

*Conserving the world's plants
for a sustainable future.*

**Report to
Foundation Fellows and Supporters
2006-2007**



**The Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney
Foundation**

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Overview

Our Estates

Each year there are some 8 million visits to our estates. People enjoy the history, heritage, beauty, stunning horticultural and landscape displays or facilities of the estates of the Botanic Gardens Trust (the Trust).

- ❖ Approximately 4 million to the Royal Botanic Gardens
- ❖ Approximately 4 million to the Domain
- ❖ Nearly 100,000 to Mount Annan Botanic Garden
- ❖ Nearly 100,000 to Mount Tomah Botanic Garden

Two million are visitors from overseas and 20,000 are children in school programs. Some come alone but most come with partners, family or friends.

Visitors come to:

- ❖ Enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the Gardens
- ❖ Appreciate the plant diversity
- ❖ To walk, relax or recreate
- ❖ To socialise, enjoy family, picnic
- ❖ To attend a family celebration or community festival or event
- ❖ To learn – about plants, the environment, sustainable ways of gardening, or other things in school programs that can be learned through the world of plants – in formal lessons or informally

The Foundation is proud to connect these public lands with garden lovers like you who contribute to enhancing their vitality and relevance.

Our Programs

Sharing the knowledge and results of the work of the Trust botanists, conservation experts, ecologists, educators, researchers and events team benefits our visitors, the 17,300 plant species on our estates, the 1.2 million Herbarium specimens, the seed collection in the Seedbank, and also our many partners, collaborators and customers such as:

- ❖ our scientific collaborators around the world
- ❖ land managers
- ❖ governments
- ❖ community gardening and environmental care groups
- ❖ new botanic gardens in developing economies and
- ❖ and many others who are passionate about our environment and want to help care for it.

Our work is for all and you make it more possible.

Our Foundation

The Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney Foundation is the charitable organisation supporting these estates and programs to ensure their development and enhancement. Through this, the Foundation is *conserving the world's plants for a sustainable future*.

Chairman's Report

It is with pleasure that I present my first report on the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation since my appointment as the Chair of its Councillors on July 1, 2007.

There have been changes in the structure and members of the Council during the 2007 calendar year. We would like to thank Greg Martin, chair of the Botanic Gardens Trust, for also serving as Chair of the Foundation. Greg has accepted the new role of President to provide strategic links between the Foundation and the Trust. We would also like to thank Jamie Durie for his contribution on the Council and look forward to our new relationship with Jamie as Ambassador of the Foundation, a role which will capitalise on his media and horticultural interests.

Other significant changes to the Board of Councillors which have strengthened the Foundation's networks and capacity for success are the appointment of John Taberner and Ronald Griffin as Councillors (effective 1 July 2007), Ian Conley's reappointment as Councillor and Dr Tim Entwisle's appointment as Secretary. Other than Dr Entwisle, Councillors offer their services on a non-pro bono basis. A Councillor's term is 4 years.

The Foundation has now appointed dedicated staff to leverage the pro-bono contributions made by our Foundation Councillors. Pauline Markwell became the full time director of the Foundation in December 2006. Pauline is well equipped for the role having been Director, Communications and Marketing of the Botanic Gardens Trust since November 2000. She is supported by a part-time co-ordinator. It is with their help that the Foundation developed a business plan and initiated many new fundraising and administrative operations.

The Foundation has made good progress - growing our Fellowship Program of philanthropic benefactors; establishing strategically important fundraising projects; and promotion of the Foundation. In time, we plan to establish an endowment fund and a bequest program.

I look forward to meeting those Fellows and Supporters whom I have not met in the forthcoming year. We thank you for your support in the past and welcome you aboard the exciting future we are creating in the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation to support the Botanic Gardens Trust.

Clive Austin

Foundation Director's Report

We have welcomed thirteen new benefactors to the Fellowship Program at the Allan Cunningham level and two benefactors at the Sir Joseph Banks level since the launch of the Program in November 2006. Other supporters have made donations to the Foundation at levels below the Fellowship Program.

The Foundation conducted celebratory and relationship-building events. Highlights of the year were the November 2006 launch of the Palace Rose Garden, a major project of the Foundation, the Fernery Party and the Camellia Luncheon.

