

TWENTY EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

OVERVIEW

The 27th Annual General Meeting was held in November 2009. At the Annual General Meeting Alex Halliday and Jocelyn McGirr retired from the Friends Committee and Heather Crompton and Susan Young were elected. Debbie McDonald also tendered her resignation from the Committee to take up the position, Editor of 'The Gardens' magazine.

The Friends Committee constituted:

Elected and Continuing Members: Wendy Atmore, Peter Ayres, Russell Beardmore, Eleanor Cornish, Heather Crompton, Liz Dent, Raoul de Ferranti, Elizabeth McNaughton, Juvie Ormonde, Ann Rasmussen, Hugh Springford, Caro Webster, Susan Young

Ex-officio members: Annie Sutherland (Executive Officer), Tim Entwisle (Executive Director Botanic Gardens Trust)

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

Mount Annan Friends sub-committee convenor: Kim Hines

Mount Tomah Friends sub-committee convenor: Position remains vacant

Auditor: Thomas Davis & Co

In December 2009 the following office bearers were appointed: Raoul de Ferranti (President), Ann Rasmussen (Vice President), Juvie Ormonde (Secretary and Public Officer), Hugh Springford (Treasurer) and Liz Dent (Volunteer Co-ordinator).

During the year Caro Webster resigned from the Committee, Annie Sutherland resigned as Executive Officer and Kim Hines resigned as Mount Annan Friends sub-committee convenor. Lesley Hook has now been appointed as convenor of Mount Annan Friends sub-committee.

A REVIEW OF THE YEAR

In 2009 the Friends revisited the Strategic Plan which had been written in 2006. It was necessary to review the Plan in relation to the strategy for fundraising to support the 2016 Botanic Bicentenary. As a result a sub-committee, chaired by Treasurer, Hugh Springford was formed. After many meetings and discussions with the Botanic Gardens Trust and the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation and advice from outside experts the sub-committee reported to the Friends' Committee and all recommendations were accepted. It was agreed that the Friends should play a significant role in supporting BGT's visionary development plans for 2016 and a Fundraising Committee was formed, chaired by Raoul de Ferranti. Its role is to seek further donations from our membership to contribute to the two 2016 projects the Friends have nominated to support, namely the Bicentenary Plant Diversity project and PlantBank.

Helping Hands in the Royal Botanic Gardens has continued all year with an increase in the participation of members.

The e-newsletter put together by Friends staff and co-ordinated by Cassie King has grown in popularity as it is distributed beyond members. It contains late breaking items of interest, special offers and reminders of the upcoming events and activities.

'The Gardens' magazine had a new editor, former Committee member, Debbie McDonald and the graphic design was undertaken by One Plus One Design Pty Ltd. 'The Gardens' continued to include additional pages prepared by and for the Botanic Gardens Trust. Staff member, Janine Smith continued as the Chair of the Editorial sub-committee, with a number of volunteers and staff members providing ongoing assistance.

The staff members remained throughout the year, Lorinda Freeman, Marilyn House, Lyn Johnson, Marion Kearns, Cassie King, Janine Smith, Beth Stokes and Annie Sutherland. Annie however, tendered her resignation during the year. The staff are indebted to the many volunteers who assist them in so many ways throughout the year.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership retention and growth continues to be an ongoing challenge for the Friends. At the end of the year there were 4080 memberships with 6,208 individual members. Unfortunately, our Waratah memberships decreased to 124 (190 individuals), which potentially reflects the financial times that many have experienced in recent years.

Waratah members make an annual donation of \$250 or more, in addition to their annual membership dues. We welcome Waratah members newly joined during the year and thank the long standing Waratahs for their great and continuing generosity. We would also like to thank the many other donors who have contributed to a specific project, or generally to the Friends throughout the year.

We continued our events specifically for Waratah members and key supporters during the year. These events provide key supporters with 'behind the scenes' information and tours.

Morning tea functions to welcome new members were held in conjunction with the Artisans and Botanica Exhibitions which were well attended and provided an opportunity to meet new members and keep them informed about Friends activities and benefits.

Friends Waratah Members

Friends who have given extra financial support through their Waratah membership during the year include:

Gold Waratahs, who gave \$1000 or more:

Dr Charles S Barnes, Mr Donald & Mrs Sally Bradford, Mr Raoul de Ferranti & Dr Marilyn Sleigh, Mr John & Mrs Margot Egan, Mr John Flint & Mrs Nora Hinchin, Dr Richard & Mrs Shona Gallagher, Mr Neville H Grace, Dr Max & Mrs Tess Hooper, Miss Helen Lyons, Mrs Judith MacIntyre, Mrs Susan Maple-Brown, Mr Doug & Mrs Greta Moran, Dr William & Dr Sarah Nelson, Mr Geoff & Mrs Rachel O'Connor, Miss Beryl Raymer, Dr Alex & Mrs Dorothy Robertson, Mrs Susan Rothwell, Mr Bill & Mrs Maureen Ryan, Mrs Janis Salisbury, Mr Mark & Mrs Ruth Sampson, Mrs Ruth Staples, Miss Alison Stephen, Ms Eleanor Sydney-Jones, Mrs Jean Wilson.

