

# Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney Inc.

## TWENTY FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

### OVERVIEW

The 24th Annual General Meeting was held in November 2006. Committee members elected at this meeting comprised:

**Elected and Continuing Committee Members:** Lois Catchlove, Liz Dent, Alistair Hay, Alex Halliday, Jocelyn McGirr, Ann Rasmussen, Janine Smith, Hugh Springford, Sir Ian Turbott and Caroline Webster. Beth Michie and Peter Ayres also served on the committee as representatives of Mount Annan and Mount Tomah respectively.

**Ex-Officio members:** Tim Entwisle (Executive Director, BGT), Annie Sutherland (Executive Officer Friends).

**BGT Trust Nominees:** Tim Jackson, Mark Savio (Director Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain).

At the December 2006 committee meeting, the following office bearers were appointed: Caro Webster (President); Ann Rasmussen (Vice President), Hugh Springford (Hon. Treasurer) and Liz Dent (Volunteer Co-Ordinator).

In early 2007, Chris Elliott was co-opted back onto the Committee and appointed Hon. Secretary and Public Officer.

During the year Alistair Hay resigned to pursue other interests and Janine Smith tendered her resignation to join the staff of the Friends in the position of Marketing & PR Officer.

Peter Ayres resigned as Convener of the Mount Tomah sub-committee during this period so automatically stepped down from the general committee and Russell Beardmore was co-opted onto the committee during the reporting period.

Thomas Davis & Co continued as Auditors.

### A REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Friends has continued its active support of the Botanic Gardens Trust throughout the year. This support is both financial (membership dues, funds raised via activities & events and one-off donations) and practical (volunteering). We were able to commit \$411,129 to

the Botanic Gardens Trust during the reporting period which is comparable with the previous period.

A significant bequest was made by the estate of Professor R. Smith.

The reporting period has been one of consolidation for the Friends. We have pursued the goals of the **Strategic Plan** which commenced during last financial year and were finalised early this financial year. This has provided an excellent framework to guide our committees and volunteers as they aim to improve every aspect of the work of the Friends.

The **Growing Friends** created a Vision Plan, similar to a Business Plan, and are now using this as a guide to developing and increasing revenue, members and the public profile of this highly successful group of volunteers.

We celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> birthday during this reporting period. A bumper magazine was produced that highlighted our achievements to date.

Our new member's room has been a great success, with many members using it as a place of rest and reflection and the reference library as a handy source of information.

## **FUNDED PROJECTS**

A list of the projects funded by the Friends during the 06/07 period is as follows. Full financial details are provided in the Treasurer's report, circulated with this document.

### **General**

- Annual horticultural scholarship
- Annual staff scholarship
- Contribution of material to nurseries (by Growing Friends)
- Refurbishment of Cottage 5
- Refurbishment of Growing Friends area
- Contribution to direct costs

### **Sydney and Domain**

- Repair and refurbishment of the Twin Ponds
- Completion of the Begonia Beds
- Margaret Flockton Competition and Award
- Library image collection project
- Site identification banners, way finding maps and signage upgrade
- Tree survey and condition assessment
- Disabled access at Moreshead and Woolloomooloo gates

- Lion Gate Lodge upgrade
- A study into Sydney's Heritage trees

## **Mount Annan**

- Contribution to the completion of the Stolen Generation memorial
- Continuing funding for the African Olive control programme

## **Mount Tomah**

- Installation of water-wise turf
- Upgrades to signage in the Conservation area
- Repairs and upgrades to the Spur Track

## **CORE ACTIVITIES**

### **Art Classes**

Formulated by Robyn Macintosh to build on the already existing Art Master classes, art classes covering other forms are now held throughout the year. They are beginning to contribute significantly to Friends revenue.

### **Artisans in the Gardens**

Curated by Bev Kable, supported by an incredibly hardworking sub-committee together with a team of another 100 volunteers, Artisans in the Gardens again proved to be a very successful fundraiser for the Friends; it grows in reputation and stature each year.