At the Rose Garden we enjoyed the first blooms and heard about the selection of the roses and the environmentally-sustainable methods used in this display. John B

Fairfax and Professor Carrick Chambers delighted guests with their own accounts of the gift of the Fernery building by John's mother, Lady Fairfax in 1992 after she saw a model in Professor Chamber's office, during his term as Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. Benefactors at the Camellia Luncheon were treated to a presentation by our researchers in finding and identifying rare Camellias followed by a tour of the new Camellia Garden, a special gift of Geoffrey and Rachel O'Conor.

We are grateful to each of our Foundation Councillors who accepts a significant commitment in this role. Each Councillor leads a fundraising project. Active 2007 projects included the Children's Garden, Australian Native Rockery, Macquarie Precinct Redevelopment, Heritage Statuary Restoration, Macquarie Street Engagement and Youth Community Greening, an environmental educational program in disadvantaged communities. One project has pledges covering almost half of its requirements. As the Trust prepares for its Bicentenary in 2016, there are many new projects planned as part of this celebration and highly worthy of support.

There are many other strategically important 'pending' projects of capital, educational or scientific natures waiting for take-up by the Foundation as capacity allows.

The Foundation office provides the essential back-up for fundraising projects, runs Fellowship Program activities and undertakes Foundation administration. Significant improvements have been made to operations and processes during the year as part of increasing our services and developing our functionality.

The Foundation conducts its own bank accounts and follows governance requirements determined by the Australian Tax Office and the NSW State Government for charitable institutions. Foundation funds are invested and managed by independent advisors, Ord Minnett, and funds are released to the Trust only to complete projects and activities agreed by the Foundation Councillors.

During the year, the Foundation developed new contemporary branding and identity sympathetic to Trust identity. We have marketed the Foundation through external presentations, articles in the quarterly Friends of The Gardens' magazine distributed to some 7000 members and updating the (Trust) Honour Board to acknowledge new benefactors and supporters.

I would like to particularly thank all the Foundation's partners, without whom we would not be able to achieve our successes and milestones. These include external professional advisors as well as management and staff of the Botanic Gardens Trust.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead developing many new friendships and partnerships and seeking support for our major fundraising projects.

Pauline A Markwell

Foundation Highlights in 2007

- ❖ Opening of the Palace Rose Garden, a major project of the Foundation
- ❖ Appointment of a Chair and new Councillors
- ❖ Appointment of the Foundation Director
- ❖ Establishment of the Business Plan, defining strategies and operational plans
- ❖ Launch and funding of program, Youth Community Greening
- ❖ Launch of our Fellowship program.

Projects Supported in 2007

During the past financial year, the Foundation made allocations for the following projects and raised funds towards another project:

- ❖ Palace Rose Garden – final works leading to completion and the launch
- ❖ Children's Garden – visitor research as part of planning of this major project
- ❖ Youth Community Greening – official launch of the program
- ❖ Trust projects – website update, refurbishment of benches, tree plantings

Foundation's Major Fundraising Projects

The Foundation is actively working to realise the following projects:

- **Children's Garden:** Councillor - Caro Webster; Target \$5 million est.

This will be a safe, stimulating and exciting garden which children can explore at their own paces. It will fire imaginations, create deep affinities and generate profound results. As the premiere city in Australia, Sydney needs to offer its children their own garden.

Particular features being considered include story telling, a canopy walk, water features, discovery areas and hands-on activity areas. Many vegetation types will be included to maximise play, learning opportunities, durability and safety. Fauna will be featured and tell biodiversity stories. The garden will be themed and gently make the connections between plant conservation, our lives and sustainable futures for our young visitors.

- **Heritage Statuary :** Councillor – Ian Conley; Target \$250,000

Sculpture is part of the rich cultural heritage of the Royal Botanic Gardens. Sadly much of this statuary has been damaged. This project will restore and return this statuary to public display and enrich the experience for the four million annual visitors. Restoration of heritage is part of our ethos of conservation.

