year, the Aboriginal Heritage Walk remained the most popular cultural program across the year at Melbourne Gardens with 9,027 visitors learning about traditional culture, through engagement with Aboriginal guides. Night Sky tours at the Melbourne Observatory were the next most-subscribed with just over 1,000 participants exploring the Southern skies through heritage telescopes under the guidance of experts from the Astronomical Society of Victoria.

At Cranbourne Gardens, the Garden Explorer tour of the Australian Garden, with its on-board commentary, proved the most popular way of touring the Garden with 12,555 passengers. Similarly, the Garden Explorer attracted 5,464 visitors on its tour around the 38-hectare Melbourne Gardens' site, providing a more accessible alternative of viewing the Gardens.

### **Botanic and Rare Plant Fair**

The inaugural *Botanic and Rare Plant Fair* in October, organised in partnership with the Diggers Trust and Melbourne Friends, attracted 2,660 people over two days in incredibly inclement weather.

During the weekend, 185 people attended fee-paying workshops and another 114 visitors participated in behind-the-scenes tours. The event was well received with 88 per cent of attendees saying they would attend a similar event in the future. Of the stallholders who participated, 90 per cent said they would participate in a similar event in the future.

### **Kangaroo Paw Celebration**

The month-long *Kangaroo Paw Celebration* at Cranbourne Gardens was developed as a partnership event between Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and Cranbourne Friends. The celebration showcased kangaroo paws and related plants in the Haemodraceae plant family and their many uses in home gardens, floristry, art and landscape design. A three-day symposium, coordinated by the Cranbourne Friends, also explored taxonomy, breeding, cultivation and marketing of Kangaroo Paws and attracted a significant list of guest speakers from across Australia.

### **A WEEKEND in the Gardens**

A series of live music concerts were held in the Melbourne Gardens' Observatory Precinct over the Labour Day Weekend in March. The inaugural concert series – *A WEEKEND in the Gardens* – was produced by Roundhouse Entertainment, a subsidiary of Mushroom Group. This fully-licensed live music event created an exciting new experience of the Gardens for existing patrons and attracted a younger audience to Melbourne Gardens as well. The Gardens' programming team worked closely with the organisers to deliver a sensitive, environmentally friendly event in terms of impact for the landscape. An estimated 13,500 guests attended the three concerts, generating significant revenue and media attention for the Gardens and participating artists.

Plant specialist and breeder Angus Stewart leads a tour at the Kangaroo Paw Celebration, with Horticulture Manager John Arnott  
Photo: Adrian Vittorio



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## 2.2 LEARNING PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Education teams at both sites introduced more than 32,000 students to plant life and science through on-site programs based around the themes of Indigenous Culture and History, Nature Play and Gardening for a Resilient Future. Programs and workshops were guided by experienced educators, providing face-to-face engagement through stories, hands-on experience and the rich sensory environment of the Gardens. Learning is immersive and leads to the development of knowledge and life-long skills in nature. In addition, school groups regularly visited both sites for self-guided tours.

Indigenous education programs that promote a greater understanding of traditional culture and land practices attracted high student numbers at both sites again this year. At Melbourne Gardens, 8,385 students participated in *Connecting to Country* and at Cranbourne Gardens, 2,694 undertook *A Shared Country*. The next most significant program at Melbourne was *Introduction to the Gardens* with 4,468 students being introduced to the site and its botanic heritage, and at Cranbourne, *Seed to Tree*, with 1,328 students learning about the important role plants play in sustaining the biosphere.

Garden Ambassadors assist with nature play activities at Cranbourne Gardens  
Photo: Adrian Vittorio

## THE BUSH KINDER PROGRAM AT CRANBOURNE GARDENS PROVIDED GENUINE BUSHLAND EXPERIENCES TO 1,954 EARLY YEARS' CHILDREN FROM 134 LOCAL CLASSES

This program and the Balee Koolin Bubup Bush Playgroup, an early years' Indigenous program, developed in partnership with Gardens staff, the Casey Cardinia Library Corporation and Boon Wurrung Elder Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir from the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages, caters for children up to four years and their families and meets regularly on Tuesday mornings in school term.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and Kids in Nature Network teamed up again to celebrate Nature Play Week in April. A Nature Play Forum at Cranbourne Gardens attracted 62 professional participants, introducing them to the concepts behind Bush Kinder and why there is an increasing demand for outdoor play opportunities in natural spaces. In addition, the Cherry Ballart School Partnerships program continued to expand through generous support from the McNamee Foundation.



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## 2.3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCESS

Located in one of the fastest growing municipalities in Australia, the RBGV team at Cranbourne Gardens continued to work closely with the local community including the City of Casey to promote access to the Gardens and its facilities. In addition to the annual Family Fun Day, RBGV staged the 6th Annual *Australian Textile Exhibition* at the Cranbourne Gardens Gallery in partnership with the Cranbourne Friends and Australian textile designer Leesa Chandler, attracting almost 3,000 people over six days in late February, and *Botanic treasures: Capturing Australian seeds, flowers and landscapes* by Michael Marmach, drew new visitors as part of the City of Casey Winter Arts Program 2016.

Melbourne Gardens continued to host a number of annual events with partner organisations including the annual Victorian Schools Garden Awards, which welcomed 300 students to Melbourne Gardens in December, the Department of Health and Human Services 'Victoria In Bloom' awards for public and community housing tenants at Mueller Hall in April, and Open House Melbourne in July.

### NAIDOC Week

In its fourth year, the Koolin-ik ba kirrip-buluk Family and Friends Working Party convened to plan and facilitate a community event at Cranbourne Gardens to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2016. The aim of the partnership is to work alongside local Indigenous services to host a culturally significant event for the municipalities of Casey, Greater Dandenong, Cardinia and surrounding councils. The event was open to the public and attracted 1,500 people, fostering an increase in community awareness around Indigenous culture (past and present) and the celebration of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and their contributions to the local community.

At Melbourne Gardens NAIDOC was celebrated with *Koolin Ngargee*, a family event hosted in the Children's Garden. Over 100 children (including 30 children from Gowrie childcare centre) celebrated Indigenous culture with hands-on activities including ochre hand painting and boomerang painting.

### Circle Exhibition by Jeannie Baker and Linden New Art in Residence

The *Circle Exhibition* based on award-winning children's author and artist Jeannie Baker's latest picture book, *Circle*, was open to the public at Domain House (Melbourne Gardens) from mid-March until May. The *Circle* tells the story of the Bar-tailed Godwits (*Limosa lapponica baueri*) and the longest unbroken migration (of any animal) they take when they fly from their breeding grounds in Alaska to Australia and New Zealand, following invisible pathways in the sky. Sponsored by the Gardens in partnership with the Melbourne Friends, it was part of a national tour organised by Newcastle Museum that welcomed over 2000 visitors in eight weeks. Volunteer participation was significant, with over 180 volunteers rostered across the same period. The *Circle of Life* education program was developed to coincide with the exhibition, and 389 students and teachers participated.

Linden New Art, the well-respected contemporary art gallery, took up a residency at Domain House in late May for their winter season as part of their Linden New Art In-Residence outreach program. The opening exhibition featured two of Melbourne's mid-career artists – Sam Leach (*Avian Interplanetary*) and Kylie Stillman (*The Opposite of Wild*) – working with nature and plant-based materials, and was launched by the Hon. Martin Foley, Minister for Arts in May.

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## 2.4 MEDIA ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Science, horticulture and programming achieved direct media exposure throughout the year from news stories in conventional print, radio and electronic media news outlets, as well as through RBGV's social media channels and website. Media access to both sites was regularly facilitated by staff, resulting in national television exposure on widely-viewed programs including ABC's *Gardening Australia*, *A Current Affair* and Channel Nine's *Garden Gurus*. RBGV staff provided expert comment to media throughout the year including Drs Tom May and Teresa Lebel on poisonous fungi and other mycological matters; Professor Tim Entwisle discussing challenges facing Botanic Gardens; and Dr Dan Murphy on wattles. Professor Entwisle also continued his regular contributions as a featured contributor to ABC Radio National's *Blueprint for Living*. Programming received coverage through 'What's On' listings and in local and online media, and major events including the inaugural *WEEKEND in the Gardens* concert series was covered widely on multiple channels and in the media.

### e-Communications

*In the Gardens*, a monthly eNews promoting onsite events and current news stories, reached an estimated 4,500 subscribers throughout the year, with monthly open rates averaging 35 per cent and click throughs 20 per cent for each edition. In addition, a special *Education eNews* was sent out at the beginning of each school term, reaching over 3,000 subscribers with open rates averaging 20 per cent and click throughs 16 per cent.

### Social media

Instagram and Facebook proved to be growing and persuasive channels for posting plant highlights, with interest in Australian native plants trending across all RBGV social media platforms. Total subscriber numbers continue to grow on Instagram, with the weekly *Flowering Friday* generating the most interest and engagement throughout the year on both Facebook and Twitter as well. In February, the *Verticordia monadelpha* var. *monadelpha* (Pink Woolly Featherflower) Facebook post reached 65,146 people, prompting 2,963 responses (comments and reactions) and 1,988 shares. Native plants and animals also featured on Instagram, with a post about *Banksia menziesii* (Firewood Banksia) generating 4,806 impressions and reaching 3,612 people of whom 615 engaged with the post.

Southern Boobook enjoying urban habitat at Melbourne Gardens: a popular social media post  
Photo: Neeraj Sharma



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## 2.5 HORTICULTURAL LEARNING AND EXCELLENCE

### Horticulture Internship Program

The Horticulture Internship Program is now well established with eight interns completing the program this year. A seasonal program, internships run from four to twelve weeks and are open to students who are currently studying in or have recently graduated from tertiary studies associated with the horticulture industry. Interns have the opportunity of extending their knowledge through hands-on training and work experience alongside qualified horticulturists and other professionals in our world-renowned botanic gardens. Interns work primarily with the Melbourne Gardens Horticulture team, but also have the opportunity to gain insights into the breadth of work undertaken in other areas of the organisation including: Landscape Architecture, Arboriculture, Environmental Horticulture and Public Programs at Melbourne Gardens, and can be introduced to the Cranbourne Gardens and Science divisions.

### Nursery propagation and cultivation of threatened species

Collaborative work between RBGV's Science Division, Melbourne Gardens' Nursery and DELWP, including a four year project for the translocation of terrestrial orchids, has resulted in the reintroduction of a number of rare and threatened species during the year. Plants were propagated by Nursery staff from wild-collected seeds that are stored at the Victorian Conservation Seedbank until timing is advantageous for sowing. Seedlings were then transferred to tubes for cultivation until the conditions are ready for translocation to the wild. Seedlings that were supplied for reintroduction in 2016-17 included 600 *Swainsona recta*, a formerly extinct native legume, 200 *Olearia passerinoides* subsp. *glutescens*, a rare plant, restricted in Victoria to a single population near Inglewood, growing at the edges of Box-Ironbark forest, and 178 *Spyridium furculetum*, a very rare shrub, replanted near Nurcoung in the Wimmera as part of a joint project between the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Biodiversity Team and Greening Australia

The success of orchid translocations is underpinned by an *ex-situ* terrestrial orchid collection that has been in place at Melbourne Gardens Nursery for more than 20 years. Nursery staff including Chris Jenek, who is considered by many in the field to be an outstanding grower, propagate and maintain this important collection. One of 11 *Caladenia pumila* Dwarf-spider orchids produced in Melbourne Gardens Nursery is about to flower for the first time in cultivation in spring 2017. This orchid, previously considered to be extinct for 90 years, was found in a Parks Victoria reserve in late 2009.

### Seed orchard work

In addition to raising seedlings for reintroduction to the wild, Melbourne Gardens' Nursery has been growing plants and harvesting seed of *Ballantinia antipoda*, a small annual herb endemic to Victoria and Tasmania that has almost disappeared from all previously known sites. It currently exists at a single location at Mount Alexander in central Victoria and is listed as 'Endangered' under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, 'Threatened' under the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, and 'Extinct' under the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*. Seed orchard plants have been grown and harvested for the past five years, resulting in the storage of 20,000 seeds in the Victorian Conservation Seedbank.

## 2.6 LOOKING AHEAD

**New Shoots Poetry project with Red Room, Melbourne Writers Festival and Australian Poetry** – Five Indigenous poets and five non-indigenous poets will create new poems in response to Melbourne and Cranbourne, with poetry readings during MWF. Generously supported by Eucalypt Australia.

**Melbourne Festival exhibition** – Melbourne Gardens will host its first-ever site-specific Melbourne Festival event in October, a major visual art installation about mass migration and climate refugees by Korean artist Ayoung Kim in Mueller Hall.

**A WEEKEND in the Gardens returns** – Following the success of the inaugural event in March, RBGV will welcome Paul Kelly for a series of 40th anniversary concerts. Melbourne-based Kelly is one of the country's foremost songwriters, respected for his ability to capture Australian stories in a socially conscious way and is a strong supporter of Indigenous rights. RBGV's event aligns to the release of *Life is Fine*, Paul's first number one album in Australia.

## 2.6 OVERVIEW OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### Long-term strategy 2.1: More people knowing about us and visiting us, taking home our key messages and vision

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
2.1.1	Develop and implement a Communications Strategy for the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria that reflects our new vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision made to initiate a Strategic Communications/Value Proposition project to research and articulate the new value of engaging with RBGV for potential customer, stakeholder, funder and donor segments. Research commenced in May-June 2017 and the project will progress through the first quarter of F2018, with completion in December 2017.</li> </ul>

### Long-term strategy 2.2: Creating more opportunities for people to encounter our plants and landscapes

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
2.2.1	Develop and implement an Events Strategy to increase revenue and participation, and to raise our profile as a cultural space equal to museums and galleries by 30 June 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programming and major events strategy is now in development as part of the new Engagement and Impact Plan</li> <li>New role was created and recruited for this work; Head Programming and Audience Development was appointed in June 2016, with the incumbent commencing with RBGV in July 2017</li> <li>Due date for plan has therefore been deferred to December 2017</li> </ul>
	Implement 'Caring for Country' Indigenous Secondary Student Internship program to provide increased access to RBGV expertise and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three students undertook the Indigenous Internship program in late 2016</li> <li>Promotion for places in 2017 program closed with five applications received</li> <li>Program evaluation planned for late 2017</li> </ul>

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**Long-term strategy 2.3: Creating a science communication and promotion hub in Observatory Gate**

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
2.3.1	Pilot 'Science Café' event at Melbourne Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Redevelopment output and asset bid is in train to support concept and design of new Science/Learning precinct plus programs at Melbourne Gardens</li><li>• Specific events such as the Science Café idea will be folded into the new Programming and Major Events strategy due December 2017</li></ul>

**Long-term strategy 2.4: Encouraging horticultural learning and excellence**

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
2.4.1	Establish a horticultural internship program by 30 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Horticulture Internship Program successfully up and running, with eight interns accepted during the year</li></ul>

**Long-term strategy 2.5: Actively promoting plant happenings and discoveries**

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
2.5.1	Develop and implement the Virtual Botanic Garden – apps, social media and better access to all our plant-related database information – by 30 June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incremental progress made, with requirement for overarching digital strategy identified</li><li>• Video links to information on the Woody Meadow Project and its partners established</li></ul>

### 3: Creating special places

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# YEAR IN REVIEW

Long-term strategic planning continued to be a major focus for both Cranbourne Gardens and Melbourne Gardens during the year. Work commenced at Melbourne Gardens on the development of a new 20-year Master Plan, a study of the Aboriginal Heritage Values of the site, an update to the Melbourne Observatory Statement of Significance, as well as implementation of the Landscape Succession Strategy.

At Cranbourne Gardens, the Cranbourne Master Plan was released in October 2016, and work commenced on implementation of priorities in the *2016-2026 Master Plan: Connecting through Nature and Community*, with a key emphasis on improving physical access to the site. Formal approaches were made to stakeholders including the City of Casey to address issues associated with the western end of Ballarto Road. Participation in regional tourism forums was also a priority, with membership of the Casey Cardinia Tourism Advisory Group and input to the Casey Cardinia Visitation Strategy.

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# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Stage 2 of the Fern Gully Restoration Project** progressed
- Heritage Victoria granted permits for the Fern Gully Rest House restoration and three health and wellbeing gardens
- Funding was secured for the Taxodium Deck, Guilfoyle Line Bed, and stormwater and path upgrades as part of the Fern Gully project
- **4,500 ferns** and other plant species covering 150 taxa were sourced or **propagated** by the Melbourne Gardens Nursery team for Stage 2 of the Fern Gully Restoration Project
- Garden Ambassadors and Growing Friends joined working bees with horticulture staff to **pot and plant 2,500 Kangaroo Paws** throughout the Australian Garden for the Kangaroo Paw Celebration
- Cranbourne Gardens was **one of 600 national release sites** for RHDV K5, a biological control agent for the European Rabbit; released in March, it was aimed at mitigating damage caused by rabbits to vegetation in the bushland and horticultural displays in the Australian Garden

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**IMPACT SNAPSHOT: GARDENER, VOLUNTEER, DONOR, FRIEND**

Ask Meg Bentley about the Gardens and she says:  
'It's just so special'.

Meg first visited the Gardens on her honeymoon: 'It was only a short honeymoon, and we got a bit homesick and wanted to go back to the bush.' But her retreat to the bush wasn't the end of her relationship with the Gardens. In the 1970s she started sending specimens to the Herbarium for identification. And in the 1990s, she met Terry Smyth, Curator of the Southern China Collection. 'I had a great interest in China and plants from China. That's how Terry came into my life. She invited me on a collecting trip.'

Meg worked with Terry as a volunteer during the International Year of Volunteers in 2001 and has continued working with Terry and other members of the horticulture team ever since: 'pruning, planting, raking, and weeding'.

Self-taught, she is a *Salvia* specialist with over 400 in her garden.

'I'm in my garden at least five hours a day. And I get Wednesdays off and I come in here on Wednesdays.'

After giving her time and sharing her knowledge for so many years, Meg became a donor to the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. Her passions are for the Foreign Collection Project and in establishing a Horticulture Enrichment Scholarship for staff.

Her motivation: 'Plants, plants mostly, and the people with it...Well, when you do donate you're becoming part of the botanic gardens that's shared with everyone around the world...so whether it's voluntary work or financial, you are still adding something to the Gardens'.

Meg Bentley in front of *Colocasia gigantea* in the Southern China Collection  
Photo: Terry Smyth



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## 3.1 LIVING COLLECTIONS

### Curating the future

The completion of Curatorial Management Plans for each precinct of the Australian Garden marks an exciting phase in its development and guarantees that the Garden as it was 'envisioned' is fully documented for future management and reference.

Action plans were developed by cross-disciplinary teams of staff for all 21 garden precincts, capturing the designer's intent, the broad organisational and landscape objectives, and the horticultural and scientific aspirations of each precinct. The mapping of the interpretive and educational intent of the garden precincts, revealed some surprising and interesting aspects on how visitors are using the Australian Garden, challenging previously-held expectations about how they were expected to interact with the garden precincts. Unexpected stories were captured, identifying opportunities for future developments. The planning process provided valuable lessons in harnessing the combined skills and strengths of staff to manage the Australian Garden now and into future.

## 3.2 LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

### Cranbourne Gardens Master Plan

The *Cranbourne Gardens Master Plan 2016–2026: Connecting through Nature and Community* was published and publicly released in November 2016. Key immediate actions from the plan include increasing the prominence of the site through gateway landscape treatments and improving access. The sealing of Ballarto Road west was a focus through discussions with the City of Casey as well as identifying steps to link the site with public transport hubs.

### Melbourne Gardens Master Plan

Work on a new Melbourne Gardens Master Plan commenced in July with an extensive period of stakeholder and community engagement. A major focus of the planning process to date has been the siting of a new herbarium and Science/Learning 'precinct', requiring substantial analysis of various options. A preferred location on the corner of Dallas Brooks Drive and Birdwood Avenue was identified and subsequently approved by the Board. Analysis of 25 zones within Melbourne Gardens was undertaken and meetings held with key internal stakeholders to consider specific elements that could be incorporated into the Master Plan. A preliminary draft Master Plan is scheduled to go to public consultation in February–March 2018, with completion by June 2018.

### Aboriginal Heritage Values project

Workshops were held with representatives of the Boon Wurrung Foundation, the Bunurong Land Council and the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council as part of the Aboriginal Heritage Values Project, with the intention of improving Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's understanding of Aboriginal sites and values within Melbourne Gardens and the Melbourne Observatory precinct. The workshops represented the most extensive engagement undertaken to date with traditional owners, providing potential for future collaborative design and management of Aboriginal heritage sites and input to the Melbourne Gardens Master Plan. A final project report is due to be completed in spring 2017.