### **Book sales**

Organised by Bruce Fergus, the second-hand book sale held during the year again raised significant funds for the Friends. Leftover books and magazines were donated to Community Greening.

### **Botanica**

Curated by Lindy Stuart, two Botanica exhibitions were held during the reporting period (July '06, March '07). Over 140 volunteers helped ensure that Botanica's reputation as the pre-eminent Botanical Art exhibition in Australia continues.

### **Catering**

Co-coordinated by Lois Catchlove, the catering volunteers provided refreshments for Friends' activities and again catered for many other groups, including the Botanic Gardens Trust and the Department of Environment & Climate Change. It is now a revenue earning group within its own right. The Mount Tomah and Mount Annan sub-committees also provide catering for events held offsite and at the Gardens.

## General events and activities

We continue to offer an inspirational range of illustrated talks, lectures and hands-on gardening experiences in an effort to provide something of interest to every member. Beth Stokes continues to be employed as a part-time publicity coordinator for these and she is also Chair of our Activities sub-committee.

## Growing Friends

Growing Friends at all three Gardens have continued their work propagating and selling plants sourced from these gardens. As well as regular sales (four days a week in Sydney), larger day-long sales were occasionally held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney and Mount Annan Botanic Garden and this year at Bilpin Collectors Plant Fair. Growing Friends continues to provide increased revenue to the Friends each year. There are 38 regular volunteers who make up the core of the Growing Friends team. The resignation of Co-ordinator Margaret Mahoney was accepted with regret during the year. The position has since been filled by Raoul de Ferranti.

## Information Booth

Coordinated by Ann Rasmussen and Sue Richards, the booth is manned six days a week by a dedicated group of over 60 volunteers who provide an invaluable service to members of the public visiting the Gardens. They distribute information on what to see and do across each of the four estates and encourage enjoyment of the Gardens and promote membership of the Friends.

## Magazine

Chaired by Dorothy Robertson, the editorial sub-committee of the Friends worked hard again this year to provide advice on publication of the Friends quarterly magazine ***The Gardens***. The magazine contains information on Friends' events and articles of interest, as well as details of tours and benefits available to members. Sandra Symons continues to be employed to edit the magazine. Ken Rinkel, of One Plus One Design Pty Ltd, provides graphic design services. During the reporting period, the sub-committee oversaw publication of a bumper issue celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Friends.

## **Office staff**

Staff members Annie Sutherland (Executive Officer) together with Phil Brouwer, Merilyn House, Marion Kearns, Lynette Johnson and Janine Smith were assisted throughout the year by many volunteers.

## **Tours**

The Friends successfully ran a number of tours in the 2006/2007 financial year. Locally there were short trips to the Barossa Valley and Kangaroo Island and Margaret River region in Western Australia. Internationally there was a trip to Andalusia with Leonie Furber. The Tours committee continues to fine tune the programme to ensure that all tours are of interest to our membership and make a profit for the organization.

## **New Year's Eve**

Our New Year's Eve party continues to be a significant source of revenue for the Friends. With over 2000 people (members and the general public) attending, it is also a good vehicle for member recruitment.

## **Speakers Bureau.**

Headed by Libby Cameron, the Speakers Bureau has continued to provide quality talks and lectures to all manner of interested organizations such as Gardening Clubs, Rotary, Probis and other community groups.

## **Watering**

Co-ordinated by Liz Dent, eight regular volunteers provide an invaluable service to the gardens at Sydney by watering when required.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

This year closed with 4386 memberships which is an increase on the same period last year. Membership categories comprise club/association, household, individual, concession, student, sustained, life and Waratah.