The items listed are marble statues from Italy - Spring, Summer, La Ballerina, The Bather, Apollino, female with lyre and Discobolus – and 5 marble urns. Two sphinxes will be restored for museum display.

- **Australian Native Rockery:** Councillor – Tim Entwisle; Target \$350,000

Every one of the 2 million visitors passing through the Queen Elizabeth II Gates near the Opera House will see this arresting display of showy, colourful Australian flora. The Rockery is highly visible from the water too. With dramatic plantings and stimulating signage, visitors will learn about the conservation of our unique flora and the sustainability of our biodiversity and water.

This garden will feature a wide range of plants from large bottle trees, Gymea Lily, grass trees and iconic flowering plants. All plants will be species (as opposed to cultivars), wild-sourced from seed from the NSW Seed Bank at Mount Annan Botanic Garden or collecting trips. Signature dry stone walls, a network of paths, framed vistas of the Harbour, viewing platforms, lighting and seats will give structure and accessibility to the garden. It will be a significant feature of the Royal Botanic Gardens. The garden will be planned to require minimal maintenance and be suitable for events.

- **Macquarie Precinct and Monumental Gate:** Councillors – Lesley Kernaghan and John Taberner; Target estimated \$11 million

The intent is to provide a grand Gateway to the Royal Botanic Gardens at the corner of Bent and Macquarie Streets, new visionary landscaping within the botanic gardens and new visitor facilities. The style should be 'sympathetic' to the existing fabric of the Gardens landscapes and adjacent buildings (both heritage and modern) and be a statement for the future particularly given it will be a Bicentenary Gift to Sydney.

The entrance will provide strong linkages to the City of Sydney and adjacent civic buildings (major Macquarie Street buildings), connection with the north-west part of the Phillip Precinct of the Domain and Shakespeare Place. This development gives opportunity to change the topography in this precinct, link the Gateway to the Tropical Centre, improve and innovatively use the southern boundary area (aligned to Cahill Expressway), bring Shakespeare monument into the Royal Botanic Gardens from Shakespeare Place – literally or figuratively, and create stronger links between the Domain Phillip Precinct, Hospital Road, Mitchell Library and the Royal Botanic Gardens. It is planned to stage a design competition to find new exciting ideas and publicise the project.

- **Youth Community Greening:** Councillors – Gretel Packer and Lesley Kernaghan; Target \$704,000 for 4 years

This is an environmental education program targeting children and youth in disadvantaged areas. An educational horticulturist will work in the community, with children and youth to establish community gardens developed to their ideas, needs and uses, and will provide ongoing support in their ownership and management of the gardens. Gardens will be in schools, housing estates or other community areas and will include rural and regional areas. The program will create Arbor Day plantings in schools and conduct a touring program to regional New South Wales called *Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) Goes West*.

This program is a youth version of the highly successful Community Greening Program operating in NSW for the last 7 years.

- **Community Engagement (Macquarie Street):** Councillors – Sue Gazal, Ronald Griffin; Target – Fellowship Program participation and corporate philanthropic partnerships

In this project, we are endeavouring to engage with local residents who use and love the Royal Botanic Gardens. The project has involved research among residents and inviting them in for personalised tours. We will extend this concept to businesses in the CBD.

- **Other Projects**

Since the end of the 2007 financial year, other projects being championed by our Councillors include Rainforest Seed Conservation Research project and land acquisition near Mount Tomah Botanic Garden. Pending projects include:

- Royal Botanic Gardens - Restoration and opening up our Library Treasures, Palm Grove Restoration
- Mount Annan Botanic Garden – Eco-Adventure Playground, Orchid House
- Science / Conservation - various Seed Research projects, Centre for Plant Conservation (Mount Annan Botanic Garden), Orchid research project.

Our Benefactors and Supporters

We wish to acknowledge and thank these generous people and organisations that have made a significant contribution to the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation, through recent Fellowship or project donations, or early benefaction to the Foundation.