## 3.3 BOTANIC GARDENS CAPACITY BUILDING

### Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand Inc. (BGANZ)

Cranbourne Gardens' staff continued to play a leadership role in BGANZ Victoria by representing the group on the BGANZ National Council, and chairing key BGANZ Victoria working groups including the Diversity and Demographics Working Group and the Botanic Gardens Education Network, as well as actively participating in the Botanic Gardens Records Officer Network and Communications Working Groups. Two successful network meetings were held and two Horticultural Seminars organised, addressing key botanic gardens management issues on plant-based solutions in urban landscapes, managing projects in botanic gardens, and managing heritage landscapes.

### International collaboration

*The Landscape Succession Strategy Melbourne Gardens 2016–2036* continued to attract international attention. Conference calls were held between senior Melbourne Gardens' staff and staff at the University of California, Davis, and Cornell University, New York with a view to these institutions using the strategy framework to develop their own plans to adapt their gardens to climate change. These collaborations are expected to be mutually beneficial, given the early stages of strategy implementation at Melbourne Gardens. Presentations about the strategy were made to the International Symposium on Plant Conservation held in Shanghai and the 6th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Geneva, both in June 2017.

At the Geneva Congress, RBGV's successful bid to host the 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in February 2021 (GBGC21) was announced, further strengthening our commitment to engaging with the international botanic gardens community. The bid was supported by the City of Melbourne and the Melbourne Convention Bureau and will coincide with Melbourne Gardens 175th anniversary. The proposed theme of GBGC21 is 'Botanic gardens as provocation', with a strong emphasis on responding to climate change and it is expected to include a range of international presentations, forums and discussions.

### Atlas of Living Australia

Through Australasia’s Virtual Herbarium the RBGV continued to support the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) with the provision of new plant biodiversity distribution records. ALA continued to support a community software developer based at the RBGV. This role enhances the interaction between ALA and the Australasian Herbarium community including the development of open source software that can be used both in ALA and institutional digital products. This has included some components of the online electronic flora of Victoria (VicFlora).

### 3.4 LOOKING AHEAD

**Implementing the Cranbourne Gardens Master Plan** – Work will focus on improving public access to Cranbourne Gardens in the next 12 months and the development of a Southern Grasslands Landscape Plan will commence

**Fern Gully Restoration project** – Work will commence on the Fern Gully Rest House and three health and well-being gardens in spring 2017, with the entire project scheduled for completion by mid-2019

## 3.5 OVERVIEW OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### Long-term strategy 3.1:

#### Highlighting, circumscribing and promoting our key living collections

Specific actions	Progress against deliverables and performance measures
3.1.2 Design and install signage at Melbourne Gardens reflecting our new visual identity by 30 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant labels were delivered by 30 June 2017</li> <li>New location markers for Melbourne Gardens have been ordered and will be installed in spring 2017</li> <li>Rollout of directional signage deferred due to funding shortfall</li> </ul>

### Long-term strategy 3.2:

#### Contributing to botanic gardens capacity building projects around the world

Specific actions	Progress against deliverables and performance measures
3.2.1 Explore national and international partnerships in accordance with government, community and scientific priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape Succession Strategy promoted and extended to other botanic gardens</li> <li>Collaboration with several botanic gardens in the United States of America and the American Plants and Gardens Association</li> <li>Presentation of the Landscape Succession Strategy at 6th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Geneva</li> <li>Continued support for International Association of Botanic Gardens through Council membership</li> <li>Raised membership of Botanic Gardens Conservation International to Patron Level and joined International Advisory Committee</li> </ul>
Contribute to success of BGANZ Council, BGANZ Vic, Botanic Gardens Education Network (BGEN) and Botanic Gardens Records Officer Network forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BGEN Business Plan developed and responsibility passed to new Convenor</li> <li>Cranbourne Gardens Manager Horticulture appointed as BGANZ Council regional representative and Chair of Council Working Groups</li> <li>Cranbourne Gardens Executive Director appointed as BGANZ Victoria Convenor</li> <li>Active involvement in 2017 BGANZ Congress program development</li> </ul>

**Long-term strategy 3.3:  
Completing the Cranbourne Gardens picture**

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
3.3.1	Develop and commence implementing the full-site Master Plan for Cranbourne Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master Plan published and distributed to key stakeholders in November 2016</li> <li>• Key initiatives prioritised for implementation and reviewed quarterly</li> </ul>
	Complete development of Australian Garden Precinct Curatorial Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curatorial Action Plans were completed for all Australian Garden precincts</li> <li>• Implementation of key actions commenced</li> </ul>

**Long-term strategy 3.4:  
Developing the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria – Melbourne site**

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
3.4.1	Confirm and complete future requirements for the new Herbarium and seek funding to commence works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Business Case was submitted to Government on 23 December 2016</li> <li>• Business Case was ultimately unsuccessful for 2017-18 funding; will be resubmitted in December 2017 for consideration in the 2018-19 funding cycle</li> </ul>
3.4.3	Develop plans for the Observatory Gate II Science Centre, which include the Great Melbourne Telescope as well as broader historical and contemporary science functions, by 30 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work delayed due to priority of Herbarium Business Case</li> <li>• Concept development rescheduled to conclude by 31 December 2017</li> </ul>
	Develop new Landscape Master Plan for Melbourne Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work delayed due to consideration of the new Herbarium location</li> <li>• A preliminary draft is now expected in October 2017</li> </ul>

**Long-term strategy 3.5:  
Creating iconic plant display houses as visitor attractions  
and sustainable homes for plants that can influence and inspire**

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
3.5.1	Develop concepts and designs for an iconic 'glasshouse' at Melbourne Gardens driven by plant collection and display objectives (taking into account sustainability, exhibition intent, integration with other projects, visitor needs, and synergies with existing landscape and visitor facilities) by 30 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of preferred locations identified</li> <li>• Glasshouse workshops to develop concepts and designs are now planned for June 2018</li> </ul>

# YEAR IN REVIEW

Work progressed during the year towards achieving greater financial and organisational sustainability with the implementation of a new whole-of-organisation structure. The Executive Team engaged consultants Bendelta to realign our functional capability, and the Board made the strategic decision to invest in roles that will provide for increased social impact from our work, support landscape succession, communicate our mission effectively, and stimulate new business development and fundraising opportunities.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria was also successful in attaining Government funding to move both Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens to fully recyclable water for irrigation by 2020, ensuring we remain adaptable and responsive in our landscape management response to climate change.

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# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **\$6.9 million secured** for 100 per cent recycled irrigation water for both sites was announced in the State budget in May, following a successful funding bid to DELWP
- A study to determine **RBGV's economic value** to the Victorian community was commissioned; Oxford Economics won the contract and will present a final report to the Board in September 2017
- A major project commenced in May to develop a redefining **value proposition and strategic communications** focus for the organisation; market and stakeholder research was also commissioned to provide current customer insights and evidence to the Executive and Board
- **\$0.1 million income generated** from licensed retail operations through three on-site retail outlets as well as licenced merchandise agreements with a number of recognised product line specialists
- Executive Directors Chris Cole and Chris Russell presented on landscape succession and conservation strategies at the 6th Global Botanic Congress in Geneva in May. Our contributions were seen as **world-leading on climate change** and forward planning in this sector

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**IMPACT SNAPSHOT: LOCAL TRIALS,  
GLOBAL RESEARCH, SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS**

Trials in Cranbourne Gardens' Research Garden are contributing to international research into the creation of sustainable 'woody meadows' in urban landscapes – and for RBGV Horticulturist Ahmed Ashraf (Ash), they have formed the basis of his research into his Masters in Urban Horticulture.

The Woody Meadow Project aims to explore the potential for using re-sprouting native shrubs and trees to create resilient, long flowering, urban plant communities. Key to the management and ultimate success of woody meadows is a treatment called coppicing, a technique of harshly cutting back a plant close to the ground and then allowing it to naturally re-sprout.

Through Ash's Masters, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria has partnered with the University of Sheffield in the UK, the University of Melbourne and the City of Melbourne to trial coppicing techniques with different native species.

At the Research Garden, Ash and his colleagues trialled 48 species including *Alyogyne huegelii*, *Calothamnus quadrifidus*, *Eucalyptus caesia*, *Veronica perfoliata*, and *Goodenia ovata* 'Gold Cover' as part of the project.

As well as the Research Garden, trials are also being conducted at two sites at the University of Melbourne, Burnley Campus, in Birrarung Marr and at the Royal Park Golf Course.

For Ash the results have been encouraging. He has now completed his Masters and uncovered some wonderful findings regarding the capacity for the selected species to survive repeated coppicing. The plants in the Research Garden will remain in ground for the rest of 2017, with the University of Melbourne continuing to glean useful information as they mature.

Masters student Ahmed Ashraf at work in the Research Garden  
Photo: Leanne Hanrahan



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## 4.1 DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION

### Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation

In 2016–17, the Foundation team worked closely with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Foundation Board to raise funds for key projects and support fundraising efforts through programs and campaigns including Director's Circle, bequests, seat sponsorships and biannual direct mail campaigns. The current Foundation team generated \$1.5 million in directed giving for horticultural, programs and research and curatorial projects. The balance of funds raised included \$0.4 million, captured under general donations, for an overall total for contributed revenue of \$1.9 million.

Director's Circle remains an important vehicle for engaging with donors, and the team created a number of supporter events aligned with major projects. The annual dinner in May was well attended and received, with a panel discussion on the theme of *Past to Future: Sharing Rich Stories from Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's Collections and Vic Flora* being a lively highlight of the night.

The Foreign Collection Project has attracted over \$200,000 in support from donors in this financial year, including three major gifts of \$65,000 each, plus a number of smaller donations. Support for the Fern Gully Restoration Project and the Arid Garden remained strong, with a significant donation of \$150,000 to fund two projects; the restoration of the Fern Gully Rest House and a sculptural memorial stone seat in the Arid Garden. We were also fortunate to receive a further \$100,000 gift towards a second Arid Garden memorial stone seat. Finally, we were very fortunate to receive several donations totalling \$210,000 given towards the establishment of the three new Health and Wellbeing gardens.

### Commercial and retail operations

Income-generating agreements in place at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria include licenced and branded merchandise available through the Gardens' gift shops and other retail outlets, leasehold agreements with function/venue operators and special event organisers.

Specimens from the State Botanical Collection provided inspiration to designers for the production of licenced merchandise. A retail licensing agreement was negotiated with the internationally-recognised Jenny Jones Rugs, for production of floor rugs and other merchandise, and the Designer Boys licensing arrangement was renewed for another three years. New items were released as part of the popular Maxwell & Williams' range of botanic-themed homewares and design development took place for two new ranges, due for release late in 2017. A tender process was conducted for the glamorous Gardens House venue, with the appointment of the Atlantic Group and a spectacular refurbishment completed in May 2017. Melbourne Gardens' outdoor summer cinema was retendered, with Greater Union's Moonlight Cinema securing the licence for another 10 years.

## 4.2 DEVELOPING CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY

### Organisation Structure Review

The Organisation Structure Review project was completed on schedule with the final structure signed-off by the Board on 15 March. Implementation continued through to June 2017, with several new roles still in recruitment. Major milestones reached included the recruitment of an Executive Director to lead the newly-created Engagement and Impact Division, as well as successful Implementation of Change processes conducted for Level 3 (Manager) positions in the second part of 2016, and for Levels 4 and 5 positions in the early part of 2017, with the Community and Public Sector Union signing-off on the latter in early May. As a result, a number of staff members transitioned to new positions, new roles were advertised, and several staff moved into a period of redeployment followed by redundancy. The creation and implementation of this optimal and more efficient structure will see reduction in duplication, streamlined approval processes, and Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria better-placed to achieve its Corporate Plan objectives.

### ICT Strategy Implementation

ICT strategy implementation progressed well. The introduction of GUAVA Retain software brought the email-archiving system into line with Public Records Office Victoria standards, and the email system was migrated to Microsoft Exchange/Outlook. A new payroll system, Frontier ICHRIS, with an online Employee Kiosk, was introduced during the year.

## 4.3 SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### 100% recycled irrigation water by 2018

Successful business cases were submitted to the State Government to achieve 100 per cent recycled water for irrigation at both sites by 2021. State Government Budget allocations of \$3.2 million for 'Recycled Water initiative (Cranbourne Gardens)' and \$3.7 million 'Recycled Water initiative (Melbourne Gardens)' announced in May will provide vital support for these infrastructure projects. Work on the Cranbourne Gardens project is progressing and discussions with Trility, the commercial operators of recycled water as part of the Eastern Irrigation Scheme, are informing the detailed design of water infrastructure requirements. The project aims to connect water from the Eastern Treatment Plant into the existing 'purple pipes' beneath the Australian Garden. Discussions are ongoing with Melbourne Water and other key stakeholders including the City of Melbourne in efforts to address technical issues related to diverting Yarra River water from above Dight's Falls to the Melbourne Gardens and City of Melbourne parks.

### Implementing the Landscape Succession Strategy

The climate vulnerability of Melbourne Gardens' living plant collections was assessed in a study by Dr Dave Kendal and Alison Farrar of The University of Melbourne. The subsequent report - *Assessment of the climate change risk to living plant collections in the Melbourne Gardens, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria* - will be used to inform the future composition of landscape plantings. Vulnerability assessments for 6,106 taxa were investigated by comparing the temperature of locations where species naturally occur against a moderate and an extreme climate change scenario for Melbourne in 2070. The data will allow landscape planners to choose the best locations or 'climate envelopes' within Melbourne Gardens for new plantings of species considered to be at risk in a 2070 climate scenario.

For the first time in 25 years, 17 of 18 arboriculture zones were mapped and over 5,000 trees identified, plotted and updated on the Melbourne Gardens' Living Collections Database, as part of the Strategic Tree Plan. Trees were assessed against Useful Life Expectancy methodology and climatic conditions as part of Strategy 2 of the Landscape Succession Strategy (Establish a mixed-age selection of plants composed of high diversity taxa).

### Environmental resource management

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is committed to sustainable resource management. The Environmental Stewardship Policy underpinned by a commitment to Biodiversity and Ecology, Community Engagement and the maintenance of its Landscapes is central to its environmental management. Ecologically sustainable development principles are applied in the planning and development of major projects, and the Gardens is a recognised leader in water management for large landscapes. Waste minimisation and management programs are in place at both sites.

Table 10: Annual waste management

Waste processing (to recycling, landfill and mulching)	Cranbourne Gardens	Melbourne Gardens
Comingled waste (recycling)	5 tonnes	276 tonnes
Cardboard and paper recycled	Included above	8.2 tonnes
Public waste (to landfill)	Included below	40 tonnes
General office and gardens' waste to landfill	15.5 tonnes (includes public waste)	40 tonnes
Green waste converted to mulch	42.3 tonnes	1,650 cubic metres

Table 11: Annual energy use

Usage	Cranbourne Gardens	Melbourne Gardens
Electricity consumption (kilowatt hours - kWh)	386,437.37 kWh*	723,490 kWh
Gas consumption (megajoules)	LPG used (records unavailable)	6,413,249 MJ

### Melbourne Gardens Working Wetlands Energy Metrics

In comparison to 2015-16, there was a 26 per cent reduction in pumping energy use during 2016-17 for Working Wetlands' recirculation pumps, water treatment facilities and irrigation pump station. This is mostly attributed to less of a need to recirculate lake water to manage what now appears to be a diminishing, potentially toxic cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) population.

Energy generated from the photo-voltaic (PV) systems was 6 per cent down for 2016-17 compared with 2015-16 due to technical/mechanical issues. However, even with the losses in PV returns, the reduction in pumping energy has returned about an 85 per cent offset in grid electricity use.

Table 12: Working Wetlands Energy Metrics

Period	WW Grid electricity use (MWh)	Photo-voltaic generation (MWh)	Grid electricity offset
1 June 2014 to 30 April 2015	106	72	68%
1 June 2015 to 30 April 2016	105	70	66%
3 June 2016 to 30 April 2017	78	66	85%

\* Representing a 4.2 per cent increase on energy use in 2015-16

### Water management

As of 30 April 2017, 45 ML of harvested stormwater was applied to the landscape at Melbourne Gardens compared with 13 ML for a similar period in 2015-16. For 2016-17, of the total amount of water (114 ML) that was used, 40 per cent was sourced from stormwater. If equated to the value of potable-sourced water, the stormwater volume provided \$143,000 worth of savings. *Azolla* continued to be a major focus of water management in the lake system. The Horticulture team's work in managing its spread was exemplary for their persistence under pressure, especially in a season where the environmental conditions were perfect for *Azolla* to thrive and proliferate.

Water consumption at Cranbourne Gardens was recorded at 33.21 ML representing an overall 16.35 per cent reduction in consumption from 2015-16.

The majority of this decrease was due to a reduction to Australian Garden irrigation caused by a mild summer period. In terms of overall water consumption 85 per cent can be attributed to irrigation. Annual water use in 2016-17 equated to 126.3 litres per visitor.

Major infrastructure work planned for both sites in the next four years will result in 100 per cent recycled water for irrigation use.

### 4.4 LOOKING AHEAD

**Recycled Irrigation Water Project, Cranbourne Gardens** – Detailed design process to be completed and construction works tendered

***Azolla* management** – The purchase of a mechanised *Azolla* harvester is planned and will assist in meeting the major environmental management challenge on the Melbourne Gardens lakes system

## 4.5 OVERVIEW OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### Long-term strategy 4.1: Developing an organisational structure and culture to meet our vision

Specific actions	Progress against deliverables and performance measures
4.1.1 Review our support organisations and stakeholder groups to maximise their contribution to our vision by 30 June 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licence Deeds in place for both Friends groups</li> <li>• Campaign Council formed</li> </ul>
4.1.2 Review organisational structures to best deliver the Corporate Plan objectives, and to fulfil our new vision and mission by 30 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation Structure Review completed, including matching and EOI processes; filling of funded positions in final stages</li> <li>• Corporate processes realigned to support and embed the new structure</li> </ul>
Commence preparation of Enterprise Agreement (EA) 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management Log approved by DELWP and DTF</li> <li>• Negotiations will commence in August 2017, for completion in October 2017</li> </ul>

### Long-term strategy 4.2: Creating sustainable landscapes

Specific actions	Progress against deliverables and performance measures
4.2.1 Prepare an annual environmental scorecard/report covering all aspects of our business and our contributions to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation by 30 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deferred until December 2017 as result of Corporate Plan revision</li> <li>• Preparatory work commenced and on target for first score-card/report by December</li> </ul>
4.2.2 Achieve 100% recycled water for irrigation on both sites by 31 December 2018, pending funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Cases confirming all requirements and timing submitted to Government in December</li> <li>• Full funding announced in May, to commence from 2017-18</li> </ul>
4.2.3 Implement key priorities of Melbourne Gardens' Landscape Succession Plan by 30 June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultant engaged, and 90 per cent of deliverables completed (i.e. 3 components of work: management tool, spreadsheet and report)</li> <li>• Draft received, with final report due by 30 July 2017</li> </ul>

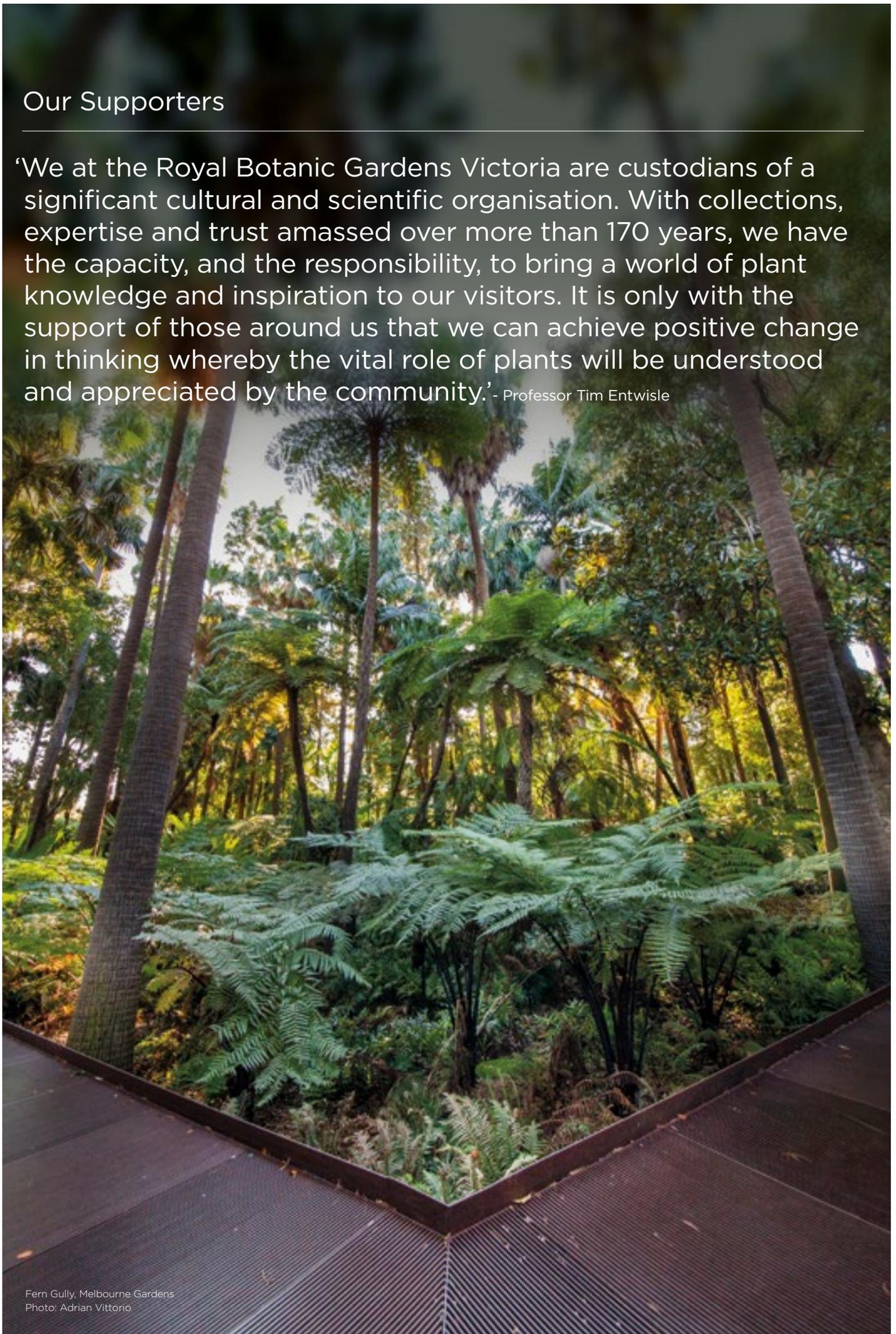
### Long-term strategy 4.3: Developing a sustainable business