During the year there were 123 Waratah memberships. Waratah members are those individuals who choose to make an annual donation in addition to their member dues and they include:

## **Gold Waratahs - \$1000+**

Dr Charles S Barnes, Mr Warren & Mrs Nancy Boyd, Mrs Zeny & Mr Bruce Edwards, Lady (Vincent) Fairfax OBE, Mr J & Mrs Libby Fairfax, Mr John Flint & Mrs Nora Hinchin, Mr Graham & Mrs Virginia Froebel, Mr Neville H Grace, Dr Max & Mrs Tess Hooper, Mr John Lee & Mrs Eleanor Herriott, Mrs Judith MacIntyre, Mrs Susan Maple-Brown, Mr Geoff & Mrs Rachel O'Connor, Mr David & Mrs Patricia Pulsford, Dr Alex & Mrs Dorothy Robertson, Mrs Susan Rothwell, Mr Bill & Mrs Maureen Ryan, Mr Mark & Mrs Ruth Sampson, Miss Alison Stephen, The Hon. Robert & Mrs Caro Webster.

## **Silver Waratahs - \$500-\$1000**

Mr Ross Adamson, Mrs Geraldine & Mr Christopher Arnott, Ms Shane Bedford & Ms Linda Hunt, Mr Donald & Mrs Sally Bradford, Mrs Ronda Chisholm, Mr Robert & Mrs Janet Constable, Dr Michelle Cotton, Mrs Elizabeth Davis OAM, Ms Anne De Salis, Dr Roderick & Mrs Gillian Deane, Ms Annie Fergusson, Mr Bruce Flood & Ms Kathy Olsen, Mr David Fuller, Mr John Gale, Mr Warren Green, Mr Alan & Mrs Marion Grundy, Mr Desmond & Dr Catherine Guy, Dr Alison & Mr Alex Halliday, Mrs Helen & Mr Graham Hamilton, Mr Gordon & Mrs Jeanette King, Hon. Mary J M Lawrie, Mrs Nina Loder, Mrs Mary Rose & Dr Colin McDonald, Mrs Judith & Mr John McKernan, Mrs Susan & Mr Gilles Kryger, Dr David & Mrs Barbara Millons, Dr Kenneth & Mrs Helen Neale, Mrs Patricia Reid, Dr Mary & Dr Nancy Rickard, Mrs Edith Schothorst-Kaspers, Mr Colin Simson, Mrs Prue Socha, Ms Eleanor Sydney-Jones, Mr ER & Mrs ME Vellacott, Ms Robyn & Mr Terry Winton.

## **Bronze Waratahs - \$250-\$500**

Mrs Beryl Adamson, Mr Geoffrey Ainsworth & Ms Laura Olsson, Mrs Antoinette Albert, Mrs Nancy Anderson, Ms Gillian Appleton, Mrs Chris Armour, Mr Henry & Mrs Peta Badgery, Mr Stephen & Mrs Alexandra Barratt, Dr Barbara & Dr Margaret Booth, Dr Barbara Briggs, Mr Edmund Burgess, Mr Geoffrey & Mrs Sarah Cains, Dr Donald & Mrs Margot Child, Mr Paul & Mrs Dianne Cini, Ms Diane Clarke, Miss Briony Croal & Mr Josh Larsen, Dr Gillian Davies, Ms Susanne de Ferranti, Prof Geoffrey & Mrs Jan Driscoll, Mrs Eleanor Dunn, Dr Julie Fitness, Mrs Nancy Fox & Mr Bruce Arnold, Mr Ian Fraser, Mr Raffael Garofano & Mrs Margaret Garofano, Mr Allan Gilden & Mr Tony Barnett, Mr Paul Gray & Mr Andrew Moate, Mrs Dallas & Mr Brian Griffin, Mr Jim & Mrs Ruth Hallmark, Mr Owen Haviland & Ms Susan Hope, Ms Anne Hawker, Mr John & Mrs Mary Holt, Prof Cliff & Mrs Elizabeth Hughes, Mrs Sheila & Mr Philip Jacobson, Mrs Christina Kennedy, Mrs Christine Kenworthy, Mrs Denise & Mr Wal King, Prof Michael & Mrs Sarah Lawrence, Ms Julie Lee, Mr Andrew Lishmund, Ms Robin Low, Dr David & Mrs Judith Maynard, Mr Andrew Mitchell & Mr Brendan Hartnett, Mr David & Mrs Cheryl Nelson, Mrs Margaret & Mr Philip Nygh, Mr Robert & Mr Derek Paisley, Mr John Reid & Mrs Lynn Rainbow Reid, Ms Kate Riley & Mr Felix Oppen, Dr Mary & Dr Nancy Rickard, Mrs Louise & Mr Donald Rowston, Miss Suzanne Stebbings, Miss Kathryn Stoddart, Mrs Aline & Mr Peter Ter Horst, Mr Graham & Mrs Beverley Thompson, Mr Richard & Mrs Anna Walker, Mrs