Charles Darwin Fellows (\$500,000+)

The Estate of the late Cliffina Thersey Rathborne

Sir Joseph Banks Fellows (\$100,000 to \$500,000)

Gretel L Packer

Roslyn Packer AO

Pre 2006

Bruce Arnott

Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation

Ron Brierley

Geoffrey & Rachel O'Conor

Eden Gardens and Garden Centre

Thyne Reid

James O Fairfax AO

The Estate of the late Josephine Swane

Joseph Maiden Fellows (\$25,000 to \$100,000)

Lee-Anne Reid

Pre 2006

Dick Honan & Honan Family

The Estate of the late Elsie May Webster

Allan Cunningham Fellows (\$6,000 [over 3 years] to \$25,000)

Patricia & Clive Austin

David & Kathryn Groves

Roxanne Clayton

Lesley Kernaghan

Ian Conley

Pauline A. Markwell

Jennifer Crivelli

Ian & Helen McLachlan

Elizabeth Davis OAM

Faye Parker

Sue Gazal

Sam & Helen Sheffer

Ronald & Helen Griffin

Prue Socha

Pre 2006

Judith Beswick

Ross A Field

The late Amana Finley

John Valder AO OBE & Kay Valder OAM

Margot de Ferranti

Foundation Supporters

Marylyn Abbott

Paul Harris

Conrad & Stein Berensen

Dr John Hewson AM

Morrish Besley AM AC AO

John Lamble

Dr Ian Blackburn

John Leaver

Graham Bradley

Dr CJ & Mary-Rose McDonald

Vic Brown

Mary Moore

Reg Bryson

Christine Moss

Sir Raymond & Lady Burrell

Joan Nicol

Peter Burrows

David Pumphrey

Lorelle Clements

John Reid AO

Michael Coleman

Gayl & Late Steven Rich

Mandy Dawkins

Susan Rothwell

Diane T Direnzie

John Studdy AM

Julie Drew

Bret Walker SC

Mr John B. Fairfax AM

Sir Arthur & Lady Weller

Ronald Finemore AO

Robert Whyte

Leon Fink

Carol Willesee

Michael Hamilton

Edwin Wilson

Pat & Dianne Handley

Peggy Yeum

Corporate Supporters - all levels

Alcatel Australia

Crane Group Limited

Amcor

Davidson's Nursery

Australia Post

Goodman Fielder Limited

BOC Gases

James N Kirby Foundation

Leighton Holdings Limited
Philip Bushell Foundation
Reader's Digest
Reckitt & Colman Products

Simsmetal Limited
The Ian Potter Foundation
The Sidney Myer Fund

Operational Guidelines

- Objectives of the Foundation's investment policy are:
 - to maximise investment return. Investment vehicles must be competitive in the market
 - to protect committed funds (donated for specific projects) from market fluctuations
 - to ensure all gifts are used for the purpose for which they were given
- Foundation follows prudent governance procedures such as approving expenditure, issuing of cheques and approval of Councillor benefits to ensure good guardianship of benefactor gifts and Foundation assets
- Investment income is used for administrative costs which at present covers the salary costs of the Foundation Coordinator
- Up to 10% of funds raised may be allocated to cover administration costs of the Foundation including salary of the Foundation Director. Botanic Gardens Trust currently provides administration funds
- Until the Foundation obtains sufficient donations to provide sufficient contributions to cover its own administrative expenses, the Trust will cover this shortfall.

Ord Minnett provides funds management advice and services to the Foundation.

About the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation

The Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation, Sydney was established in 1993 to raise funds to develop and enhance the estates and programs (scientific, conservation and educational) administered by the Botanic Gardens Trust and provide support to the Trust. This purpose continues today. The Foundation operates within the guidelines of the Trust Deed established in 1993 and periodically modified.

The Foundation is a charitable Fund endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 and all donations are tax deductible. The Foundation has an authority to fundraise from the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing valid until 11/07/2010 under the Charitable Fundraising Act, 1991. It has GST Concession and Income Tax Exemption status. The ABN is 65 037 438 220.

The Trust Deed permits up to 13 Councillors with a term of office of 4 years, one of whom is nominated by the Minister of the Government of NSW (Dr Tim Entwisle). A maximum of 6 are nominated by the Botanic Gardens Trust (currently 4) and a maximum of 6 may be nominated by other Councillors (currently 4). In FY 2007 there were 9 Councillors.