Specific actions	Progress against deliverables and performance measures
4.3.1 Implement the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2016-17 funding priorities completed, including implementation of new Email system, Pronto Upgrade project, Payroll project and Employee Kiosk</li> <li>• Investigated Electronic Document Management systems and Data Governance initiatives</li> </ul>
4.3.2 Seek to address shortcomings in Melbourne Gardens and National Herbarium resourcing through <i>Redefining the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria</i> (Asset plus Output) bids by 30 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation Structure Review completed late May 2017</li> <li>• Investment Logic Map and Short form Business Case for <i>Redefining the Royal Botanic Gardens</i> bids is in train</li> </ul>
4.3.3 Develop and implement a Marketing and Commercial Strategy with a focus on revenue-raising activities (with revenue targets), and including commissionable tourism products, by 30 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to implementation of Organisation Structure Review project, and delays in recruitment of key roles, this project will now commence in July 2017, with recommendations developed by December 2017</li> </ul>
4.3.4 Develop a stronger consultancy capability around key skills such as children's gardens, water conservation, Victorian flora and urban ecology by 30 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cranbourne Gardens undertook curatorial consulting to Colac Botanic Gardens</li> </ul>
Develop a whole-of-organisation fundraising campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First meeting of Campaign Council held</li> <li>• \$1.5 million generated by RBGV Foundation team from directed giving, including \$200,000 for two planned memorial stones, with an additional \$415,000 from general donations</li> </ul>
Determine outcome for The Terrace opportunity currently held by Delaware North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions held with DELWP have confirmed alternative approach to public tender; Licence Agreement in preparation</li> <li>• Licence Deed approved by Minister on 30 June 2017; GIC consideration will occur on 18 July 2017</li> </ul>
Review RBGV's Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) management system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning Management System implementation to be undertaken by People and Culture Branch in late 2017, pending completion of the OSR project and Culture Branch in late 2017, pending completion of the OSR project</li> <li>• Guide to the RBGV OH&amp;S System completed and rolled out to all staff</li> </ul>
Implement a new payroll system, including online timesheet and leave record keeping capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Payroll system implemented on 2 November 2016.</li> </ul>

## Our Supporters

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‘We at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria are custodians of a significant cultural and scientific organisation. With collections, expertise and trust amassed over more than 170 years, we have the capacity, and the responsibility, to bring a world of plant knowledge and inspiration to our visitors. It is only with the support of those around us that we can achieve positive change in thinking whereby the vital role of plants will be understood and appreciated by the community.’ - Professor Tim Entwisle



## GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria sincerely thanks the individuals, businesses, community groups, government entities and philanthropic trusts and foundations that generously supported our work in 2016-17.

Philanthropic support received by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria plays an important role in helping the organisation achieve its strategic priorities. During 2016-17, ongoing support from our committed donors has been particularly critical for significant Gardens development projects such as the Fern Gully restoration, as well as landscape, horticultural and scientific projects in train.

Donations received from Friends and individuals during the year went to projects including VicFlora, the Foreign Collection Project, Fern Gully, Visitor Centre refurbishment at Melbourne Gardens, and various smaller science, horticulture and education projects. Further to this, organisations that provided research grants are acknowledged on page 64 of this report.

This list records contributions of \$1,000 and over in the 2016-17 financial year, excluding those made through the Director's Circle program (see page 62).

Anonymous (1)

The Late Miss Betty Amsden AO DSJ

Ms Judy Backhouse and Mr Gary Backhouse

Baker Foundation

Benalla Garden Club Inc

Bosisto's Eucalyptus

Philip and Vivien Brass Charitable Foundation

Calvert-Jones Foundation

CSL Limited

Cybec Foundation

Mrs David Darling

Edward Wilson Estate

Erica Foundation PTY LTD

Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne Inc

Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Inc

Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Trust Fund

Charles and Cornelia Goode Foundation

Grenet Foundation Ltd

Lindisfarne Foundation Pty Limited

Mr Brian J Little

Maud Gibson Trust

The McNamee Family Foundation

Nell & Hermon Slade Trust

Mr Tom Park and Mrs Cathy Park

Betsy and Ollie Polasek Endowment

Reece Pty Ltd

Schapper Family Foundation

The Stuart Leslie Foundation

Vera Moore Foundation

## Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria

The Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria was established in May 2001, with the goal of providing the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria with a secure source of future income from the investment of bequests, seat sponsorships, Director's Circle donations and general donations.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria has Deductible Gift Recipient (Item 2) status and is endorsed as an Income Tax Exempt Fund.

During the year, the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria continued to manage its capital base by investing the corpus with Perpetual Trustees, thus strengthening stewardship of donor funds, to further enhance its capacity to provide long-term financial support to the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. The generous effort, support and time of Foundation members is essential to the Gardens' success. Donations to the Foundation from individuals make it possible to provide grants toward multiple ongoing fellowships, landscape and programming projects within and beyond the garden gates at both sites. The Foundation has also demonstrated leadership in the area of 'friend-raising' and donor engagement through new events in 2016-17.

Table 13: Members of the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria Board, 2016-17

Gillian Hund	Chair Foundation Finance & Audit Committee
Kenneth Harrison AM	Foundation Finance & Audit Committee
Elaine Canty AM	
Adrienne Clarke AC	
Misha Prusa	
Professor Tim Entwisle	Secretary

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### **Maud Gibson Trust**

The Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria is also the Trustee for the Maud Gibson Trust, a public ancillary fund, which is required to make annual distributions to the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

The Maud Gibson Trust was established in 1945 with a donation from Miss Maud Gibson for the maintenance, development, or otherwise for the benefit of the Botanic Gardens. The Trust facilitated the initial purchase of land to establish Cranbourne Gardens and has continued to take an influential role in the development of that site, including the creation of the multi-award-winning Australian Garden. It has also encouraged and supported botanical research and educational programs for many years at Melbourne Gardens. The Maud Gibson Trust supported the following projects at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria during the year:

- Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Scholarships
  - Foreign Collection Project
  - Australia's Virtual Herbarium imaging project
- The Foundation greatly values and appreciates the commitment and contributions of all of its supporters. In addition to all those listed on the previous page under Generous Financial Support, the Foundation wishes to acknowledge the following people and their significant contributions during 2016-17:

Anonymous (1)  
Ms Laurie Bebbington and Ms Elizabeth O'Keeffe  
Mrs Meg Bentley and Mr Garry Bentley  
Mr Clive Blazey and Mrs Penny Blazey  
Mrs Jasmine Brunner  
Ms Sandra Clark and Mr Alex Ivory  
Dr Philippa Currie  
Mr Gerard Dieters and Ms Jean Dieters  
Edward Wilson Estate  
Mr Angus Fletcher and Mrs Holly Fletcher  
Mrs Louise Gourlay OAM  
Mr Andrew Guild and Mrs Ai-gul Guild  
Mrs Gillian Hund and Mr Michael Hund  
Mr Ian Endersby  
Mr Frank Mahlab and Mrs Eve Mahlab AO  
Mrs Roslyne Milne  
Mrs Anne Miller and Mr Edward Miller  
Mr Dennis Nassau and Mrs Fairlie Nassau  
Mr Kenneth Nelson  
Ms Wendy M Olenick  
Mrs Carolyn M Rayner  
Mrs Maggie Richards and Dr Max Richards AM  
Mr Mark Robertson OAM and Mrs Anne Robertson  
Mr Ralph Sarich AO and Mrs Patricia Sarich  
Mrs Anita Simon  
NS & JS Turnbull  
Mr Frank Van Straten AM and Mr Adrian Turley

### **Perennial Gardeners**

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria gratefully acknowledges the following individuals who have included the Gardens in their estate plans:

Anonymous (30)  
Mrs Tamara Boldiston  
and Mr Mark Boldiston (Lord Coconut)  
Mrs Hazel Brentnall and Dr Edward Brentnall  
Ms Sally Browne  
Mrs Elsie Carter  
Ms Rosemary Cotter  
Mrs Lorna Downey  
Mr Richard A Farrar  
Mr Rob Grant  
Mrs Margaret Grummet  
The Late Arno Herpe and Mrs Maria Jo Herpe  
The Estate of the Late Charles A Hill  
Professor Roderick Home  
Mr Peter Jopling AM QC  
The Estate of the Late Elena Keown  
Ms Zara Kimpton OAM  
The Late Athol Laphthorne and Mrs Millie Laphthorne  
Janet Lilley  
The Estate of the Late Michael J Mavrogordato  
Mrs Anne Miller  
Dr Philip Moors AO  
Ms Rosemary O'Brien  
Mr David Plant and Mrs Diana Plant  
Ms Misha Prusa  
Ms Patrice Raselli Marriott  
The Estate of the Late Jack MacDonald Reid  
Mr Damian Robertson and Mrs Lisa Robertson  
Ms Sonja Roglic and Mr Marcel Berkhout  
The Estate of the Late Peter and Barbara Shearer  
Mrs Merrill Shulkes and Prof Arthur Shulkes  
The Estate of the Late Judy Ann Stewart

### **Seat Sponsorship**

Mr John Armstrong	Mrs Shirley Hallows
Mr Jeffrey Bobik	Mr David Leeton
Mr Peter Briggs	Mrs Lea Levy and Mr Geoffrey Levy
Mr Charles Carbonaro	Dr Norman Lewis
Ms Gwen Clutterbuck	Mr Matthew Long
Mr Peter Cowling	Ms Julie Miller
Ms Andrea Doos	Mrs Judy Noble and Mr Alan Noble
Ms Carolyn Doos	Mr Peter Playford
Ms Stephanie Doos	Mr Rod Playford
Ms Louise Doyle	Mrs Lisa Robertson and Mr Damian Robertson
Grenet Foundation Ltd	Mr Peter Schiavello
Mr Andrew Guild and Mrs Ai-gul Guild	

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### Director's Circle

The Director's Circle Program is a vehicle for some of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's closest supporters to pledge their annual, unrestricted contributions to help protect the Gardens for future generations, through the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation. Director's Circle gifts support vital projects that improve the landscapes, collections, research, and educational programs at the Gardens.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria sincerely thanks the following Director's Circle supporters for their vision and continuing generosity.

#### Patron

Professor Timothy J Entwisle

Anonymous (2)

Mr David Adam and Mrs Judy Adam

Sir David Akers-Jones GBM KBE CMG

The Late Miss Betty Amsden AO DSJ

Mrs Jan Anderson and Mr Robert Anderson

Mr Duncan Andrews and Ms Jan Andrews

Professor Tony Bacic and Mrs Lee Bacic

Mr Graeme Baker and Mrs Lee Baker

Mr Ben Batters and Mrs Sunday Batters

Mr Michael Begg and Mrs Judy Begg

Mr Tony Berger and Ms Marita Quinn

Mr Marc Besen AC and Mrs Eva Besen AO

Mr Ian Beynon and Mrs Beth Beynon

Mr Russell Board and Ms Narelle Ivers

Ms Marian Brookes

Ms Sally Browne

Mr John Calvert-Jones AM and

Mrs Janet Calvert-Jones AO

Mr Richard Cameron and Mrs Joanna Cameron

Ms Robin Campbell

Mrs Krystyna Campbell-Pretty and  
the Campbell-Pretty Family

Mr Peter Canet and Mrs Ivanka Canet

Ms Elaine Canty AM and Mr Roy Masters AM

Mr Nic Capp and Mrs Nikki Capp

Professor David Chandler

The Honourable Alex Chernov AC, QC  
and Mrs Elizabeth Chernov

Mr Sandy Clark and Ms Marie McDonald

Professor Adrienne Clarke AC FAA

Mr Richard Clarke and Mrs Margaret Clarke

Mr Robin Clements

Mr Leigh Clifford AO and Mrs Sue Clifford

Dr Robin Collier OAM and Professor Neil Collier

Mr John Collingwood and Mrs Chris Collingwood

Ms Rosemary Cotter

Mrs David Darling

Mrs Mary Davidson and Mr Frederick Davidson AM

Sir Daryl Dawson AC, KBE, BC, QC and

Lady Lou Dawson

Associate Professor Elizabeth M Dax AM

and Professor Hugh Taylor AC

Mr Peter de Campo

Mr Bruce Echberg and Mrs Kerry Echberg

Mr Rodger Elliot AM and Mrs Gwen Elliot AM

Mr Ian Endersby

Professor Tim Entwisle and Mrs Lynda Entwisle

Mr Paul Evans and Mr John Keats

Ms Jane Fenton AM and Mr David Miles

Dr Helen Ferguson

Mr Anthony Fitzwilliams Hyde and

Mrs Chloe Fitzwilliams Hyde

Mr Mike Fogarty and Mrs Deb Fogarty

Mrs Penny Fowler and Mr Grant Fowler

Mr Geoffrey Freeman and Mrs Lesley Freeman

The Garnaut Family

Mrs Jenny Gold and Family

Mr Colin Golvan QC and Dr Deborah Golvan

Mr Robert Green and Mrs Jan Green

Mr Peter Greenham and Mrs Anne Greenham

Mrs Lesley Griffin

Mr Peter Griffin AM and Ms Terry Swann

Mrs Joan Grigg and Mr John Grigg

Mrs Margaret Grummet

Mrs Sarah Guest and The Hon. James Guest

The Hon. David Habersberger QC

and Mrs Pam Habersberger

Mrs Jean Hedges

Mr Brian Hamersfeld and Mrs Natalie Hamersfeld

Mr Michael Hamson and Mrs Susie Hamson

Dr Robert Hare

Mr Ken Harrison AM and Mrs Jill Harrison

Mrs Maria Jo Herpe

Ms Virginia Heywood

Mr Jim Higgins and Mrs Barbara Higgins

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Mr Frank Hook and Mrs Sheryl Hook  
Mrs Roni Hubay and Mr Gaby Hubay  
Mrs Gillian Hund and Mr Michael Hund  
Mr Greg Ireton and Ms Kate Taylor  
Mr David Johnston and Mrs Barbara Haynes  
Mr Will Jones  
Mr Peter Kelly and Mrs Liz Kelly  
Mr Craig Kimberley OAM and Mrs Connie Kimberley  
Ms Zara Kimpton OAM  
Ms Lori Kravos  
Ms Elizabeth Lane  
Mrs Millie Laphthorne  
Mr Tom Latham and Mrs Marianne Latham  
Mrs Diana Lempriere  
Mrs Alison Leslie  
Mr Bill Leslie  
Mrs Bronwyn Lewis and Mr Mark Lewis  
Mrs Janet Limb  
Ms Caroline Liow  
Mr George Littlewood and Mrs Ann Littlewood  
Mrs Maryclare Los and Mr Pieter Los  
Mr Peter Lovell and Mr Michael Jan  
The Hon. Justice Kirsty Macmillan  
Ms Alex Mayes and Mr Mark Dempsey  
Mr Robert McKay and Mrs Sarah McKay  
Dr Brian McNamee AO and Dr Virginia McNamee  
Mr Ross Milne-Pott and Mrs Judy Milne-Pott  
Dr Philip Moors AO and Dr Debbie Moors  
Mrs Diana Morgan AM  
Mr Hugh Morgan AC and Mrs Libby Morgan  
Mrs Susan Morgan  
Mr Baillieu Myer AC and Mrs Sarah Myer  
Mr Stephen Newton AO  
Ms Wendy Olenick  
Mr Richard Oliver AM and Ms Louise Jamson  
Mr Martin Owen and Mrs Susan Owen  
Mrs Adele Palmer  
Mr George Pappas AO and Mrs Jillian Pappas  
Mr Bruce Parncutt AO  
Mr John Patrick and Mrs Bridget Patrick  
Mrs Lee Pinkus  
Mr Rob Pitt  
Lady Potter AC

Mr John Prescott AC and Mrs Jennifer Prescott  
Ms Misha Prusa  
Mr John Ralph AC and Mrs Barbara Ralph  
Mrs Carolyn Rayner  
Mr Ian Reid and Mrs Julie Reid  
Ms Jillian Riseley  
Mr Damian Robertson and Mrs Lisa Robertson  
Mrs Brigid Robertson and Mr Hugh Robertson  
Mr Ken Roche and Mrs Gail Roche  
Mrs Margaret Ross AM and Dr Ian Ross  
Mrs Maria Ryan and Mr Martin Ryan  
Mr Stephen Salerno and Dr Helen Maroulis  
Mrs Adelaide Scarborough and Mr Tim Scarborough  
Ms Elizabeth Sevier  
Mr Philip Sewell and Mrs Deborah Sewell  
Mr Greg Shalit and Ms Miriam Faine  
Ms Jennifer Shaw  
Mrs Diana Sher and Mr Jeffrey Sher  
Mrs Anita Simon  
Professor Richard Smallwood AO  
and Mrs Carol Smallwood  
Mrs Wendy Smart and Mr Alex Smart OAM  
Mr Brian Snape AM and Mrs Diana Snape  
Mr Geoff Steinicke and Mrs Judy Steinicke  
Mr Duncan Stewart and Mrs Dominique Stewart  
Mr James Syme and Mrs Anne Syme  
Dr Gregory Tilley and Mrs Jacqueline Tilley  
Mrs Lisa Tuck and Dr Mark Tuck  
Mr David Valentine  
Mr Ralph Ward-Ambler AM  
and Mrs Barbara Ward-Ambler  
Mr Peter Wetenhall and Ms Joanna Horgan  
Mr Paul Wheelton AM and Mrs Angela Wheelton  
Ms Linda White  
Ms Janet Whiting AM and Mr Phil Lukies  
Dr Philip Williams AM and Mrs Elizabeth Williams  
Ms Susanne Williamson  
Ms Sarah Wrigley  
Mr John Wyld and Mrs Anne Wyld  
Dr Elizabeth Xipell

---

### Corporate Sponsors

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria would like to acknowledge and thank its generous sponsors, Bosistos Australia and Reece, for their ongoing contributions to our vision and site management.



### Research Partners

We gratefully acknowledge the following organisations for providing research grants in 2016-17:

- Atlas of Living Australia
- Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS)
- Australian Network for Plant Conservation
- Australian Research Council
- Australian Seed Bank Partnership (Millennium Seed Bank)
- City of Boroondara
- City of Melbourne
- Cybec Foundation
- Department of Environment, Australian Government
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Victorian Government
- Earthwatch Australia
- E2Design Lab
- Frankston City Council
- Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.
- GHD Pty Ltd
- Holsworth Wildlife Research Endowment
- Maud Gibson Trust
- Moonee Valley City Council
- National University of Singapore
- Nell and Hermon Slade Trust
- NSW Roads and Maritime Services
- Office of Environment and Heritage, Australian Government
- Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Foundation
- The University of Melbourne
- VicRoads
- World Wildlife Fund

## Our Friends and Volunteers

---

Our Friends and Volunteers are amongst our most ardent supporters. They donate their time, skills, expertise and energy and by doing so enrich our landscapes, our programs, our science and our purpose. They help make the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria the place it is today. They are people of all ages, cultural backgrounds and professions. They are all passionate about the Gardens.