Francis Walsh, Dr John & Mrs Beverley Warneford, Mr Dean White & Mrs Sophie Polednik, Ms Marion and Mr James Taylor, Ms Katherine Wertheim, Mr John & Mrs Irene Willimott, Mrs J O & Dr W H Wolfenden, Mrs Jill Wran.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

The Friends relies heavily on contributions from volunteers. Volunteers not only give their time, but also bring many talents and skills to the organisation and enable the Friends to undertake a wide variety of activities. Many volunteers serve on committees or sub-committees which oversee the many interests of the Friends and many more coordinate and work regularly at the various events. Others assist the office with administrative and banking duties. Over the last reporting period, we had 250 registered active volunteers with more than 22,000 hours of volunteer work recorded.

### **Registered Active Volunteers:**

Judith Anderson, Graeme Andrews, Roslyn Andrews, Judith Antill, Anne Arnott, Rae Assender, Peter Ayres, Wendy Atmore, Tor Bannon, Jan Beardmore, Russell Beardmore, Rolf Beck, Victor Betteridge, Prunella Booth, Noel Boreham, Julie Boreham, Heather Branch, Mary Bray, Sunday Brent, Anni Bretnall, Helen Brockhoff, Wendy Brodhurst, Kevin Brown, Chris Browne, Rodney Browne, Rebecca Browning, Margaret Buckland, James Buckland, Jean-Louis Buhagiar, Lynne Cairncross, Libby Cameron, Marianne Cannon, Lois Catchlove, Barry Catchlove, Margaret Chambers, Margot Child, Gordon Chivers, Diana Coates, Lucinda Coates, Leora Cohen, Susan Cohen, Gillian Cook, Eleanor Cornish, Wendy Cottee, Barry Cresswell, Brian Darlington, Therese Darmo, Heather Davidson, Catherine Davies, Michael Davies, Bev Davis, Carolyn Davis, Rachel Davis, Elizabeth Davis OAM, Susanne de Ferranti, Raoul De Ferranti, Liz Dent, Des Dent, Flora Deverall, Reg Dibley, Margaret Duffield, M. Pat Duncan, Christine Dunstan, Robbie Durst, Chris Elliott, Bruce Fergus, Beryl Ferguson, Annie Fergusson, Jan Fish, Suzanne Fitzhardinge, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Deirdre Fleeting, Maureen Foord, Barbara Forward, Lesley Foster, Ruth Foster, Ruth Fowler, Cheryl Gammel, Elizabeth Garbacz, Diana Garder, Wayne Gardner, Julia Gardoll, Susan Gazal, Eileen Gemmell-Smith, Heather Goodwin, Janet Gormly, Carolyn Green, Carol Griesser, Dallas Griffin, Leanne Grimstone, Anne Grose, Robin Guthrie, Alex Halliday, Jo Hambrett, John Hancock, Margaret Hanks, Philip Hannaford, Sandra Hannaford, Lynne Harlow, Peter Harrigan, Joanna Harrop, Anne Hawker, Alistair Hay, Eleanor Herriott, Helen Hemphill, Kim Hines, John Hinson, Isobel Holthouse, Judy Hornsby, Libby Horrobin, Joan Humphreys, Suzanne Isherwood, Ally Jackson, Doug Jackson, Tim Jackson, Jeanie Jagelman, Nicky Joffe, Jillian Johnson, Winsome Johnstone, Beverley Kable, Helen Keene, Rosemary Kenney-Herbert, Susan Khouri, Annie Kiefer, Gabrielle King, Lynne King, Diana Kingston, Suzanne Knowles, Mel Kovacs, Barbara Lane, Sybil Laws, Robin Leonard, Joy Longfield OAM, Joan Lovibond, Prudence Lygo, Robyn Macintosh, Judith MacIntyre, Christa Magee, Margaret Mahony, Carolle Marquard, Tony Martin, Rae Mashford, Deryl Mason, Elizabeth McCabe, Ann McCauley, John McDermott, Jenifer McDermott, Debbie McDonald, Stan McDonald, Janette McDonald, Jocelyn McGirr, Robin McIntyre, Ann McIntyre, Judith McKernan, Sue McLay, Malcolm McLean, Lee