The Councillors, Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation

Mr Ian Conley BSc (Hons) Mathematics, University of Exeter, UK; GAICD
Company Director and investor
Councillor – reappointed 25 November 2006
Council Meetings attended 2007: 5 of 5

Mr Conley is a private equity investor and director on small NFP organisations and a biometrics company. He has an international consulting background.

Mr Jamie Durie DipHort
Horticulturalist and media personality
Councillor – appointed 2 June 2005
Council Meetings attended 2007: 0 of 5

Dr Tim Entwisle BSc, PhD
Executive Director of Botanic Gardens Trust and New South Wales Government Botanist
Councillor - appointed November 2003; appointed Secretary January 2007
Council Meetings attended 2007: 5 of 5

Dr Entwisle is an internationally recognised plant scientist; author of over 70 scientific publications, including three books; regular contributor to ABC Sydney radio and occasional writer for popular science and nature magazines.

Ms Sue Gazal
Councillor – appointed 2 June 2005
Council Meetings attended 2007: 5 of 5

Ms Gazal has been a long time supporter of the Royal Botanic Gardens through various roles of the Friends of The Gardens and volunteer guiding in the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Mrs Lesley Kernaghan BA, DipEd
Councillor – appointed November 2006
Council Meetings attended 2007: 3 of 3

Ms Kernaghan has held both professional IT and voluntary philanthropic roles in the not-for profit sector and computing and communications worlds.

Mr Greg Martin BEc, LLB, MAICD, FAIM
Company Director and Executive, Chair of Botanic Gardens Trust since December 2003
Acting Chair – appointed 17 August 2004
Council Meetings attended 2007: 0 of 5

Greg Martin joined Challenger Financial Services Group as Chief Executive, Challenger Infrastructure in 2006 after more than 25 years with The Australian Gas Light Company, most recently as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.

Mr Don Morris AO, BEc
Chairman of Tourism Queensland, Company director
Councillor – appointed 28 March 2006
Council Meetings attended 2007: 5 of 5

Mr Morris has had a long career in the advertising industry and currently has interests in horticulture and property development and tourism.

Ms Gretel Packer
Philanthropist and board member
Councillor – appointed 2 June 2005
Council Meetings attended 2007: 3 of 5

Ms Packer is actively involved in various not for profit and community organisations including the Taronga Foundation and The Royal Hospital for Women Foundation. She has a strong interest in environmental, education and community issues.

Mrs Caroline Webster

Freelance horticultural journalist and writer
Councillor – appointed 2 June 2005
Council Meetings attended 2007: 4 of 5

Mrs Webster has worked in advertising, politics, benevolent organizations, publishing and ran her own marketing consultancy. She is a freelance writer and is President of Friends of The Gardens

On 1 July 2007, we were pleased to welcome three new Councillors:

Mr Clive Austin MLL, University of London, FAICD

Company director, Practising Solicitor
Councillor and Chair – appointed 1 July 2007

Mr Austin is chairman of Oasis Horticulture and a consortium of family companies. He has chaired boards and committees of a number of not-for profit and community organisation including the Royal Rehabilitation Hospital, National Trust and Royal Lifesaving Society.

Mr Ronald Griffin BEng Chem, USyd, MBA, UNSW

Banker
Councillor – appointed 1 July 2007

Mr Griffin is an experienced banker specializing in major infrastructure and other projects. Family involvement and his long term interest in the Botanic Gardens has led to his joining the Foundation.

Mr John Taberner BA (Hons), MA (Hons), BLLB, LL.M.

Practising Solicitor
Councillor – appointed 1 July 2007

Mr Taberner has extensive experience on all aspects of environmental law, in particular planning and pollution control law, the Kyoto Protocol as relevant to Australia, and analysis of Australian State-based carbon sequestration legislation.

Acknowledgements

The Foundation Councillors and Office would like to thank our other partners who have generously given gifts of time or services or product to assist the success of the Foundation. We would like to thank:

- Wyndham Estate
- Freehills
- Ernst & Young
- Woolcott Research
- Botanic Gardens Restaurant
- Botanic Gardens Trust Management and Staff who have helped in many ways to support Foundation events