Garden Ambassadors Marian McLean  
and Lea Levy on duty at Guilfoyle's Volcano  
Photo: Janusz Molinski

---

## FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS CRANBOURNE INC.

The highlight this past year for Cranbourne Friends was the *Kangaroo Paw Celebration*, held over the month of November. It was an enormous effort on behalf of many and enabled the Friends the opportunity to work closely on a large event with the staff of Cranbourne Gardens. The program included a three-day symposium on the Haemodoraceae Family, organised by the Friends.

One of the outcomes of the *Kangaroo Paw Celebration* was that Angus Stewart agreed to join us as our Patron. Angus was a wonderful supporter of the *Kangaroo Paw Celebration* and very generous with his time and knowledge. Through his work with us he expressed his high regard of Cranbourne Gardens and the next logical step seemed to ask him to become a Friend in a more formal role.

Our social media presence on Facebook and Instagram has been growing. We have over 700 Facebook followers and over 4000 Instagram followers. These media channels have been an easy and inexpensive way of raising the profile of Cranbourne Gardens and the work of the Friends.

In 2016-17 the Friends donated \$60,506 to Cranbourne Gardens and in the 10 years to 30 June 2017, we have donated \$469,877.

## FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE INC.

Led by President Mary Ward, membership figures remained stable at just under 2,300 during the year. The Friends' quarterly program of events, including school holiday workshops at the Plant Craft Cottage, illustrated talks in Mueller Hall and Domain House, guided walks and self-drive garden visits, was well attended, generating funds and providing interesting and enjoyable activities for members and guests.

Classes in botanical illustration, held seven days a week, continued to be very well attended, as were the four-day beginners' workshops held during the term breaks. Specialty workshops featuring several guest teachers were also popular. The Friends' botanical illustrators' exhibition 'The Art of Botanical Illustration 2016' was held in Domain House during October 2016. A judging panel selected approximately 150 works from a large number of entries, which were checked for botanical correctness by a botanist from the National Herbarium of Victoria. The exhibition raised more than \$35,700. The Growing Friends group held two successful weekend public plant sales during autumn and spring and monthly nursery sales for members only. At the end of the year, the Growing Friends raised over \$57,385.

Friends' grants to the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria totalled \$59,212 including \$19,942 awarded to Megan Hirst under the Friends' Helen McLellan Research Grant and \$10,000 for Staff Scholarships awarded to Niels Klazenga and Philip Bowyer-Smyth.

---

## VOLUNTEERS AND ASSOCIATES

Volunteers and Honorary Associates work across the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in a multiplicity of roles at Cranbourne Gardens, Melbourne Gardens and in the Herbarium. Working in partnership with staff, they welcome visitors, guide tourists, support science, plant and propagate. In 2016-17, they contributed more than 20,000 hours to Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, adding value to the work we do.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria gratefully acknowledges and values the work of all volunteers and associates, and looks forward to their continuing support.

### Science Division volunteers

During the 2016-17 year, volunteers contributed more than 10,000 hours of work to the Science Division and continued working with staff on curation and digitisation of the State Botanical Collection, provided assistance in the Library and with conservation research projects.

Library projects included scanning of botanical slides with content contribution towards VicFlora, digitisation of the historical photographic collection (including Mueller materials) and historical postcard collection related to RBGV, cataloging original artworks and book donations, transcription of historic Melbourne Gardens ledger book and miscellaneous correspondence and materials originating from the State Botanical Collection, and shelving library materials.

Victorian Conservation Seedbank projects included collection of seeds, and the subsequent cleaning and preparation for long-term storage. Germination trials of 66 seed collections, as well as 150 seed images that have been submitted for use in the online flora, VicFlora.

Fungimap volunteers recorded and replied to over 400 batches of fungi data. One volunteer adapted to working with voice activated software continues to do great work.

Orchid Conservation Program work included laboratory and nursery work, germination counts, data entry, flasking, and potting orchids. As well as contributing to field work, volunteers also contributed to monitoring, planting and caging of orchids.

Herbarium Collections volunteers curated 10,800 plant, fungi and cryptogam specimens, including Type specimens in preparation for imaging for access through the Global Plants Initiative Project, a large donation of fungi from David Ratkowsky and Genevieve Gates, specimens from the Hilda Eileen Ramsay collection, and foreign specimens identified and annotated by Art Whistler.

6,300 specimens were incorporated into the State Botanical Collection and 387 vascular specimens were added to the database. 179 specimens from the Hilda Eileen Ramsay collection were imaged in preparation for a DigiVol project.

Marina Albert  
Eve Almond  
Neil Anderton  
Ruth Ault  
Wendy Bedggood  
Jenepher Beudel  
Margaret Brookes  
Sally Bufe  
Wendy Cook  
Sandra Cumbari  
Heather Eather  
Alwynne Fairweather  
Francis Faul  
Susan Fisher  
Katie Flynn  
Margaret Gordon  
Christine Graunas  
Robert Hare  
Mary Hills  
Eva Hookey  
Elizabeth Howcroft  
Vicki Jaeger  
Meran Jennings  
Kerry Jolly  
Bryan Lawrence  
Anne Lawson  
Geoffrey Lay  
Jannie Lay  
Sue Lesser  
Angela Little  
Anna Long  
Vicky McGimpsey  
Anne McLachlan

Angela Mitchell  
Josephine Mitchell  
Pauline Morrison  
Tom Morton  
Margaret Murfett  
Tarquin Netherway  
Gillian Newnham  
Hannah Noorda  
Graham Patterson  
Philippa Perry  
Diana Plant  
Lynsey Poore  
Laraine Proctor  
Veronica Reeve  
Leah Robertson  
Erin Roga  
Sara Romberg  
Jennifer Ross  
Judy Ryan  
David Sambrooks  
Roslyn Savio  
Milly Sundgren  
Catherine Taylor  
Catherine Trinca  
Joan Thomas  
Robert Thomas  
Luke Vaughan  
Peter Wallace  
Ann Walsham  
Mary Ward  
Mike Wicks  
Jenny Williams  
Charles Young

---

### Melbourne Gardens volunteers

At Melbourne Gardens, 118 volunteers contributed 7,280 hours during the past year, in some instances volunteering their time and skills in more than one capacity\*.

In addition, 15 Horticulture volunteers contributed 641 hours to the work of the Melbourne Gardens horticulture team, including 290 hours worked by interns.

#### Garden Ambassadors

Dianne Allen  
Lee Balla  
Marie Banic  
Carmel Bateman  
Judith Cain  
Susanne Clarke  
Frances Coffey  
Dianne Costelloe  
Rosemary Cotter\*  
Helen Creedon  
Rosalee Davey  
Rosie Derrick  
Berys Dixon  
Veronica Harrison  
Angela Herd  
Wendy Hopkins  
Julie Jones  
Anne Krelle  
Susan Langley  
Gail Latchford  
Lea Levy\*  
Alasdair MacDonald  
Claire McGoldrick  
Marian McLean  
Gloria Minter  
Jadzia Rae  
Sandia Rose  
Ann Scott  
Christine Stott  
Courtney Taylor  
Libby Tronson  
The Late Max Watson\*  
Trish Weeks

#### The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden volunteers

Anne Ada  
Moira Bainbridge  
Mary Becker  
Angela Bentley  
Lesley Blow  
Lorraine Brock  
Jan Brown  
Stephanie Campbell-Gabb  
Melissa Day  
Billie De Bondi  
Jenni Eaton  
Barbara Flattley  
Susan Hope  
Lea Levy\*  
Anna Malone  
Susan Moloney  
Joanna Meagher  
Elli Pavlou  
Anna Priester  
Regina Pike  
Merienne Scott  
Merienne Shortridge  
Cathy Simpson  
Marg Smith  
Sue Smith  
Julie Troschke  
Maggie Troup  
Kate Welsh

#### Voluntary Guides

Jill Bartlett  
Judith Bennett  
Doris Berry  
Susan Broadbent  
Bud Batrouney  
Dimi Bouzalas  
Pamela Carder  
Rosemary Cotter\*  
Elizabeth Cooper  
Anna Denton  
Caroline Durre  
David Forbes  
David Johnston  
Jenny Happell  
Kay Hall  
The Late Ruth Harris  
Jacqueline Hawkins  
Virginia Heywood  
Nora Hunt  
Marg Kerr  
Scott Kerr  
Jenny Lang  
Emma Laurie  
Terry Lennon  
Julianne Lewis  
Christine Mitchell  
Bill Mooney  
Georgina Mountford  
Gary Nelson  
Jenny Nicholas

Rosemary O'Brien  
Donna Osbourne  
Anne Peterson  
Kathryn Pile  
David Plant  
Ian Polmear  
Margaret Polmear  
Lynsey Poore  
Chitra Ramanadha  
Margaret Richards  
Faye Retchford  
Jayne Salmon  
Louise Sexton  
Julian Simpson  
Helen Smyth  
Carole Spillane  
Michael Stevens  
Nada Stojkovic  
Catherine Trinca  
Robin Viney  
Geraldine Wade  
The Late Max Watson\*  
Chris Wallis  
Bryon Wicks  
Linda Wilkins  
Mali Wilson  
Robert Webb

We would also like to offer sincere condolences and thanks to the families of two long-standing and well-loved volunteers at Melbourne Gardens who regretfully passed away in 2016-17: Max Watson and Ruth Harris.

---

### Cranbourne Gardens volunteers

At Cranbourne Gardens, 47 Garden Ambassadors contributed 3,354 hours during the past year. Garden Ambassadors provide an extremely important contribution to the experience of visitors to Cranbourne Gardens. In addition to this, 22 Land Management Volunteers contributed 2002 hours to a range of important activities at Cranbourne Gardens, and the newly-formed Nursery Volunteers contributed 200 hours. In some instances, individuals volunteer in more than one capacity\*.

#### Horticulture Volunteers

##### *Lamiaceae*

Meg Bentley

##### Helping Hands

Sam Amo

Rosemary Cotter

Sue Hoare

Kay Howden

Janet Moritz

Marguerite O'Hara

Gill Taylor

##### Horticulture

##### Internship Program

Josephine Brennan

Andra Corcaci

Apeksha Malhotra

Bridey Oliver

Kai Qu

Alexandra Sinclair

Isabelle Zakharov

#### Garden Ambassadors

Anne Adams

Robin Allison

John Armstrong

Margaret Barnes

Pamela Binks\*

Trevor Blake

Margaret Brookes

Brian Cole

Erin Cosgriff

Ron Deane

Johan de Bree

Derek de Korte

David Elias

Mack Fenwick

Carol Ferguson

Barrie Gallacher

Ralph Henger

Faye Hobby

Lynette Hosking

Elsbeth Jacobs

Marie Kehoe

Helen Kennedy

Christine Kenyon

Sue Keon-Cohen

Eva Kowal

Linda Lee

Nancy Leonard\*

Jennifer Lewis

Mary Macdermid

Judy Mallinson

Don Matthews

Peter McGrath\*

Lauris McInerney

Mark Nelson

Paula Nicholas

David Redfern

Charles Saffroy

Marj Seaton

Sue Spicer

Laurie Stephens

John Steward

Sue Tatton

Ray Turner

Jean Wallis

Kate Walsh

Roger Watts

Charles Young\*

#### Land Management volunteers

Brianna Butcher

Bianca Carnovale

Carley Cullen

Dave Cundall

Brock Curtain

Michelle Curtain

Tiffany Delacy

Lauren Kinsey

Eryn Larcombe

Muvi Liyanapathirana

Justine Lund

Callum Martin

Liam Martin

Alex Marsal

Lulu Meehan

James Morris

Dawn Neylan

Mike Paterson

Shai Shepes

Will Shoppee

Nick Swinton

Claire Taylor

#### Nursery Volunteers

Pam Binks\*

Bernard Boulton

Cecile Campbell

Eva Campi

Miriam Ford

Gillian Jervis

Chester Keon-Cohen

Sue Keon-Cohen

Nancy Leonard\*

Peter McGrath\*

Marj Seaton\*

Sue Spicer\*

---

### Honorary Associates

Honorary Associates are appointed by the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria on the recommendation of the Director and Chief Executive for a fixed term of up to three years, with the option of re-appointment by mutual agreement.

Honorary Associates are individuals who possess expertise in areas that supplement or complement our Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria employees. They contribute greatly to the achievements of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria through their research on various angiosperm plant families and bryophytes, fungi, lichens and algae, through studies in urban ecology, or by curating the specimens held in the State Botanical Collection. Others add to the value of the State Botanical Collection by collecting specimens, including undescribed plants and fungi, from areas that employees are unable to survey. The Library also benefits from the input of a number of Honorary Associates to the Mueller Correspondence Project.

Dr Peter Adams, Surrey Hills, Victoria  
Dr Collin Ahrens, Prahran, Victoria  
Dr Austin Brown, Glen Waverley, Victoria  
Dr Fiona Caryl, The University of Melbourne  
Mr Ian Clarke, Bentleigh, Victoria  
Dr Michelle Casanova, Westmere, Victoria  
Dr Thomas Darragh, Department of History, Philosophy and Science, The University of Melbourne  
Prof. Rod Home, School of Philosophy, The University of Melbourne  
Dr Christopher Ives, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT  
Mr Jeff Jeanes, Wy Yung, Victoria  
Dr Gerry Kraft, Lindisfarne, Tasmania  
Dr Sheryl Lawson, Surrey Hills, Victoria  
Dr Graeme Lorimer, Biosphere Pty Ltd, Victoria  
Dr Sara Maroske, Department of History, Philosophy and Science, The University of Melbourne  
Mrs Enid Mayfield, Noosa Heads  
Ms Mali Moir, Mt Evelyn, Victoria  
Mr Kevin Rule, Nunawading, Victoria  
Mrs Katrina Syme, Denmark, Western Australia  
Ms Caragh Threlfall, The University of Melbourne  
Mr Rick Tudor, South Yarra, Victoria  
Dr Anneke Veenstra, Deakin University  
Dr Nicholas Williams, The University of Melbourne

# Financial Statements

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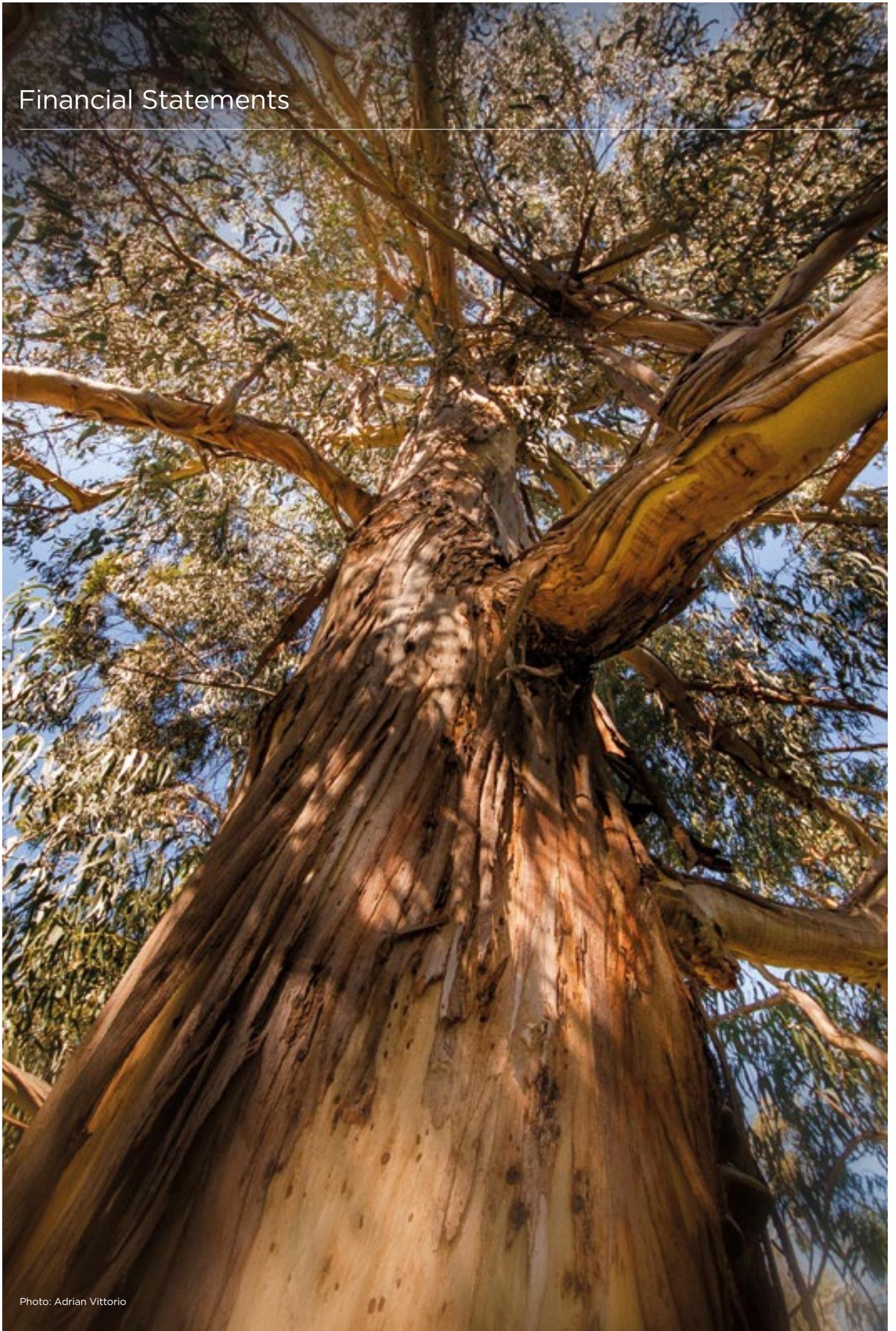


Photo: Adrian Vittorio

# Financial Statements Contents

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## How this report is structured

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria (the Board) has presented its audited general purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2017 in the following structure to provide users with information about the Board's stewardship of the resources entrusted to it.

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## DECLARATION IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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The attached financial statements for the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria (the Board) have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including Interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2017 and financial position of the Board at 30 June 2017.

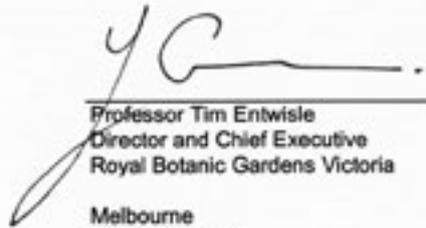
At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 16 August 2017.



Ken Harrison AM  
Chairman  
Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria

Melbourne  
16 August 2017



Professor Tim Entwisle  
Director and Chief Executive  
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

Melbourne  
16 August 2017



Lola Makdissi  
Chief Finance Officer  
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

Melbourne  
16 August 2017

## Comprehensive operating statement

For the financial year ended 30 June 2017

	Notes	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Income from transactions</b>			
Grants	2.2.1	15,892,675	16,862,410
Sale of goods and services	2.2.3	2,223,767	2,617,297
Sponsorships and donations	2.2.2	1,544,089	1,613,427
Fair value of assets and services received free of charge or for nominal consideration	2.2.4	644,392	958,337
Interest	2.2.5	182,559	191,064
Other income	2.2.6	1,446,328	1,321,801
<b>Total income from transactions</b>		<b>21,933,810</b>	<b>23,564,336</b>
<b>Expenses from transactions</b>			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	(14,408,433)	(15,133,540)
Depreciation	4.1.1	(2,279,117)	(2,155,415)
Interest expense		(19,260)	(22,576)
Other operating expenses	3.2	(7,066,138)	(7,755,437)
<b>Total expenses from transactions</b>		<b>(23,772,948)</b>	<b>(25,066,968)</b>
<b>Net result from transactions (net operating balance)</b>		<b>(1,839,138)</b>	<b>(1,502,632)</b>
<b>Other economic flows included in net result</b>			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets <sup>(a)</sup>	8.1	37,427	67,442
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments <sup>(b)</sup>	8.1	(4,938)	(9,729)
Other gains/(losses) from economic flows	8.1	126,023	(244,632)
<b>Total other economic flows included in net result</b>		<b>158,512</b>	<b>(186,919)</b>
<b>Net result</b>		<b>(1,680,626)</b>	<b>(1,689,551)</b>
<b>Other economic flows - other comprehensive income</b>			
<b>Items that will not be reclassified to net result</b>			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	8.3	-	191,764,132
<b>Total other economic flows - other comprehensive income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>191,764,132</b>
<b>Comprehensive result</b>		<b>(1,680,626)</b>	<b>190,074,581</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes:

- (a) 'Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets' includes impairments and disposals of all physical assets, except where these are taken through the asset revaluation surplus.
- (b) 'Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments' includes bad and doubtful debts from other economic flows, unrealised and realised gains/(losses) from revaluations and impairments and reversals of impairments.