McMahon, Janet McMahon, Elizabeth McNaughton, Susan Meares, John Meikle, Jann Meikle, Beth Michie, John Middleton, Rosemary Millar, Margaret Mills, Patrick Mills, Judy Mitchell, Judy Moore, Manja Morey, Jan Morgan, Elizabeth Morgan, Carole Nearn, Anne Neild, Barbara Norton, Gai O'Brien, Freda O'Malley, John O'Neill, Juvie Ormonde, Esme Parker, Mary Parkinson, Mark Paul, Rosemarie Pettit, Elisabeth Pidd, Sandy Pratten, Jill Prior, Liz Purchas, Elizabeth Rabbitts, Ann Rasmussen, Jorgen Rasmussen, Annabel Rattray, Peta Rattray, Suzanne Richards, Geoffrey Richards, Gillian Richmond, Alexander Robertson, Dorothy Robertson, Bruce Robertson, Beverley Roden, Shelley Roden-Smith, Jane Rodgers, Amanda Rollason, Karen Roser, Douglas Roser, Enid Ross, Joyce Roy, Paul Roy, Carmen Sablatnig, Elva Salter, Ingrid Sands, Joan Scott, Elizabeth Shaw, Doris Shearman, Graham Shields, Patricia Shields, Ute Short, Bettine Silver, Ecila Simpson, Lesley Simpson, Jenalyn Slade, Judith Sleijpen, Janine Smith, Colin Snodgrass, Janet Snodgrass, Prue Socha, Mavis Sourry, Hugh Springford, Annette Springford, Margaret Stewart, Diana Storer, Lindy Stuart, Eleanor Sydney-Jones, Hugh Taylor, Elfriede Taylor, Ailsa Thompson, Jennifer Thompson, Graham Thompson, Frieda Thornhill, Peter Thornhill, Stefani Thornthwaite, Mary Threlfall, Judith Tiley, Jane Treloar, John Tunbridge, Sir Ian Turbott, Margaret Turner, Paul Urquhart, Peter Valder, Anne van Roekel, Robyn Ward, Tony Waterworth, Angela Webb, Caroline Webster, Sally Wheatley, Roslyn Wheeler, Margaret Wheeler, Jennifer Whittam, Elizabeth Wilkes, Jill Wilkins, Karen Wilson, Jennifer Wilson, Neil Wilson, Jean Winton, Margaret Young.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Three scholarships were offered to BGT staff during the reporting period. The original Horticultural Scholarship had the addition of a general Staff Scholarship in recent years and this year a Science Scholarship was added. There is now a total of \$30,000 which will be offered each year over the three categories.

The scholarships provided by the Friends fulfill an important role. In providing them, we acknowledge the importance of supporting the staff themselves and aim to encourage the pursuit of excellence in their particular fields.

## **Treasurer's report for the year ending 30 June 2007**

As you know we have two separate entities,

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney Inc (The Friends)

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Inc Trust Fund (The Trust)

The Trust, administered by a separate board of trustees, was set up to accept donations, mainly from Waratah members, that are then tax deductible by the donor. Both entities contribute to the Gardens.