## Balance sheet

As at 30 June 2017

	Notes	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	6.3	5,903,231	7,316,464
Receivables	5.1	780,723	621,599
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>6,683,954</b>	<b>7,938,063</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>			
Inventories	5.3	265,481	233,432
Non-financial physical assets classified as held-for-sale	8.2	32,503	11,499
Prepayments		28,692	30,689
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	604,509,578	605,762,022
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>604,836,254</b>	<b>606,037,642</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>611,520,208</b>	<b>613,975,705</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Payables	5.2	1,013,118	930,000
Borrowings	6.1	644,944	869,089
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	3,907,241	4,562,786
Liabilities directly associated with assets classified as held-for-sale	8.2	32,898	11,197
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>5,598,201</b>	<b>6,373,072</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>605,922,007</b>	<b>607,602,633</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated surplus		20,796,723	22,477,349
Physical asset revaluation surplus	8.3	498,826,315	498,826,315
Contributed capital		86,298,969	86,298,969
<b>Net worth</b>		<b>605,922,007</b>	<b>607,602,633</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## Cash flow statement

For the financial year ended 30 June 2017

	Notes	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Receipts from Government		16,726,410	16,805,379
Receipts from other entities		4,650,191	6,453,901
Goods and Services Tax received from the ATO <sup>(a)</sup>		272,617	173,417
Interest received		191,064	182,664
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>21,840,282</b>	<b>23,615,361</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Payments to suppliers and employees		(22,026,517)	(22,102,356)
Interest and other costs of finance paid		(22,576)	(22,576)
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>(22,049,093)</b>	<b>(22,124,932)</b>
<b>Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities</b>	6.3.2	<b>(208,811)</b>	<b>1,490,429</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Proceeds from sale of non-financial assets		49,062	60,162
Payments for non-financial assets		(1,020,261)	(706,987)
<b>Net cash flows from/(used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(971,199)</b>	<b>(646,825)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Owners contributions by State Government		-	873,240
Proceeds from borrowings		225,000	-
Repayment of finance leases		(455,695)	(251,653)
<b>Net cash flows from/(used in) financing activities</b>		<b>(230,695)</b>	<b>621,587</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(1,410,705)	1,465,191
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of financial year		7,316,464	5,861,002
Effect of exchange rate fluctuations on cash held in foreign currency		(2,528)	(9,729)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of financial year</b>	6.3.1	<b>5,903,231</b>	<b>7,316,464</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note (a): Goods and Services Tax paid to the ATO is presented on a net basis.

## Statement of changes in equity

For the financial year ended 30 June 2017

	Physical Asset Revaluation Surplus \$	Accumulated Surplus \$	Contributions By Owner \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2015</b>	307,062,183	24,166,900	85,425,729	416,654,812
Net result for the year	-	(1,689,551)	-	(1,689,551)
Capital contributions	-	-	873,240	873,240
Other comprehensive income for the year	191,764,132	-	-	191,764,132
<b>Balance at 30 June 2016</b>	<b>498,826,315</b>	<b>22,477,349</b>	<b>86,298,969</b>	<b>607,602,633</b>
Net result for the year	-	(1,680,626)	-	(1,680,626)
Capital contributions	-	-	-	-
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2017</b>	<b>498,826,315</b>	<b>20,796,723</b>	<b>86,298,969</b>	<b>605,922,007</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

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## 1. ABOUT THIS REPORT

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The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria (the Board) is a Statutory Authority of the State of Victoria, established pursuant to the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991*.

Its principal address is:  
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria  
Birdwood Avenue  
Melbourne VIC 3004.

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities is included in the *Report of operations*, which does not form part of these financial statements.

### **Basis of preparation**

These financial statements are in Australian dollars and the historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the note associated with the item measured on a different basis.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in the preparation of these financial statements whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Consistent with the requirements of *AASB 1004 Contributions*, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital and its repayment) are treated as equity transactions and, therefore, do not form part of the income and expenses of the Board.

Additions to net assets which have been designated as contributions by owners are recognised as contributed capital. Other transfers that are in the nature of contributions to or distributions by owners have also been designated as contributions by owners.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in applying Australian Accounting Standards (AASs) that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates are disclosed in the notes under the heading 'Significant judgement or estimates'.

The financial statements cover the Board as an individual reporting entity which administers the operations of the Melbourne Gardens, the Cranbourne Gardens and the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology (ARCUE). During the reporting period ARCUE activities were absorbed into the new Science Division.

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

### **Compliance Information**

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA) and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). In particular, they are presented in a manner consistent with the requirements of the AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

Where appropriate, those AAS paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied. Accounting policies selected and applied in these financial statements ensure that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

## 2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

### Introduction

The Board's overall objective is to nurture an understanding of the scientific, environmental, social, economic, cultural and spiritual importance of plants to our existence, and provide our community with opportunities to prosper from a deep connection with plants.

To enable the Board to fulfil its objective, it receives income from the Parks and Reserve Trust Account, supplemented by income generated through grants, donations, programs, business operations and investment.

### Structure

- 2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services..... 8
- 2.2 Income from transactions..... 8

### 2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

	Notes	2017 \$	2016 \$
Grants	2.2.1	15,892,675	16,862,410
Sponsorships and donations	2.2.2	1,544,089	1,613,427
Sale of goods and services	2.2.3	2,223,767	2,617,297
Fair value of goods and services received free of charge or for nominal consideration	2.2.4	644,392	958,337
Interest	2.2.5	182,559	191,064
Other income	2.2.6	1,446,328	1,321,801
<b>Total income from transactions</b>		<b>21,933,810</b>	<b>23,564,336</b>

Income is recognised to the extent it is probable the economic benefits will flow to the Board and the income can be reliably measured at fair value. Where applicable, amounts disclosed as income are net of returns, allowances, duties and taxes.

### 2.2 Income from transactions

#### 2.2.1 Grants

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Parks and Reserves Trust Account grants	15,264,524	15,942,218
Other grants	628,151	920,192
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>15,892,675</b>	<b>16,862,410</b>

Income from grants (other than contributions by owners) is recognised when the Board gains control over the contribution.

**Parks and Reserves Trust Account Grant.** The annual Parks and Reserves Trust Account grant received from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is recognised when the Board gains control over the funds. The Parks and Reserves Trust Account derives its funding from the rate levied on metropolitan properties under the provisions of the *Water Industry Act 1994* and is provided to the Board for the purposes of conservation, recreation, leisure and tourism within the metropolitan area.

**Other Grants.** For reciprocal grants (ie equal value is given back by the Board to the provider), the Board is deemed to have assumed control when the Board is satisfied its performance obligations under the terms of the grant have been met. For non-reciprocal grants, the Board is deemed to have assumed control when the grant is receivable or received. Conditional grants may be reciprocal or non-reciprocal depending on the terms of the grant.

#### 2.2.2 Sale of goods and services

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Sale of goods	1,224,284	1,111,421
Rendering of services	999,483	1,505,876
<b>Total sale of goods and services</b>	<b>2,223,767</b>	<b>2,617,297</b>

## 2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Income from the **sale of goods** is recognised when:

- the Board no longer has any of the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods transferred to the buyer;
- the Board no longer has continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership, nor effective control over the goods sold;
- the amount of income, and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transactions can be reliably measured; and
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Board.

Income from the **supply of services** is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the services being performed. The income is recognised when:

- the amount of the income, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Board.

Under this method, income is recognised by reference to labour hours supplied or to labour hours supplied as a percentage of total services to be performed in each annual reporting period.

### 2.2.3 Sponsorships and donations

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Cash donations and gifts	1,544,089	1,613,427
<b>Total Sponsorships and donations</b>	<b>1,544,089</b>	<b>1,613,427</b>

Sponsorships and donations are non-reciprocal in nature and the Board is deemed to have control when the monies are received from the provider.

### 2.2.4 Fair value of assets and services received free of charge or for nominal consideration

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Services and donated supplies	644,392	958,337
<b>Total fair value of assets and services received free of charge or for nominal consideration</b>	<b>644,392</b>	<b>958,337</b>

Contributions of resources received free of charge or for nominal consideration are recognised at fair value when control is obtained over them, irrespective of whether these contributions are subject to restrictions or conditions over their use.

Contributions in the form of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if not received as a donation.

### 2.2.5 Interest

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Interest on bank deposits	85,574	82,630
Other miscellaneous interest income	96,985	108,434
<b>Total interest</b>	<b>182,559</b>	<b>191,064</b>

Interest income includes interest received on bank term deposits and other investments. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method, which allocates the interest over the relevant period.

Net realised and unrealised gains and losses on the revaluation of investments do not form part of income from transactions, but are reported as part of income from other economic flows in the net result or as unrealised gains and losses taken directly to equity.

### 2.2.6 Other income

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Rental income	1,243,874	1,134,657
Royalties	118,807	30,347
Other	83,647	156,797
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>1,446,328</b>	<b>1,321,801</b>

**Rental income** in relation to leasing of the Board's assets is recognised when received or receivable under the terms of the lease agreement.

## 2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Operating leases mainly relate to the provision of catering and function and event management in the Gardens with lease terms of between 3 and 10 years and options to extend for a further 0 to 10 years. All operating lease contracts contain market review clauses in the event that the Board or lessee exercises its option to renew. The lessees do not have an option to purchase the leased asset at the expiry of the lease period.

The following operating lease receivables were held by the Board at reporting date<sup>(a)</sup>:

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Not longer than 1 year	555,473	691,482
Longer than 1 year and not longer than 5 years	1,011,012	1,061,632
<b>Total operating lease receivables</b>	<b>1,566,485</b>	<b>1,753,114</b>

*Note (a): The operating lease receivables balances are stated at their nominal amount including GST*

**Royalties** are recognised when received or receivable in accordance with the substance of the licensing agreement.

### 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

#### Introduction

This section provides an account of the expenses incurred by the Board in delivering services. In Section 2, the funds that enable the provision of services were disclosed and in this note the costs associated with provision of services are recorded.

#### Structure

3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services.....	11
3.2 Other operating expenses.....	13

#### 3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

	Notes	2017 \$	2016 \$
Employee benefits expense	3.1.1	14,408,433	15,133,540
Other operating expenses	3.2	7,066,138	7,755,437
<b>Total expenses incurred in delivery of services</b>		<b>21,474,571</b>	<b>22,888,977</b>

#### 3.1.1 Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Salary and wages	10,905,845	11,849,399
Superannuation	1,107,063	1,183,523
Annual and long service leave	1,156,976	1,174,741
Termination benefits	249,849	-
Other on-costs	988,700	925,877
<b>Total employee expenses</b>	<b>14,408,433</b>	<b>15,133,540</b>

Employee expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, termination payments and WorkCover premiums.

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to superannuation is employer contributions for members of both defined benefit and defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period. The Board does not recognise any defined benefit liabilities because it has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees. Instead, the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) discloses in its annual financial statements the net defined benefit cost related to the members of these plans as an administered liability.

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before normal retirement date, or when an employee accepts an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment. Termination benefits are recognised when the Board is demonstrably committed to terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy. Benefits falling due more than 12 months after the end of the reporting period are discounted to present value.

#### 3.1.2 Employee benefits in the balance sheet

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave (LSL) for services rendered to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Current provisions</b>		
<i>Annual Leave</i>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	414,912	401,594
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	534,990	644,249
<i>Long service leave</i>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	173,069	177,956
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	1,992,190	2,454,277
<i>Provision for on-costs</i>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	101,442	96,688
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	436,004	516,933
<b>Total current provisions</b>	<b>3,652,607</b>	<b>4,291,697</b>

### 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Non-current provisions</b>		
Employee benefits	217,167	232,329
On-costs	37,467	38,760
<b>Total non-current provisions</b>	<b>254,634</b>	<b>271,089</b>
<b>Total provisions</b>	<b>3,907,241</b>	<b>4,562,786</b>

#### Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision

	2017 \$
<b>Opening balance</b>	652,381
Additional provision recognised	163,800
Reductions arising from payments	(255,079)
Reductions resulting from settlement without cost	(4,733)
Effect of changes in discount rate	18,544
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>574,913</b>
Current on-costs	537,446
Non-current on-costs	37,467
<b>Total on-costs</b>	<b>574,913</b>

Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave: Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and on-costs) are recognised as part of the employee benefit provision as current liabilities, because the Board does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of these liabilities.

The liability for salaries and wages is recognised in the balance sheet at remuneration rates which are current at the reporting date. As the Board expects the liabilities to be wholly settled within 12 months of reporting date, they are measured at undiscounted amounts.

The annual leave liability is classified as a current liability and measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid, as the Board does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the average sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the Comprehensive operating statement as it is taken.

Employment on-costs such as payroll tax, workers compensation and superannuation are not employee benefits. They are disclosed separately as a component of the provision for employee benefits when the employment to which they relate has occurred.

Unconditional Long Service Leave (LSL) is disclosed as a current liability; even where the Board does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current LSL liability are measured at:

- undiscounted value – if the Board expects to wholly settle within 12 months; or
- present value – if the Board does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

**Conditional LSL** is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. This non-current LSL is measured at present value.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised as a transaction, except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised as an 'other economic flow' in the net result.

### 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

#### 3.1.3 Superannuation contributions

Employees of the Board are entitled to receive superannuation benefits and the Board contributes to both defined benefit and defined contribution plans. The defined benefit plan(s) provides benefits based on years of service and final average salary. As noted before, the defined benefit liability is recognised by DTF as an administered liability.

However, superannuation contributions paid or payable for the reporting period are included as part of employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement of the Board.

The contribution amounts paid to employee superannuation funds by the Board are as follows:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Defined benefit plans <sup>(a)</sup></b>		
State Superannuation Fund	137,312	126,105
<b>Defined contribution plans</b>		
VicSuper	557,696	661,060
Other	406,127	388,945
<b>Total <sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>1,101,135</b>	<b>1,176,110</b>

Notes:

(a) The basis for determining the level of contributions is determined by the various actuaries of the defined benefit superannuation plans.

(b) Total contributions outstanding at 30 June 2017 are \$37 (2016 - \$0).

#### 3.2 Other operating expenses

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Supplies and services</b>		
Contract costs	1,321,190	1,745,351
Garden and office equipment and supplies	631,095	803,126
Non-financial assets hire, maintenance and operational costs	838,567	753,840
Consultancies and professional services	1,133,208	997,165
Cleaning and waste disposal costs	642,055	532,168
Water charges	384,549	497,306
Advertising and promotion	283,770	292,270
Motor vehicle expenses	77,506	111,530
Computer expenses	318,642	189,554
Travel expenses	105,568	193,935
Staff training and development	98,543	147,242
Insurance costs	186,065	176,268
Postage and communication expenses	84,733	105,739
Books, periodicals and subscriptions	157,158	97,484
Legal costs	45,148	69,981
Security	99,240	101,674
Catering costs	43,594	66,043
Other	13,083	298,997
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6,463,714</b>	<b>7,179,673</b>
Cost of goods sold	581,580	557,265
Operating lease rental expenses	20,844	18,499
<b>Total other operating expenses</b>	<b>7,066,138</b>	<b>7,755,437</b>

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations.

Supplies and services are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

#### 4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT SERVICE DELIVERY

### 4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT SERVICE DELIVERY

#### Introduction

The Board controls infrastructure and other investments that are utilised in fulfilling its objectives and conducting its activities. They represent the resources that have been entrusted to the Board to be utilised for delivery of those services.

Where the assets included in this section are carried at fair value, additional information is disclosed in Note 7.2 in connection with how those fair values were determined.

#### Structure

4.1 Total property, plant and equipment.....14

#### 4.1 Total property, plant and equipment

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Land at fair value	254,400,000	254,400,000
	254,400,000	254,400,000
Buildings at fair value	33,342,712	33,275,028
Less accumulated depreciation	(600,195)	(1,912)
	32,742,517	33,273,116
Infrastructure at fair value	64,056,151	63,853,496
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,147,989)	(22,084)
	62,908,162	63,831,412
Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	6,880,511	7,106,945
Less accumulated depreciation	(4,276,958)	(4,282,274)
	2,603,553	2,824,671
Cultural assets at fair value	251,424,572	251,386,773
	251,424,572	251,386,773
Assets under construction at fair value	430,774	46,050
	430,774	46,050
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>604,509,578</b>	<b>605,762,022</b>

**Initial recognition:** Items of property, plant and equipment are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is its fair value at the date of acquisition.

The initial cost for non-financial physical assets under a finance lease is measured at amounts equal to the fair value of the leased asset or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments, each determined at the inception of the lease.

**Subsequent measurement:** Property, plant and equipment are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Fair value is determined with regard to the asset's highest and best use (considering legal or physical restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset). For details of fair value measurement of non-financial physical assets by asset category, refer to Note 7.2.2.

**Restricted assets:** The Board holds \$16.5 million worth of buildings and infrastructure assets (2016 - \$16.7 million) listed as heritage assets on the Victorian Heritage Register under the *Heritage Act 1995*. These heritage assets cannot be modified nor disposed of without approval from Heritage Victoria.

#### 4.1.1 Depreciation and impairment

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Buildings	598,283	418,209
Infrastructure	1,125,905	1,129,835
Plant, equipment and vehicles	554,929	607,371
<b>Total depreciation</b>	<b>2,279,117</b>	<b>2,155,415</b>

#### 4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT SERVICE DELIVERY

All infrastructure assets, buildings and plant and equipment that have finite useful lives, are depreciated. The exceptions to this rule include items under operating leases, assets held for sale and land.

Depreciation is generally calculated on a straight line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are as follows:

Asset	Useful Life years
Buildings	4 to 100
Infrastructure	5 to 100
Plant, equipment and vehicles	4 to 10

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments made where appropriate.

In the event of the loss or destruction of an asset, the future economic benefits arising from the use of the asset will be replaced (unless a specific decision to the contrary has been made).

**Indefinite life assets:** Land and core cultural assets, which are considered to have an indefinite life, are not depreciated. Depreciation is not recognised in respect of these assets because their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period.

**Impairment:** Non-financial assets, including items of property, plant and equipment, are tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired.

The assets concerned are tested as to whether their carrying value exceeds their recoverable amount. Where an asset's carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount, the difference is written off as an 'other economic flow', except to the extent that it can be debited to an asset revaluation surplus amount applicable to that class of asset.

If there is an indication that there has been a reversal in impairment, the carrying amount shall be increased to its recoverable amount. However this reversal should not increase the asset's carrying amount above what would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised in prior years.

The recoverable amount for most assets is measured at the higher of depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. The recoverable amount for assets held primarily to generate net cash inflows is measured at the higher of the present value of future cash flows expected to be obtained from the asset and fair value less costs to sell.

##### 4.1.2 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amount of property, plant and equipment

2017	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Plant, equipment and vehicles	Cultural assets	Assets under construction	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>254,400,000</b>	<b>33,273,116</b>	<b>63,831,412</b>	<b>2,824,671</b>	<b>251,386,773</b>	<b>46,050</b>	<b>605,762,022</b>
Additions	-	11,500	3,365	485,088	37,799	640,198	1,177,950
Disposals	-	-	-	(118,774)	-	-	(118,774)
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers <sup>(a)</sup>	-	56,184	199,290	(32,503)	-	(255,474)	(32,503)
Impairments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	(598,283)	(1,125,905)	(554,929)	-	-	(2,279,117)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>254,400,000</b>	<b>32,742,517</b>	<b>62,908,162</b>	<b>2,603,553</b>	<b>251,424,572</b>	<b>430,774</b>	<b>604,509,578</b>

Note (a): Transfers balances represent amounts transferred between asset classes and out to disposal group held-for-sale.

#### 4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT SERVICE DELIVERY

2016	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Plant, equipment and vehicles	Cultural assets	Assets under Construction	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>166,080,000</b>	<b>28,134,620</b>	<b>49,948,302</b>	<b>2,603,209</b>	<b>167,183,416</b>	<b>816,021</b>	<b>414,765,568</b>
Additions	-	21,911	339,894	898,389	-	202,463	1,462,657
Disposals	-	-	-	(113,581)	(50,126)	-	(163,707)
Revaluations <sup>(b)</sup>	88,320,000	5,388,901	13,806,721	-	84,248,510	-	191,764,132
Transfers <sup>(a)</sup>	-	45,607	866,330	44,025	4,973	(972,434)	(11,499)
Impairments	-	100,286	-	-	-	-	100,286
Depreciation	-	(418,209)	(1,129,835)	(607,371)	-	-	(2,155,415)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>254,400,000</b>	<b>33,273,116</b>	<b>63,831,412</b>	<b>2,824,671</b>	<b>251,386,773</b>	<b>46,050</b>	<b>605,762,022</b>

Note:

- (a) Transfers balances represent amounts transferred between asset classes and out to disposal group held-for-sale.  
(b) A full revaluation was performed in June 2016.

## 5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

### Introduction

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Board's operations.

### Structure

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5.2 Payables.....	18
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### 5.1 Receivables

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>Contractual</b>		
Sales of goods and services	708,887	565,278
Accrued interest income	9,024	17,089
	<b>717,911</b>	<b>582,367</b>
<b>Statutory</b>		
Net GST input tax credit recoverable	62,812	39,232
	<b>62,812</b>	<b>39,232</b>
<b>Total receivables <sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>780,723</b>	<b>621,599</b>

Note (a): All receivables balances held at reporting date are classified as current.

**Contractual receivables** are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'loans and receivables'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

**Statutory receivables** do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment), but are not classified as financial instruments.

**Doubtful debts:** Receivables are assessed for bad and doubtful debts on a regular basis. A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when there is objective evidence that the debts may not be collected and bad debts are written off when identified. In assessing impairment of statutory (non-contractual) financial assets, which are not financial instruments, professional judgement is applied in assessing materiality using estimates, averages and other computational methods in accordance with AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets*.

A provision is made for estimated irrecoverable amounts from the sale of goods when there is objective evidence that an individual receivable is impaired. As at reporting date, no allowance for doubtful debts has been recognised as all amounts have been determined recoverable by reference to past default experience.

Bad debts considered as written off by mutual consent are classified as a transaction expense. Bad debts not written off, but included in the provision for doubtful debts, are classified as other economic flows in the net result.

The ageing analysis of the Board's contractual financial assets is as follows:

2017	Carrying Amount	Not past due and not impaired	Past due but not impaired			
			Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	3 months - 1 year	1 - 5 years
			\$	\$	\$	\$
Sale of goods and services	708,887	621,025	22,135	20,735	44,992	-
Accrued interest income	9,024	9,024	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>717,911</b>	<b>630,049</b>	<b>22,135</b>	<b>20,735</b>	<b>44,992</b>	<b>-</b>

2016	Carrying Amount	Not past due and not impaired	Past due but not impaired			
			Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	3 months - 1 year	1 - 5 years
			\$	\$	\$	\$
Sale of goods and services	565,278	406,980	11,825	117,981	28,492	-
Accrued interest income	17,089	17,089	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>582,367</b>	<b>424,069</b>	<b>11,825</b>	<b>117,981</b>	<b>28,492</b>	<b>-</b>

## 5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The average credit period on sales of goods and services is 14 days. Interest may be charged on amounts payable by tenants in the event that these payments become overdue according to the terms of the lease or licence agreement. There are no material financial assets that are individually determined to be impaired. Currently, the Board does not hold any collateral as security nor credit enhancements relating to any of its contractual financial assets.

There are no financial assets that have had their terms renegotiated so as to prevent them from being past due or impaired, and they are stated at the carrying amounts as indicated.

### 5.2 Payables

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Contractual</b>		
Supplies and services	877,081	802,358
Other payables	83,405	68,658
	<b>960,486</b>	<b>871,016</b>
<b>Statutory</b>		
Taxes payable	52,632	58,984
	<b>52,632</b>	<b>58,984</b>
<b>Total payables<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>1,013,118</b>	<b>930,000</b>

Note (a): All payables balances at reporting date are classified as current.

Payables consist of:

- contractual payables, classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Board prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid; and
- statutory payables, that are recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables, but are not classified as financial instruments and not included in the category of financial liabilities at amortised cost, because they do not arise from contracts.

Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days. No interest is charged on late payments.

Other payables balances include security deposits and unearned income for which the timing and amount payable varies according to the terms of agreement.

The maturity analysis for the Board's contractual payables is as follows:

2017	Carrying amount <sup>(a)</sup> \$	Nominal amount <sup>(b)</sup> \$	Maturity dates				
			Less than 1 month \$	1- 3 months \$	3 months - 1 year \$	1 - 5 years \$	More than years \$
Supplies and services	877,081	877,081	877,081	-	-	-	-
Other payables	83,405	83,405	83,405	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>960,486</b>	<b>960,486</b>	<b>960,486</b>	-	-	-	-

2016	Carrying amount <sup>(a)</sup> \$	Nominal amount <sup>(b)</sup> \$	Maturity dates				
			Less than 1 month \$	1- 3 months \$	3 months - 1 year \$	1 - 5 years \$	More than years \$
Supplies and services	802,358	802,358	778,331	15,001	9,026	-	-
Other payables	68,658	68,658	68,658	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>871,016</b>	<b>871,016</b>	<b>846,989</b>	<b>15,001</b>	<b>9,026</b>	-	-

Note:

(a) The carrying amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts (eg GST payable).

(b) Maturity analysis is presented using the contractual undiscounted cash flows (ie nominal amount).

## 5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

### 5.3 Inventories

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Inventories held-for-sale at cost	265,481	233,432
<b>Total inventories <sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>265,481</b>	<b>233,432</b>

*Note(a): Inventory balances held at reporting date are classified as current.*

Inventories include goods held-for-sale in the ordinary course of business operations and are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

The cost of inventory is measured on the basis of weighted average cost. Where inventories are acquired for no cost or nominal consideration, they are measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

### 5.4 Prepayments

Prepayments represent payments made in advance of receipt of goods or services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

## 6. HOW WE FINANCE OUR OPERATIONS

### Introduction

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the Board during its operations, along with interest expenses (the cost of borrowings) and other information related to financing activities of the Board.

This section includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments (such as borrowings and cash balances). Notes 7.1 and 7.2 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

### Structure

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6.4 Commitments for expenditure.....	22

### 6.1 Borrowings

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Current</b>		
Finance lease liabilities <sup>(a)</sup>	143,653	324,810
Loan from TCV	225,000	-
	<b>368,653</b>	<b>324,810</b>
<b>Non-Current</b>		
Finance lease liabilities <sup>(a)</sup>	276,291	544,279
	<b>276,291</b>	<b>544,279</b>
<b>Total borrowings</b>	<b>644,944</b>	<b>869,089</b>

Note(a): Secured by the assets leased. Finance leases are effectively secured as the rights to the leased assets revert to the lessor in the event of default.

'Borrowings' refer to interest bearing liabilities mainly arising from public borrowings raised through Treasury Corporation of Victoria, and finance leases.

Borrowings are classified as financial instruments. All interest bearing borrowings are initially recognised at the fair value of the consideration received less directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, borrowings are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in net result over the period of the borrowing using the effective interest method.

During the current year, there were no defaults or breaches of the TCV loan.

The maturity analysis for the Board's borrowings is as follows:

2017	Carrying amount <sup>(a)</sup> \$	Nominal amount <sup>(b)</sup> \$	Maturity dates				
			Less than 1 month \$	1- 3 months \$	3 months - 1 year \$	1 - 5 years \$	More than years \$
Finance lease liabilities	419,944	441,703	54,452	14,720	86,300	286,231	-
Loan from TCV	225,000	225,000	-	-	-	-	225,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>644,944</b>	<b>666,703</b>	<b>54,452</b>	<b>14,720</b>	<b>86,300</b>	<b>286,231</b>	<b>225,000</b>

2016	Carrying amount <sup>(a)</sup> \$	Nominal amount <sup>(b)</sup> \$	Maturity dates				
			Less than 1 month \$	1- 3 months \$	3 months - 1 year \$	1 - 5 years \$	More than years \$
Finance lease liabilities	869,089	937,431	124,799	48,637	180,650	541,917	41,428
Loan from TCV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>869,089</b>	<b>937,431</b>	<b>124,799</b>	<b>48,637</b>	<b>180,650</b>	<b>541,917</b>	<b>41,428</b>

Note:

(a) The carrying amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts (eg GST payable).

(b) Maturity analysis is presented using the contractual undiscounted cash flows (ie nominal amount).

## 6. HOW WE FINANCE OUR OPERATIONS

### Interest expense

'Interest expense' includes costs incurred in connection with the borrowing of funds and includes the interest component of finance lease repayments and the loan from TCV and is recognised in the period in which it is incurred.

## 6.2 Leases

### 6.2.1 Finance leases (Board as lessee)

	Minimum future lease payments <sup>(a)</sup>		Present value of minimum future lease payments	
	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$
Not longer than 1 year	155,473	354,085	143,653	324,811
Longer than 1 year and not longer than 5 years	286,231	541,917	276,291	507,933
Longer than 5 years	-	41,428	-	36,345
<b>Minimum future lease payments</b>	<b>441,704</b>	<b>937,430</b>	<b>419,944</b>	<b>869,089</b>
Less: future finance charges	(21,760)	(68,341)	-	-
<b>Present value of minimum lease payments</b>	<b>419,944</b>	<b>869,089</b>	<b>419,944</b>	<b>869,089</b>
<b>Included in the financial statements as:</b>				
Current borrowings lease liabilities (Note 6.1)			143,653	324,810
Non-current borrowings lease liabilities (Note 6.1)			276,291	544,279
<b>Total</b>			<b>419,944</b>	<b>869,089</b>

Note (a): Minimum future finance lease payments include the aggregate of all base payments and any guaranteed residual.

At the commencement of the lease term, finance leases are initially recognised as assets and liabilities at amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payment, each determined at the inception of the lease. The leased asset is accounted for as a non-financial physical asset and depreciated over the shorter of the estimated useful life of the asset or the term of the lease. Minimum finance lease payments are apportioned between the reduction of the outstanding lease liability and the periodic finance expense which is calculated using the interest rate implicit in the lease and charged directly to the comprehensive operating statement.

The AASB issued the new leasing standard AASB 16 *Leases* to supersede the existing standard AASB 117 *Leases*. The new standard will be operative from reporting periods commencing 1 January 2019. The key change introduced by AASB 16 is the recognition of most operating leases on the balance sheet.

## 6.3 Cash flow information and balances

Cash and deposits, including cash equivalents, comprise cash on hand and cash at bank, deposits at call and those highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less, which are held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash commitments rather than for investment purposes, and which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

### 6.3.1 Reconciliation of cash and deposits

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Cash at bank and on hand	1,708,231	3,321,464
Term deposits	4,195,000	3,995,000
<b>Balance as per cash flow statement</b>	<b>5,903,231</b>	<b>7,316,464</b>

## 6. HOW WE FINANCE OUR OPERATIONS

### 6.3.2 Reconciliation of the net result for the period to net cash flows from operating activities

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Net result for the period	(1,680,626)	(1,689,551)
Non-cash movements		
(Gain)/loss on sale or disposal of non-current assets	(48,228)	19,666
Net (gain)/loss on financial instruments	2,528	9,729
Impairment of non-financial assets	-	(100,286)
Depreciation of non-financial assets	2,279,117	2,155,415
Movements in assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(159,124)	308,150
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	(32,042)	(3,135)
(Increase)/decrease in other non-financial assets	1,991	(5,097)
Increase/(decrease) in payables	83,118	389,407
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(655,545)	406,131
<b>Net cash from/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(208,811)</b>	<b>1,490,429</b>

### 6.4 Commitments for expenditure

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and capital commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are recorded below at their nominal value and inclusive of GST.

The following commitments have not been recognised as liabilities in the financial statements:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Capital expenditure commitments payable</b>		
Within 1 year	21,359	-
Later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	9,461	9,461
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>30,820</b>	<b>9,461</b>
<b>Operating expenditure commitments payable <sup>(a)</sup></b>		
Within 1 year	96,962	107,239
Later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	66,830	61,940
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>163,792</b>	<b>169,179</b>
<b>Total commitments including GST</b>	<b>194,612</b>	<b>178,640</b>
Less GST recoverable	19,461	17,863
<b>Total commitments excluding GST</b>	<b>214,073</b>	<b>196,503</b>

*Note (a): Operating expenditure commitments includes service contracts for building maintenance, security and data and lease commitments relating to office equipment with a lease term of up to 5 years. The Board does not have an option to purchase the leased asset at the expiry of the lease period under these leasing arrangements.*

## 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

### Introduction

The Board is exposed to risk from its activities and outside factors. In addition, it is often necessary to make judgements and estimates associated with recognition and measurement of items in the financial statements. This section sets out financial instrument specific information (including exposures to financial risks), as well as those items that are contingent in nature or require a higher level of judgement to be applied, which for the Board related mainly to fair value determination.

### Structure

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### 7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the Board's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract (for example taxes). Such assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments in AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*.

#### 7.1.1 Categories of financial instruments

**Loans and receivables and cash** are financial instrument assets with fixed and determinable payments that are not quoted on an active market. These assets and liabilities are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method (and, for assets, less any impairment). The Board recognises the following assets in this category:

- cash and deposits
- receivables
- term deposits.

**Financial liabilities** at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they are originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in profit and loss over the period of the interest bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method. The Board recognises the following liabilities in this category:

- payables (excluding statutory payables)
- borrowings (including finance lease liabilities).

The carrying amounts of the Board's contractual financial assets and financial liabilities by category are as follows:

	Carrying amount	
	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Contractual financial assets - loans receivables and cash</b>		
Cash and deposits	5,903,231	7,316,464
Sale of goods and services	708,887	565,278
Accrued interest income	9,024	17,089
<b>Total</b> <sup>(a)</sup>	<b>6,621,142</b>	<b>7,898,831</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities at amortised cost</b>		
Supplies and services payables	877,081	802,358
Other payables	83,405	68,658
Finance lease liabilities	419,944	869,089
Loan from TCV	225,000	-
<b>Total</b> <sup>(a)</sup>	<b>1,605,430</b>	<b>1,740,105</b>

Note (a): The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory receivables (ie GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable).

## 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

### 7.1.2 Derecognition of financial assets and liabilities

A **financial asset** (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired; or
- the Board has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset and either:
  - has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, or
  - has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control of the asset.

A **financial liability** is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability. The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised as an 'other economic flow' in the comprehensive operating statement.

### 7.1.3 Impairment of financial assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Board assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. All financial instrument assets, except those measured at fair value through profit or loss, are subject to annual review for impairment.

The value of the impairment is the difference between the financial asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. In assessing impairment of statutory (non-contractual) financial assets, which are not financial instruments, professional judgement is applied in assessing materiality using estimates, averages and other computational methods in accordance with AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets*.

### 7.1.4 Net holding gain/(loss) on financial instruments

The Board's net holding gains/(losses) on contractual financial assets and liabilities by category are as follows:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>		
Financial assets - loans and receivables	182,559	191,064
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>182,559</b>	<b>191,064</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>		
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(19,260)	(22,576)
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	<b>(19,260)</b>	<b>(22,576)</b>

The net holding gains or losses disclosed above are determined as follows:

- for cash and cash equivalents and receivables, the net gain or loss is calculated by taking the movement in the interest income earned during the reporting period; and
- for financial liabilities measured at amortised cost, the net gain or loss is equal to the interest expense incurred during the reporting period.

### 7.1.5 Financial risk management objectives and policy

As a whole, the Board's financial risk management program seeks to manage these risks and the associated volatility of its financial performance.

Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement, and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, with respect to each class of financial asset and financial liability above are disclosed in Note 7.2 to the financial statements.

The main purpose in holding financial instruments is to prudentially manage the Board's financial risks within the requirements of the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991* and the government's policy parameters.

The Board's main financial risks include credit risk, liquidity risk, interest rate risk and foreign currency risk. The Board manages these financial risks in accordance with its financial risk management policy.

The Board uses different methods to measure and manage the different risks to which it is exposed. Primary responsibility for the identification and management of financial risks rests with the Finance and Audit Committee of the Board.

## 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

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### **Financial instruments - credit risk**

Credit risk refers to the possibility that a borrower will default on its financial obligations as and when they fall due. The Board's exposure to credit risk arises from the potential default of a counter party on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Board. Credit risk is measured at fair value and is monitored on a regular basis.

Credit risk associated with the Board's contractual financial assets is minimal, especially in relation to its sale of goods and services receivables due to the adoption of stringent credit establishment and collection policies and procedures. In addition, the Board does not engage in hedging for its contractual financial assets and mainly obtains contractual financial assets that are on fixed interest, except for cash and deposits, which are mainly cash at bank. As with the policy for debtors, the Board's policy is to only deal with banks with high credit ratings.

Provision of impairment for contractual financial assets is recognised when there is objective evidence that the Board will not be able to collect a receivable. Objective evidence includes financial difficulties of the debtor, default payments, debts which are more than 60 days overdue, and changes in debtor credit ratings.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired. Currently, the Board does not hold any collateral as security nor credit enhancements relating to any of its contractual financial assets.

There are no financial assets that have had their terms renegotiated so as to prevent them from being past due or impaired, and they are stated at the carrying amounts. The only financial assets held by the Board at reporting date that are past due but not impaired are sale of goods and services receivables.

There has been no material change to the Board's credit risk profile in 2016-17.

### **Financial instruments - liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Board would be unable to meet its financial obligations as and when they fall due. The Board's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed in the face of the balance sheet. The Board continuously manages risk through monitoring future cash flows and maturities planning to ensure adequate holding of high quality liquid assets and dealing in highly liquid markets.

The Board's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk. Cash for unexpected events is generally sourced from its cash and deposits balance.

### **Financial instruments - market risk**

The Board's exposures to market risk are primarily through foreign currency and interest rate risk.

The Board's sensitivity to market risk is determined based on past performance, future expectations and economic forecasts and, accordingly, the Board believes that the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- a movement of 100 basis points up and down in interest rates; and
- a movement of 5 per cent down and 1 per cent up in exchange rates.

### **Interest rate risk**

Fair value interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Board does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value and therefore has nil exposure to fair value interest rate risk.

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Board has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits and finance lease liabilities that are at a floating rate.

The Board manages this risk by mainly undertaking fixed rate or non-interest bearing financial instruments with relatively even maturity profiles, with only insignificant amounts of financial instruments at a floating rate. Management has concluded that cash at bank financial assets can be left at floating rate without necessarily exposing the Board to significant bad risk. Movements in interest rates are monitored on a daily basis by Management.

## 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

The carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities that are exposed to interest rates are as follows:

2017	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Carrying amount <sup>(a)</sup> \$	Interest rate exposure		
			Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing
			\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	1.83	5,903,231	4,195,000	1,660,131	48,100
Sale of goods and services	-	708,887	-	-	708,887
Accrued interest income	-	9,024	-	-	9,024
		<b>6,621,142</b>	<b>4,195,000</b>	<b>1,660,131</b>	<b>766,011</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Supplies and services payables	-	877,081	-	-	877,081
Other payables	-	83,405	-	-	83,405
Finance lease liabilities	4.37	419,944	419,944	-	-
Loans from TCV		225,000	-	225,000	-
		<b>1,605,430</b>	<b>419,944</b>	<b>225,000</b>	<b>960,486</b>

2016	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Carrying amount <sup>(a)</sup> \$	Interest rate exposure		
			Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing
			\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	2.09	7,316,464	3,995,000	3,274,967	46,497
Sale of goods and services	-	565,278	-	-	565,278
Accrued interest income	-	17,089	-	-	17,089
		<b>7,898,831</b>	<b>3,995,000</b>	<b>3,274,967</b>	<b>628,864</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Supplies and services payables	-	802,358	-	-	802,358
Other payables	-	68,658	-	-	68,658
Finance lease liabilities	5.08	869,089	869,089	-	-
Loans from TCV		-	-	-	-
		<b>1,740,105</b>	<b>869,089</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>871,016</b>

Note (a): The carrying amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts (eg GST input tax credit recoverable and GST payable).

The Board's sensitivity to possible movements in interest rates is as follows:

	Carrying amount		Interest rate			
	2017 \$	2016 \$	Net result + 100 basis points		Net result -100 basis points	
			2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>						
Cash and deposits <sup>(a)</sup>	5,903,231	7,316,464	58,551	72,700	(58,551)	(72,700)
	<b>5,903,231</b>	<b>7,316,464</b>	<b>58,551</b>	<b>72,700</b>	<b>(58,551)</b>	<b>(72,700)</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>						
Borrowings <sup>(b)</sup>	644,944	869,089	6,449	8,691	(6,449)	(8,691)
	<b>644,944</b>	<b>869,089</b>	<b>6,449</b>	<b>8,691</b>	<b>(6,449)</b>	<b>(8,691)</b>

Note:

(a) Cash and deposits includes deposits of \$5,855,131 (2016 - \$7,269,967) that are exposed to floating rate movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2017 - \$5,855,131 x 0.01 = \$58,551 and \$5,855,131 x -0.01 = -\$58,551 and
- 2016 - \$7,269,967 x 0.01 = \$72,700 and \$7,269,967 x -0.01 = -\$72,700.

(b) Borrowings include finance lease liabilities and a Loan from TCV to the value of \$644,944 (2016 - \$869,089) that are exposed to movements in interest rates. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2017 - \$644,944 x 0.01 = \$6,449; and \$644,944 x -0.01 = -\$6,449 and
- 2016 - \$869,089 x 0.01 = \$8,691; and \$869,089 x -0.01 = -\$8,691.

## 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

### Foreign currency risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the fair value of a financial instrument will change due to a movement in foreign currency exchange rates.

All foreign currency transactions during the financial year are brought to account using the exchange rate in effect at the date of the transaction. Foreign monetary items existing at the end of the reporting period are translated at the closing rate at the end of the reporting period.