The full sets of financial statements for both entities for the year have been audited by our auditors, Thomas Davis & Co and has been adopted by the Committee. They are available for inspection either after the meeting or at the Friends office. They will also be published on the Friends' web page. To simplify the presentation the summary below

includes both entities. The most significant difference in the two years is that Botanica for 2006 was held in the 2007 financial year.

A summary of the revenue and expenditure of The Friends and the Trust for the year is as follows:

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Subscriptions	208,381	207,130
Donations received by Trust	130,075	99,909
Contribution from		
Activities, raffles & catering	159,408	140,968
Botanica & Artisans commission	167,991	48,592
Tours	12,340	27,004
Profit from sale of merchandise	4,819	-75
Sales of plants by Growing Friends	70,195	46,209
Interest on invested funds	44,830	44,473
Other	7,364	2,611
	<b>805,403</b>	<b>616,821</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Salaries & Superannuation	250,709	239,010
Magazine	76,270	66,312
Other costs	58,315	51,954
	<b>385,294</b>	<b>357,276</b>
<b>Net contribution</b>	<b>\$420,109</b>	<b>\$259,545</b>

At the end of the financial year balance sheet of the two entities showed the following assets:

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
Cash assets	682,668	656,098
Other assets	31,135	59,649
Less Creditors & Accruals	-42,448	-53,372
<b>Net assets before commitments to the BGT</b>	<b>671,355</b>	<b>662,375</b>
Less Commitments to the BGT as above	-577,246	-559,527
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$94,109</b>	<b>\$102,848</b>

During the year, The Friends and The Trust contributed to the following BGT projects:

Annual Horticultural Scholarship 2006	5,315
Annual Staff scholarship 2006	10,300
Contribution to direct costs 2007	45,000
Contribution to Nurseries from Growing Friends	2,000
Student internships	14,000
Refurbishment of Cottage 5	29,200
Refurbishment of the Growing Friends area	9,872
Margaret Flockton Awards for 2007	7,000
Library - Image collection projects	5,000
Domain & RBG - Site identification banners	8,000
Domain & RBG - Tree Survey & condition assessment	35,000
Domain & RBG - Way finding maps and signage upgrade	15,000
	1,000
Mt Annan - Stolen Generation Memorial	20,000
Mt Annan - African olive control	20,000
Mt Annan - Seedbank from the Estate of Prof R Smith	20,000
Mt Tomah - Install low water use turf	1,000
Mt Tomah - Signage in conservation area	20,000
Mt Tomah - Spur Track	2,000
RBG - Begonia beds	
RBG - Disabled access at Moreshead & Woolloomooloo gates	10,000
	24,763
RBG - Lion Gate Lodge upgrade	75,000
RBG - Repair to Twin ponds in the Lower gardens	30,000
RBG - Sydney Heritage trees	1,679
Other	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$411,129</b>

At the end of the financial year the two entities had committed to the BGT to finance the following projects:

Annual contribution to direct costs 2008	45,000
Annual Horticultural Scholarship 2006	4,685
Annual Scholarship Fund 2007	30,000
Annual Scholarship fund 2008	30,000
BGANZ meeting	5,000
Margaret Flockton Awards 2008	7,500
Student Internships 2008	14,000
Trees in the Gardens website	70,000
Contribution to Nurseries from Growing Friends	4,000
Domain & RBG - Signage	80,000
Domain & RBG - Tree Survey & condition assessment	13,200
Library	2,000
Library compactus replacement	80,000
Mt Annan - African Olive removal	25,000
Mt Annan - Fogger for nursery	14,000
Mt Annan - Rare & Endangered plants	15,000
Mt Annan - Seedbank	1,000
Mt Annan - Wildlife interpretation and maps	6,000
Mt Tomah - Signage in conservation area	9,000
Mt Tomah - Tree management	25,000

Proceeds of campaign for statue restoration	3,061
RBG - Sydney Heritage trees	93,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$577,246</b>