The Board is exposed to foreign currency risk through its foreign currency bank deposit which is denominated in foreign currencies. The Board enters into a relatively small number of transactions denominated in foreign currencies reducing its exposure to foreign currency risk through continuous monitoring of movements in exchange rates, and ensuring availability of funds through rigorous cash flow planning and monitoring.

The Board's sensitivity to possible movements in foreign exchange rates is as follows:

	Carrying amount		Foreign exchange			
	2017 \$	2016 \$	Net result +5%		Net result -10%	
			2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>						
Cash and deposits <sup>(a)</sup>	5,903,231	7,316,464	1,782	1,918	(3,564)	(3,835)
	<b>5,903,231</b>	<b>7,316,464</b>	<b>1,782</b>	<b>1,918</b>	<b>(3,564)</b>	<b>(3,835)</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>						
Payables <sup>(b)</sup>	877,081	802,358	-	-	-	-
	<b>877,081</b>	<b>802,358</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

#### Note:

(a) Cash and deposits includes a deposit of \$35,640 (2016 - \$38,353) that is exposed to foreign exchange movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2017 -  $\$35,640 \times 0.05 = \$1,782$ ; and  $\$35,640 \times -0.10 = -\$3,564$ ; and
- 2016 -  $\$38,353 \times 0.05 = \$1,918$ ; and  $\$38,353 \times -0.10 = -\$3,835$ .

(b) Payables includes a balance of \$0 (2016 - \$0) that is exposed to foreign exchange movements.

### 7.2 Fair value determination

Fair value determination requires judgement and the use of assumptions. This section discloses the most significant assumptions used in determining fair values. Changes to assumptions could have a material impact on the results and financial position of the Board.

This section sets out information on how the Board determined fair value for financial reporting purposes. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

The following assets and liabilities are carried at fair value:

- property, plant and equipment
- financial assets and liabilities measured at amortised cost.

The Board determines the policies and procedures for determining fair values for both financial and non-financial assets and liabilities as required.

In determining fair values a number of inputs are used. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy.

## 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

### How this section is structured

For those assets and liabilities for which fair values are determined, the following disclosures are provided:

- carrying amount and the fair value (which would be the same for those assets measured at fair value);
- which level of the fair value hierarchy was used to determine the fair value; and
- in respect of those assets and liabilities subject to fair value determination using Level 3 inputs:
  - a reconciliation of the movements in fair values from the beginning of the year to the end; and
  - details of significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value determination.

This section is divided between disclosures in connection with fair value determination for financial instruments (refer to Note 7.2.1) and non-financial physical assets (refer to Note 7.2.2).

### 7.2.1 Fair value determination of financial assets and liabilities

The fair values and net fair values of financial assets and liabilities are determined according to the following fair value hierarchy:

- Level 1 – the fair value of financial instrument with standard terms and conditions and traded in active liquid markets is determined with reference to quoted market prices; and
- Level 2 – the fair value is determined using inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the financial asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

The Board currently holds a range of financial instruments that are recorded in the financial statements where the carrying amounts are a reasonable approximation of fair value, either due to their short term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of the 2016-17 reporting period.

These financial instruments include:

Financial assets	Financial liabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash and deposits</li> <li>• Receivables:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sale of goods and services</li> <li>- Accrued investment income</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Investments and other contractual financial assets:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Term deposits</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payables:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For supplies and services</li> <li>- Other payables</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Loan from TCV</li> </ul>

Where the fair value of the financial instruments is different from the carrying amounts, the following information has been included to disclose the difference.

	Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
	2017	2017	2016	2016
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial liabilities</b>				
Finance lease liabilities	419,944	419,944	869,089	869,089
Loan from TCV	225,000	225,000	-	-
	<b>644,944</b>	<b>644,944</b>	<b>869,089</b>	<b>869,089</b>

### 7.2.2 Fair value determination of non-financial physical assets

The fair values of non-financial physical assets are determined according to the following fair value hierarchy:

- Level 1 – quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 – valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
- Level 3 – valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

The Board determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

The Valuer-General Victoria is the Board's independent valuation agency and monitors changes in the fair value of each asset and liability through relevant data sources to determine whether revaluation is required.

## 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

The fair value measurement hierarchy for assets at the end of the reporting period is as follows:

	Carrying amount		Fair value measurement using: <sup>(a)</sup>			
			Level 2		Level 3	
	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Land</b>						
Specialised land	254,400,000	254,400,000	-	-	254,400,000	254,400,000
	<b>254,400,000</b>	<b>254,400,000</b>	-	-	<b>254,400,000</b>	<b>254,400,000</b>
<b>Buildings</b>						
Specialised buildings	17,221,288	17,533,366	-	-	17,221,288	17,533,366
Heritage assets	15,521,229	15,739,750	-	-	15,521,229	15,739,750
	<b>32,742,517</b>	<b>33,273,116</b>	-	-	<b>32,742,517</b>	<b>33,273,116</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>						
Specialised infrastructure	61,965,560	62,869,573	-	-	61,965,560	62,869,573
Heritage assets	942,602	961,839	-	-	942,602	961,839
	<b>62,908,162</b>	<b>63,831,412</b>	-	-	<b>62,908,162</b>	<b>63,831,412</b>
<b>Plant, equipment and vehicles</b>						
Plant and equipment	2,186,212	2,008,971	-	-	2,186,212	2,008,971
Vehicles <sup>(b)</sup>	417,341	815,700	-	-	417,341	815,700
	<b>2,603,553</b>	<b>2,824,671</b>	-	-	<b>2,603,553</b>	<b>2,824,671</b>
<b>Cultural assets</b>						
Antiques and artwork	9,361,672	9,323,873	9,361,672	9,323,873	-	-
Specialised cultural assets	242,062,900	242,062,900	-	-	242,062,900	242,062,900
	<b>251,424,572</b>	<b>251,386,773</b>	<b>9,361,672</b>	<b>9,323,873</b>	<b>242,062,900</b>	<b>242,062,900</b>

Notes:

(a) Classified in accordance with the fair value hierarchy. The Board does not hold any assets classified as Level 1 assets for the reporting periods ended 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2016.

(b) Vehicles are categorised as Level 3 assets as fair value of the vehicles is estimated based on the depreciated replacement cost.

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

### Non-specialised antiques and artworks

Non-specialised antiques and artworks are valued using the market approach. Under this valuation method, valuation of the assets is determined by a comparison to similar examples of the artists' work in existence throughout Australia and research on prices paid for similar examples offered at auction or through art galleries in recent years. An independent valuation of antiques and artwork was undertaken by the Valuer-General Victoria to determine their fair value at June 2016.

### Land and buildings

The market approach is also used for specialised land, although it is adjusted for the community service obligation (CSO) to reflect the specialised nature of the land being valued.

The CSO adjustment is a reflection of the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that is also equally applicable to market participants. This approach is in light of the highest and best use consideration required for fair value measurement, and takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible, and financially feasible. As adjustments of CSO are considered as significant unobservable inputs, specialised land would be classified as a Level 3 asset.

For the majority of the Board's specialised buildings, the depreciated replacement cost method is used, adjusting for the associated depreciations. As depreciation adjustments are considered significant, unobservable inputs in nature, specialised buildings are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

An independent valuation of the Board's specialised land and specialised buildings was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria. The valuation was performed using the market approach adjusted for CSO. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2016.

### Specialised cultural assets

Specialised cultural assets, including the State Botanical Collection, are valued using replacement cost method. Replacement costs are costs to replace the current service capacity of the asset. The method used calculates a unit cost per sample unit that is then scaled up to each collection.

An independent valuation of the Board's specialised cultural assets was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria. The valuation was performed using the replacement cost approach. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2016.

## 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

### Infrastructure assets

Infrastructure assets are valued using the depreciated replacement cost method. This cost represents the replacement cost of the building/component after applying depreciation rates on a useful life basis. Replacement costs are costs to replace the current service capacity of the asset. Economic obsolescence has also been factored into the depreciated replacement cost calculation.

Where it has not been possible to examine hidden works such as structural frames and floors, the use of reasonable materials and methods of construction have been assumed, bearing in mind the age and nature of the building. The estimated cost of reconstruction, including structural services and finishes, also factors in any heritage classifications as applicable.

An independent valuation of the Board's infrastructure assets was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria. The valuation was performed based on the depreciated replacement cost of the assets. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2016.

### Vehicles

Vehicles are valued using the depreciated replacement cost method. The Board acquires new vehicles and at times disposes of them before the end of their economic life. The process of acquisition, use and disposal in the market is managed under finance leasing arrangements with DTF and Westpac Bank. Depreciation rates used reflect the utilisation of the vehicles.

### Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is held at fair value. When plant and equipment is specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the depreciated replacement cost method.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2017.

For all assets measured at fair value, the current use is considered the highest and best use.

The reconciliation of Level 3 fair value is as follows:

2017	Specialised land \$	Buildings \$	Vehicles \$	Plant and equipment \$	Infrastructure \$	Specialised Cultural \$
<b>Opening balance</b>	254,400,000	33,273,116	815,700	2,008,971	63,831,412	242,062,900
Purchases/(sales)	-	67,684	(187,305)	521,116	202,655	-
<i>Gains or losses recognised in net result:</i>						
Impairments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	(598,283)	(211,054)	(343,875)	(1,125,905)	-
<i>Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income:</i>						
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>254,400,000</b>	<b>32,742,517</b>	<b>417,341</b>	<b>2,186,212</b>	<b>62,908,162</b>	<b>242,062,900</b>

2016	Specialised land \$	Buildings \$	Vehicles \$	Plant and equipment \$	Infrastructure \$	Specialised Cultural \$
<b>Opening balance</b>	166,080,000	28,134,620	449,285	2,153,924	49,948,302	156,601,800
Purchases/(sales)	-	67,518	630,586	198,247	1,206,224	-
<i>Gains or losses recognised in net result:</i>						
Impairments	-	100,286	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	(418,209)	(264,171)	(343,200)	(1,129,835)	-
<i>Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income:</i>						
Revaluations	88,320,000	5,388,901	-	-	13,806,721	85,461,100
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>254,400,000</b>	<b>33,273,116</b>	<b>815,700</b>	<b>2,008,971</b>	<b>63,831,412</b>	<b>242,062,900</b>

## 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

A description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations is as follows:

<b>Asset Category</b>	<b>Valuation technique</b>	<b>Significant unobservable inputs</b>
Specialised Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Service Obligation (CSO) adjustment</li> </ul>
Buildings ( <i>specialised and heritage</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depreciated Replacement Cost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct cost per square metre</li> <li>Useful life of buildings</li> </ul>
Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depreciated Replacement Cost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost per unit</li> <li>Useful life of vehicles</li> </ul>
Plant and Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depreciated Replacement Cost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost per unit</li> <li>Useful life of plant and equipment</li> </ul>
Infrastructure ( <i>specialised and heritage</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depreciated Replacement Cost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost per unit</li> <li>Useful life of infrastructure assets</li> </ul>
Specialised Cultural Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replacement Cost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost per unit</li> <li>Size of collections</li> </ul>

## 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES

### Introduction

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report.

### Structure

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### 8.1 Other economic flows included in net result

Other economic flows are changes in the volume or value of an asset or liability that do not result from transactions. Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows include the gains or losses from the revaluation of the present value of the long service leave liability due to changes in the bond interest rates.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets</b>		
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, plant and equipment	48,228	(19,665)
Impairment of property, plant and equipment	-	100,286
Write down of inventory	(10,801)	(13,179)
	<b>37,427</b>	<b>67,442</b>
<b>Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments</b>		
Net FX gain/(loss) arising from foreign cash held	(4,938)	(9,729)
	<b>(4,938)</b>	<b>(9,729)</b>
<b>Other gains/(losses) from economic flows</b>		
Net gain/(loss) arising from revaluation of long service leave liability	126,023	(244,632)
	<b>126,023</b>	<b>(244,632)</b>

### 8.2 Non-financial assets held-for-sale

The following non-financial assets held for sale exist at the reporting date:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Leased vehicles held-for-sale <sup>(a)</sup>	32,503	11,499
	<b>32,503</b>	<b>11,499</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Finance lease liabilities	32,898	11,197
	<b>32,898</b>	<b>11,197</b>

Note (a): The Board holds vehicles under the leasing arrangement with DTF which are awaiting sale at the end of the reporting period. No impairment loss was recognised on re-classification of vehicles held-for-sale or at the end of the reporting period.

## 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES

### 8.3 Reserves

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Physical asset revaluation surplus</b>		
Balance at beginning of financial year	498,826,315	307,062,183
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	-	191,764,132
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b>498,826,315</b>	<b>498,826,315</b>
<b>Net change in reserves</b>	<b>498,826,315</b>	<b>498,826,315</b>

### 8.4 Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, the following disclosures are made regarding responsible persons for the reporting period:

#### Names

The persons who held the positions of Minister, Governing Board and Accountable Officer of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria are as follows:

#### Minister

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change	Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP	1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017
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#### Governing Board

Chairman	Mr Ken Harrison AM	1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017
Deputy Chairman	Mrs Penny Fowler	1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017
Member	Professor Antony Bacic	1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017
Member	Ms Jennifer Wolcott	1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017
Member	Professor Rob Adams AM	1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017
Member	Ms Jillian Riseley	1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017
Member	Ms Susanne Williamson	1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

#### Accountable Officer

Director and Chief Executive	Prof Tim Entwisle	1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017
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#### Remuneration

Remuneration received or receivable by responsible persons, other than the Minister, in connection with the management of the Board during the period is as follows:

	2017	2016 \$
\$0 - \$9,999	6	10
\$10,000 - \$19,999	1	-
\$290,000 - \$299,000	-	1
\$300,000 - \$309,999	1	-
<b>Total numbers</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>

### 8.5 Remuneration of executives

The number of executive officers, other than ministers and accountable officers, and their total remuneration during the reporting period are shown in the table below. Total annualised employee equivalents provide a measure of full time equivalent executive officers over the reporting period.

Remuneration comprises employee benefits in all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by the entity, or on behalf of the entity, in exchange for services rendered, and is disclosed in the following categories.

**Short-term employee benefits** include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

**Post-employment benefits** include pensions and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment is ceased.

**Other long-term benefits** include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

Several factors affected total remuneration payable to executives over the year. A number of employment contracts were completed and renegotiated.

Remuneration was paid to executives during the reporting period as follows:

	2017 \$	2016 <sup>(a)</sup> \$
Short-term benefits	862,443	-
Post-employment benefits	71,444	-
Other long-term benefits	18,956	-
<b>Total remuneration<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>952,843</b>	<b>-</b>
Number of executives	6	5
<b>Total annualised employee equivalents<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>

*Note*

(a) *No comparatives have been reported because remuneration in the prior year was determined in line with the basis and definition under FRD 21C. Remuneration previously excluded non-monetary benefits and comprised any money, consideration or benefit received or receivable, excluding reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, including any amount received or receivable from a related party transaction. Refer to the prior year's financial statements for executive remuneration for the 2015-16 reporting period.*

(b) *Annualised employee equivalent is based on the time fraction worked over the reporting period.*

### 8.6 Related parties

The Board is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the State of Victoria.

Related parties of the Board include:

- all key management personnel and their close family members and personal business interests (controlled entities, joint ventures and entities they have significant influence over);
- all cabinet ministers and their close family members; and
- all departments and public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of state consolidated financial statements.

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis.

#### Significant transactions with government-related entities

The Board received funding from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning of \$15.4 million (2016 - \$15.9 million) during the reporting period.

Key management personnel (KMP) of the Board include the Portfolio Minister, Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, the members of the governing board and the Director and Chief Executive.

The compensation detailed below excludes the salaries and benefits received by the Portfolio Minister. The Minister's remuneration and allowances are set by the *Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968* and reported within the Department of Parliamentary Services' Financial Report.

## 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES

Compensation paid to KMPs during the reporting period are as follows:

	2017 \$
Short-term benefits	321,359
Post-employment benefits	23,709
Other long-term benefits	6,291
Termination benefits	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>351,359</b>

### Transactions and balances with key management personnel and other related parties

Given the breadth and depth of State government activities, related parties transact with the Victorian public sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public e.g. stamp duty and other government fees and charges. Further employment of processes within the Victorian public sector occur on terms and conditions consistent with the *Public Administration Act 2004* and Codes of Conduct and Standards issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. Procurement processes occur on terms and conditions consistent with the Victorian Government Procurement Board requirements.

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the Board, there were no related party transactions that involved key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interests. No provision has been required, nor any expense recognised, for impairment of receivables from related parties.

### 8.7 Remuneration of auditors

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Victorian Auditor-General's Office</b>		
Audit of the financial statements <sup>(a)</sup>	20,400	19,900
	<b>20,400</b>	<b>19,900</b>

Note (a): The Victorian Auditor-General's Office is not allowed to provide non-audit services.

### 8.8 Other accounting policies

#### Contribution by owners

Consistent with the requirements of AASB 1004 *Contributions*, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital and its repayment) are treated as equity transactions and, therefore, do not form part of the income and expenses of the Board.

Additions to net assets that have been designated as contributions by owners are recognised as contributed capital. Other transfers that are in the nature of contributions to or distributions by owners have also been designated as contributions by owners.

### 8.9 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

Certain new AAS have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2017 reporting period. The DTF assesses the impact of these new standards and advises the Board of their applicability and early adoption where applicable.

The table below outlines the accounting standards that have been issued but are not yet effective for the 2016-17 reporting period, which may result in potential impacts on the Board's reporting for future periods:

<b>Standard/ Interpretation</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Application for annual reporting periods:</b>	<b>Impact on Board's Financial Statements</b>
AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i>	The key changes include the simplified requirements for the classification and measurement of financial assets and a revised impairment loss model to recognise impairment losses earlier, as opposed to the current approach that recognises impairment only when incurred.	1 Jan 2018	The assessment has identified that the amendments are likely to result in earlier recognition of impairment losses and at more regular intervals. While there will be no significant impact arising from AASB 9, there will be a change to the way financial instruments are disclosed.

## 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES

<b>Standard/ Interpretation</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Application for annual reporting periods:</b>	<b>Impact on Board's Financial Statements</b>
AASB 2016-4 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Recoverable Amount of Non-Cash-Generating Specialised Assets of Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	The standard amends AASB 136 Impairment of Assets to remove references to using depreciated replacement cost (DRC) as a measure of value in use for not-for-profit entities.	1 Jan 2017	The assessment has indicated that there is minimal impact. Given the specialised nature and restrictions of public sector assets, the existing use is presumed to be the highest and best use (HBU), hence current replacement cost under AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement is the same as the depreciated replacement cost concept under AASB 136.
AASB 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>	The core principle of AASB 15 requires an entity to recognise revenue when the entity satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to a customer.	1 Jan 2018	The changes in revenue recognition requirements in AASB 15 may result in changes to the timing and amount of revenue recorded in the financial statements. The Standard will also require additional disclosures on service revenue and contract modifications.
AASB 2016-3 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Clarifications to AASB 15</i>	This Standard amends AASB 15 to clarify the requirements on identifying performance obligations, principal versus agent considerations and the timing of recognising revenue from granting a licence. The amendments require: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A promise to transfer to a customer a good or service that is 'distinct' to be recognised as a separate performance obligation;</li> <li>• For items purchased online, the entity is a principal if it obtains control of the good or service prior to transferring to the customer; and</li> <li>• For licences identified as being distinct from other goods or services in a contract, entities need to determine whether the licence transfers to the customer over time (right to use) or at a point in time (right to access).</li> </ul>	1 Jan 2018	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact for the public sector, other than the impact identified in AASB 15.
AASB 16 <i>Leases</i>	The key changes introduced by AASB 16 include the recognition of most operating leases (which are currently not recognised) on the balance sheet.	1 Jan 2019	The assessment has indicated that as most operating leases will come on balance sheet, recognition of the right-of-use assets and lease liabilities will cause net debt to increase. Rather than expensing the lease payments, depreciation of right-of-use assets and interest on lease liabilities will be recognised in the income statement with marginal impact on the operating surplus. No change for lessors.

### 8.10 Glossary of technical terms

**Borrowings** refers to interest-bearing liabilities mainly from public borrowings raised through finance leases and Treasury Corporation of Victoria.

**Commitments** include those operating, capital and other outsourcing commitments arising from non-cancellable contractual or statutory sources.

**Comprehensive result** is the amount included in the operating statement representing total change in net worth other than transactions with owners

**Depreciation** is an expense that arises from the consumption through wear or time of a produced physical asset. This expense is classified as a 'transaction' and so reduces the 'net result from transaction'.

**Effective interest method** is used to calculate the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected useful life of the financial instrument or, where applicable, a shorter period to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability.

**Employee benefits expenses** include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, leave entitlements, redundancy payments and superannuation contributions.

**Financial asset** is any asset that is:

- cash;
- an equity instrument of another entity;
- a contractual right:
  - to receive cash or another financial asset from another entity; or
  - to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially favourable to the entity; or
- a contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments and is:
  - a non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to receive a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments; or
  - a derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments.

**Financial instrument** is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Financial assets or liabilities that are not contractual (such as statutory receivables or payables that arise as a result of statutory requirements imposed by governments) are not financial instruments.

**Financial liability** is any liability that is a contractual obligation:

- to deliver cash or another financial asset to another entity; or
- to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially unfavourable to the entity.

**Financial statements** in the Model Report comprises:

- a balance sheet as at the end of the period;
- a comprehensive operating statement for the period;
- a statement of changes in equity for the period;
- a cash flow statement for the period;
- notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information;
- comparative information in respect of the preceding period as specified in paragraph 38 of AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*; and
- a statement of financial position as at the beginning of the preceding period when an entity applies an accounting policy retrospectively or makes a retrospective restatement of items in its financial statements, or when it reclassifies items in its financial statements in accordance with paragraphs 41 of AASB 101.

**General government sector** comprises all government departments, offices and other bodies engaged in providing services free of charge or at prices significantly below their cost of production. General government services include those that are mainly non-market in nature, those that are largely for collective consumption by the community and those that involve the transfer or redistribution of income. These services are financed mainly through taxes, or other compulsory levies and user charges.

**Infrastructure systems** provide essential services used in the delivery of final services or products. They are generally a complex interconnected network of individual assets and mainly include sewage systems and water storage and supply systems.

**Interest expense** represents costs incurred in connection with borrowings. It includes interest on loans and interest components of finance lease repayments.

**Interest income** includes interest received on bank term deposits, interest from investments, and other interest received.

**Leases** are rights to use an asset for an agreed period of time in exchange for payment. Leases are classified at their inception as either operating or finance leases based on the economic substance of the agreement so as to reflect the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. Leases of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are classified as finance leases whenever the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

**Net acquisition of non-financial assets** (from transactions) are purchases (and other acquisitions) of non-financial assets less sales (or disposals) of non-financial assets less depreciation plus changes in inventories and other movements in non-financial assets. Includes only those increases or decreases in non-financial assets resulting from transactions and therefore excludes write-offs, impairment write-downs and revaluations.

**Net financial worth** is equal to financial assets minus liabilities. It is a broader measure than net debt as it incorporates provisions made (such as superannuation, but excluding depreciation and bad debts) as well as holdings of equity. Net financial worth includes all classes of financial assets and liabilities, only some of which are included in net debt.

**Net operating balance** or **net result from transactions** is a key fiscal aggregate and is revenue from transactions minus expenses from transactions. It is a summary measure of the ongoing sustainability of operations. It excludes gains and losses resulting from changes in price levels and other changes in the volume of assets. It is the component of the change in net worth that is due to transactions and can be attributed directly to government policies.

**Net result** is a measure of financial performance of the operations for the period. It is the net result of items of revenue, gains and expenses (including losses) recognised for the period, excluding those classified as 'other non-owner movements in equity'.

**Net worth** is calculated as assets less liabilities, which is an economic measure of wealth.

**Non-financial assets** are all assets that are not financial assets. It includes inventories, land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment, and cultural and heritage assets.

**Operating result** is a measure of financial performance of the operations for the period. It is the net result of items of revenue, gains and expenses (including losses) recognised for the period, excluding those that are classified as 'other non-owner movements in equity'. Refer also to 'net result'.

**Other economic flows** included in net result are changes in the volume or value of an asset or liability that do not result from transactions. In simple terms, other economic flows are changes arising from market re-measurements. They include gains and losses from disposals, revaluations and impairments of non-current physical and intangible assets; fair value changes of financial instruments and agricultural assets; and depletion of natural assets (non-produced) from their use or removal.

**Other economic flows – other comprehensive income** comprises items (including reclassification adjustments) that are not recognised in net result as required or permitted by other Australian Accounting Standards. They include changes in physical asset revaluation surplus.

**Payables** includes short and long-term trade debt and accounts payable, grants, taxes and interest payable.

**Receivables** include amounts owing from short and long-term trade credit and accounts receivable and interest receivable.

**Sale of goods and services** refers to income from the direct provision of goods and services and includes fees and charges for services rendered and sales of goods and services.

**Supplies and services** generally represent cost of goods sold and the day-to-day running costs, including maintenance costs, incurred in the normal operations of the Board.

**Transactions** are those economic flows that are considered to arise as a result of policy decisions, usually an interaction between two entities by mutual agreement. They also include flows within an entity such as depreciation where the owner is simultaneously acting as the owner of the depreciating asset and as the consumer of the service provided by the asset. Taxation is regarded as mutually agreed interactions between the government and taxpayers. Transactions can be in kind (eg assets provided/given free of charge or for nominal consideration) or where the final consideration is cash. In simple terms, transactions arise from the policy decisions of the government.

### 8.11 Style conventions

Figures in the tables and in the text have been rounded. Any discrepancies in tables between totals and sums of components reflect rounding. Percentage variations in all tables are based on the underlying unrounded amounts.

The notation used in the tables is as follows:

-	zero, or
(xxx)	negative
201x	year
201x-1x	year period

The financial statements and notes are presented based on the illustration in the *2016-17 Model Report for Victorian Government Departments*. The presentation of other disclosures is generally consistent with the other disclosures made in earlier publications of the Board's annual reports.

# Independent Auditor's Report

## *To the Board of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria*

<b>Opinion</b>	<p>I have audited the financial report of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria (the board) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• balance sheet as at 30 June 2017</li> <li>• comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended</li> <li>• statement of changes in equity for the year then ended</li> <li>• cash flow statement for the year then ended</li> <li>• notes to the financial statements</li> <li>• declaration in the financial statements.</li> </ul> <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the board as at 30 June 2017 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
<b>Basis for Opinion</b>	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the Act are further described in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the board in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
<b>Board's responsibilities for the financial report</b>	<p>The board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, and for such internal control as the board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the board is responsible for assessing the board's ability to continue as a going concern, and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

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**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report**

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 board's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board
- conclude on the appropriateness of the board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the board's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the board to cease to continue as a going concern
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

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MELBOURNE  
4 September 2017



Roberta Skliros  
*as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria*

# Appendix One: Disclosure Index

Legislation	Requirement	Page reference
<b>Ministerial Directions &amp; Financial Reporting Directions</b>		
<b>Charter and purpose</b>		
FRD 22H	Manner of establishment and the relevant Ministers	Page 6, 14
FRD 22H	Purpose, functions, powers and duties	Page 6
FRD 22H	Key initiatives and projects	Pages 27-58
FRD 22H	Nature and range of services provided	Page 7-12
<b>Management and structure</b>		
FRD 22H	Organisational structure	Page 18
<b>Financial and other information</b>		
FRD 8D	Performance against output performance measures	Page 27, 36
FRD 10A	Disclosure index	Page 112
FRD 12B	Disclosure of major contracts	N/A
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FRD 22H	Employment and conduct principles	Page 20-22
FRD 22H	Occupational health and safety policy	Page 22
FRD 22H	Summary of the financial results for the year	Page 24
FRD 22H	Significant changes in financial position during the year	Page 25
FRD 22H	Major changes or factors affecting performance	Page 25
FRD 22H	Subsequent events	N/A
FRD 22H	Application and operation of <i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>	Page 118
FRD 22H	Compliance with building and maintenance provisions of <i>Building Act 1993</i>	Page 118
FRD 22H	Statement on National Competition Policy	Page 113
FRD 22H	Application and operation of the <i>Protected Disclosure 2012</i>	Page 119
FRD 22H	Details of consultancies over \$10,000	Page 117
FRD 22H	Details of consultancies under \$10,000	Page 117
FRD 22H	Disclosure of government advertising expenditure	Page 113
FRD 22H	Disclosure of ICT expenditure	Page 114
FRD 22H	Statement of availability of other information	Page 114
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PC 2012/01	Gifts, benefits and hospitality attestation	Page 116
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SD 5.2.1(a)	Compliance with Ministerial Directions	Page 73
SD 5.2.1(a)	Compliance with Model Financial Report	Page 73
<b>Other disclosures as required by FRDs in notes to the financial statements</b>		
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FRD 104	Foreign Currency	Page 78
FRD 106	Impairment of Assets	Page 95
FRD 21C	Disclosures of Responsible Persons, Executive Officers and other Personnel (Contractors with Significant Management Responsibilities) in the Financial Report	Page 104-105
FRD 110A	Cash Flow Statement	Page 76
FRD 112D	Defined Benefit Superannuation Obligations	Page 84
FRD 114A	Financial Instruments - General Government Entities and Public Non Financial Corporations	Page 94-99
<i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>		
<i>Building Act 1993</i>		
<i>Victorian Industry Participation Policy Act 2003</i>		
<i>Protected Disclosure Act 2012</i>		
<i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>		

## Appendix Two: Other Disclosures

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### STATEMENTS OF COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY

#### **National Competition Policy**

Under the National Competition Policy (NCP), the guiding legislative principle is that legislation, including future legislative proposals, should not restrict competition unless it can be demonstrated that:

- the benefits of the restriction to the community as a whole outweigh the costs; and
- the objectives of the legislation can only be achieved by restricting competition.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria continues to comply with the requirements of the NCP.

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure where services compete, or potentially compete with the private sector, any advantage arising solely from their government ownership be removed if it is not in the public interest. Government businesses are required to cost and price these services as if they were privately owned. Competitive neutrality policy supports fair competition between public and private businesses and provides government businesses with a tool to enhance decisions on resource allocation. This policy does not override other policy objectives of government and focuses on efficiency in the provision of service.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is working to ensure that Victoria fulfils its requirements on competitive neutrality reporting for technological based businesses against the enhanced principles as required under the Competition and Infrastructure Reform Agreement.

#### **Local Jobs First – Victorian Industry Participation Policy statement**

The Victorian Government's Local Jobs First – Victorian Industry Participation Policy (Local Jobs First – VIPP) seeks to maximise opportunities for Australian and Victorian suppliers to compete for government business on the basis of best value for money over the life of the goods or services. The Policy is intended to encourage growth in Victorian industry, employment and technology.

As both Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens are located within metropolitan Melbourne, the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria requires tenderers for projects with a value greater than \$3 million to demonstrate that they have genuinely considered the local industry development implications of their tender by including a minimum 10 per cent weighting of local content and completing a Local Jobs First – VIPP statement as part of the tendering and evaluation process. Where there are two or more tenders that offer similar value for money, this information may be used to differentiate between the value and benefit of the tenders.

Tenderers are required to specify the level (minimum 10 per cent weighting) of local value added, provide details of actual new employment opportunities to be created and the proportion to be filled by people from the local community, identify opportunities for increasing the skills of Victorians and Australians, and identify the potential to undertake technology innovation, research and development.

During 2016–17, no tenders for projects at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria were of sufficient value to require the inclusion of a Local Jobs First – VIPP statement in the tender documentation.

#### **Advertising expenditure**

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's expenditure in the 2016–17 reporting period on campaign advertising expenditure was nil.

### Statement of availability of other information

During 2016-17:

- declarations of pecuniary interests were duly completed by all relevant officers
- no shares were held by a senior officer as nominee, or held beneficially in a statutory authority or subsidiary
- as a result of the expert report provided to the Director and Chief Executive in December 2015, ARCUE was closed by the end of 2016.
- In addition, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, the following information is available on request from the Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria:
  - details of publications produced by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria about itself, and how these can be obtained
  - details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
  - details of major research and development activities undertaken by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
  - details of overseas visits undertaken, including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit
  - details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria to develop community awareness of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and its services
  - details of assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees
  - a general statement on industrial relations within the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, and details of time lost through industrial accidents and disputes
  - a list of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's major committees, the purposes of each committee, and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved
  - details of all consultancies and contractors including consultants/contractors engaged, services provided, and expenditure committed to for each engagement.

### Information and Communications Technology (ICT) expenditure

For the 2016-17 reporting period, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria had a total ICT expenditure of \$1,320,000, with the details shown below.

Table 14: ICT expenditure

(\$ thousand)

All operational ICT expenditure	ICT expenditure relating to projects to create or enhance ICT capabilities		
	Business-As-Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure	Operational expenditure (OPEX)	Capital expenditure (CAPEX)
(Total)	Non-Business-As-Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure  (Total = Operational expenditure and Capital Expenditure)		
1,202	118	371	83

**ICT expenditure** refers to Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's costs in providing business-enabling ICT services within the current reporting period. It comprises Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure.

**Non-BAU ICT expenditure** relates to extending or enhancing Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's current ICT capabilities.

**BAU ICT expenditure** is all remaining ICT expenditure which primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.



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Royal Botanic  
Gardens Board  
ABN 36 600 553 934

### **Attestation**

I, Kenneth Harrison, certify that the Royal Botanic Gardens Board has complied with the *Ministerial Standing Direction 3.7.1 – Risk Management Framework and Processes*. The Risk Committee verifies this.

**Kenneth Harrison AM**  
**Chairman**  
**Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria**

29 June 2017



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**ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS BOARD  
GIFTS, BENEFITS AND HOSPITALITY COMPLIANCE  
ATTESTATION**

I, **Professor Tim Entwisle, Director and Chief Executive**

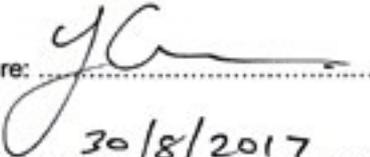
of

**Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria**

Royal Botanic  
Gardens Board  
ABN 36 600 553 934

Certify that:

- my public entity has policies and procedures in place that are consistent with the minimum requirements and accountabilities outlined in the *Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy Framework* issued by the Public Sector Standards Commissioner;
- staff are informed about these gifts, benefits and hospitality policies and procedures; and
- the Finance and Audit Committee of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria reviews the operation of the policies and procedures at least once a year to ensure transparent reporting of accepted gifts, benefits and hospitality.

Signature: 

Date: 30/8/2017

## Consultancies

Table 15: Consultancies

Details of individual consultancies during the year are summarised as follows:

Consultant	Purpose of Consultancy	Start Date	End Date	Total Approved Fee (excl. GST)	Expenditure 2016-17 (excl. GST)	Future Expenditure (excl. GST)
VOTAR PARTNERS PTY LTD	To review electronic document management requirements and recommend suitable system and to assess existing data management practices to make recommendations on how to best address governance and quality issues.	1/11/2016	28/04/2017	26,000	26,000	0
BENDELTA	To review RBGV organisational structure and propose alternative which better aligns with RBGV Vision and Mission and efficiently and effectively facilitates the delivery of RBGV's strategic objectives.	1/11/2015	2/02/2017	283,300	170,975	0
MURCHIE CONSULTING	To assess the existing Herbarium and Observatory precinct heating and cooling systems and infrastructure and recommend options for replacement and upgrade.	22/07/2016	27/10/2016	13,600	13,600	0
CARDNO	To undertake a drainage study of both Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens' sites to identify catchments and sub-catchments, capital works and associated maintenance programs and additional investigations required.	1/12/2016	26/05/2017	19,650	19,650	0
CONTEXT PTY LTD	To engage the Traditional Owners and understand the Aboriginal Values of the Melbourne Gardens and the Melbourne Observatory site, which in turn will facilitate the preparation of the Melbourne Gardens Landscape Masterplan.	22/11/2016	14/06/2017	22,415	22,415	0
CONTEXT PTY LTD	To assess the historical and social significance and to provide advice on the ongoing management and conservation of the Melbourne Observatory site.	3/05/2017	7/06/2017	13,520	13,520	0
CONTEXT PTY LTD	To assess the State Botanical Collection's standing against the Collections Council of Australia's <i>Significance 2.0: A Guide to Assessing the Significance of Collections</i> criteria and thresholds to assist future collection management decisions.	27/05/2016	30/11/2016	41,397	41,397	0
MARLIN COMMUNICATIONS	To develop the RBGV's value proposition and strategic communications for future fundraising, marketing and advocacy campaigns.	26/05/2017	20/09/2017	64,300	34,300	30,000
				<b>481,182</b>	<b>341,857</b>	<b>30,000</b>

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board did not engage any consultants whose total fees payable were less than \$10,000 (excluding GST) during 2016-17.

RBGV did not award any major contracts (valued at \$10 million or more) during 2016-17.

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## LEGISLATION

No amendments were made to the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991* in 2016-17.

## LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

### **Financial Management Act 1994**

Full details of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's compliance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* are outlined in the section 'Financial Management' and in the Disclosure Index on page 112.

### **Freedom of Information Act 1982**

#### **Principal Officer**

Professor Timothy Entwisle, Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

#### **Authorised Officer**

Dennis Renfrey, Freedom of Information Officer

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* allows the public a right of access to documents held by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

#### **Categories of documents**

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria maintains a corporate records management filing system. Files are separated into the categories of personal or case files, operational and policy files, files on general operational and administrative responsibilities, and correspondence files.

#### **Access arrangements**

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria has a Freedom of Information Officer to process and co-ordinate action on requests.

#### **Requests**

For the 12 months ending 30 June 2017, one request was finalised.

Freedom of Information (FOI) requests are made in writing describing all documents requested and including payment of the \$28.40 application fee (from 1 July 2017). FOI fees and charges are not subject to GST.

Requests should be sent to the Freedom of Information Officer, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Private Bag 2000, South Yarra, Victoria, 3141.

### **Building and maintenance provisions of the Building Act 1993**

Pursuant to section 220 of the *Building Act 1993*, all completed works requiring building approval have plans certified, works in progress are inspected and Occupancy Permits are issued by independent Building Surveyors engaged on a local job-by-job basis. Plans for these works are lodged with the relevant local council.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria requires all building practitioners engaged on building works to be registered and to maintain registration throughout the course of the work.

#### **Conformity**

All essential safety measures are in place, with regular inspections and maintenance carried out.

#### **Building work**

At Melbourne Gardens, following the receipt of a building permit, the fire indicator panel for the Visitor Centre and Observatory Buildings was replaced and some fire protection system upgrades were undertaken with further upgrades still to be completed in the coming year. A Certificate of Final Inspection will be arranged once all work is completed.

A building permit was issued to upgrade the final portion of the fire services within the Melbourne Gardens including supply to The Terrace. The work was substantially completed in the current financial year and will be completed in July 2017. All work was undertaken by a licenced plumber and all relevant compliance certificates were received.

At Cranbourne Gardens, a new fire service was installed, providing an additional three fire hydrants to the site. The work was undertaken by a licenced plumber and all relevant compliance certificates were received. A Certificate of Final Inspection was issued for the depot north shed extension and the new steam shed as part of the depot upgrade at Cranbourne Gardens. These works commenced during the 2015-16 financial year.

## Maintenance

At Melbourne Gardens an audit and report to identify and prioritise building defects was commenced and remedial maintenance work to address rotting exterior woodwork at E-Gate Lodge was undertaken.

At Cranbourne Gardens, maintenance and improvement works were undertaken on the Australian Garden irrigation and Visitor Centre potable water pumps and the pump servicing the Biofilter Treatment Wetlands. Repairs to fixtures and fittings were undertaken on various buildings and built assets.

All essential safety measure inspections were undertaken by a registered Building Surveyor and compliance issues addressed as required.

Table 16: Disclosures about buildings owned or controlled by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

Permits and emergency orders issued	<b>Cranbourne Gardens</b>	<b>Melbourne Gardens</b>
Building permits issued	0	2
Occupancy permits issued	0	0
Certificates of Final Inspection)	1	0
Emergency and building orders issued	0	0

## Compliance with the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012*

The *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* (PD Act) enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct by public officers and public bodies. The Act aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make disclosures and protecting them when they do.

What is a 'protected disclosure'?

A protected disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct by a public officer or a public body. The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria is a 'public body' for the purposes of the Act.

What is 'improper or corrupt conduct'?

Improper or corrupt conduct involves substantial:

- mismanagement of public resources; or
- risk to public health or safety or the environment; or
- corruption.

The conduct must be criminal in nature or a matter for which an officer could be dismissed.

How do I make a 'Protected Disclosure'?

You can make a protected disclosure about the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria or its board members, officers or employees by contacting the Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission on the contact details provided below.

Please note that the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria is not able to receive protected disclosures.

**How can I access the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action?**

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a protected disclosure about the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria or its employees. You can access the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's procedures on its website at: [www.rbg.vic.gov.au/Protected\\_Disclosure\\_Procedure](http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au/Protected_Disclosure_Procedure).

### Contacts

**Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) Victoria**

Address: Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000

Mail: IBAC, GPO Box 24234, Melbourne Victoria 3001

Internet: [www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au)

Phone: 1300 735 135

Email: see the website above for the secure email disclosure process, which also provides for anonymous disclosures.





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Board Victoria

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