Silver Waratahs, who gave \$500 or more:

Ms Gillian Appleton, Mrs Geraldine & Mr Christopher Arnott, Ms Shane Bedford & Ms Linda Hunt, Mr Warren & Mrs Nancy Boyd, Ms Anne De Salis, Dr Roderick & Mrs Gillian Deane, Prof Geoffrey & Mrs Jan Driscoll, Mrs Jane & Mr Gordon Durnford, Mrs Annie & Mr Jim Fergusson, Mr Bruce Flood & Ms Kathy Olsen, Mrs Nancy Fox & Mr Bruce Arnold, Mr David Fuller, Mr Raffael & Mrs Margaret Garofano, Mr Warren Green, Dr Catherine Guy, Ms Anne Hawker, Mrs Eleanor Herriott & Mr John Lee, Mrs Annie Hughes, Mrs Christina Kennedy, Ms Sibylle Krieger & Mr Bruce McClintock, Mrs Nita & Mr John Lavigne, Miss Nina Loder, Dr Kathryn Lovric & Dr Roger Allan, Mrs Mary Rose & Dr Colin McDonald, Mrs Judith & Mr John McKernan, Dr David & Mrs Barbara Millons, Dr Kenneth & Mrs Helen Neale, Ms Jill Paterson, Mr Ken & Dr Jan Roberts, Judge Robyn Tupman & Mr Geoffrey Graham, Mr Edward & Mrs Morna Vellacott, Mrs Francis Walsh, Ms Jane Williams & Mr Peter Moll, Mrs Elizabeth Wills, Mrs Jill Wran.

Bronze Waratahs, who gave \$250 or more:

Mr Ross & Mrs Lenore Adamson, Mr Geoffrey Ainsworth & Ms Laura Olsson, Mrs Antoinette Albert, Mrs Nancy Anderson, Mrs Chris Armour, Australian Institute of Horticulture, Mr Stephen & Mrs Alexandra Barratt, Lady Beattie, Dr Barbara Briggs, Mr Edmund Burgess & Ms Renette Townsend, Mrs Andrea Bye, Mr Geoffrey & Mrs Sarah Cains, Miss Beverley Cameron, Dr Donald & Mrs Margot Child, Mr Robert & Mrs Janet Constable, Mrs Donella Corbett, Mrs Helen & Mr Michael Devenish-Mearns, Mrs Gail & Mr William Douglass, Ms Susanne de Ferranti, Dr Julie Fitness, Mrs Astrea & Mr Rob Fowler, Mr Ian Fraser, Mrs Marion Freidman, Ms Susie Giddey, Mr Allan Gilden, Mrs Dallas & Mr Brian Griffin, Mr Jim & Mrs Ruth Hallmark, Mrs Hope Hanks, Mr Owen Haviland & Ms Susan Hope, Ms Janita & Mr Philip Hercus, Mr John & Mrs Mary Holt, Dr Michael & Mrs Penny Hunter, Mrs Christine Kenworthy, Mrs Denise & Mr Wal King, Mrs Barbara Landsberg & Mr Merrick Howes, Prof Michael & Mrs Sarah Lawrence, Ms Julie Lee, Ms Robin Low, Dr David & Mrs Judith Maynard, Mr Jock & Mrs Sandra McDonald, Dr Pamela & Mr Graham McDonald, Mrs Caroline Minogue, Ms Helen Murray, Mr David & Mrs Cheryl Nelson, Mrs Barbara Palfreeman, Ms Anabel Parbury & Mr Philip Gosse, Mrs Elizabeth Pidd, Miss Lorna Ray, Dr Mary & Dr Nancy Rickard, Mrs Sandra Robberds, Mrs Janet Roberts, Mr Bruce Robertson, Mrs Beverley Roden, Mrs Louise & Mr Donald Rowston, Dr Evan & Dr Jean Siegel, Miss Suzanne Stebbings, Miss Kathryn Stoddart, Mrs Aline & Mr Peter Ter Horst, Mr Graham & Mrs Beverley Thompson, Mr Simon Turner, Dr Peter Valder, Mr John & Mrs Irene Willimott, Ms Robyn & Mr Terry Winton, Mrs J O & Dr W H Wolfenden.

(Note: Anonymous donors excluded)

ACTIVITIES

Art Classes

Robyn Macintosh continued to build on the existing Art Master Class series with a variety of extremely successful classes held in the Friends cottages.

Artisans in the Gardens

Curated by Peta Rattray and her extensive sub-committee, Artisans was held in Spring 2009. The Artisans Exhibition would not have been as successful as it was, without the support of the many volunteers who assisted at the Exhibition, by supplying refreshments and contributing to creating a wonderful environment which encouraged a number of visitors to become members of the Friends. We are fortunate that Peta has agreed to curate the exhibition in Spring 2010.

Book Sales

Once again our second hand book sale team was led by Bruce Fergus with Liz Dent organising logistics and volunteers for the sale held in October 2009. The unsold books were donated to Community Greening, which is supported by the NSW Department of Housing together with the Botanic Gardens Trust.

Botanica

Held in Autumn 2010 Botanica this year was curated by volunteer Dawne Clark. This year's theme was taken from the Botanic Gardens Trust's vision for the Botanic Bicentenary in 2016 - *'Treasuring Plants – Treasuring our Planet'*. ABC radio presenter Simon Marnie officially opened the exhibition, while guests mingled with artists in the beautiful surrounds of Lion Gate Lodge.

Growing Friends

Growing Friends volunteers continue to improve the nursery and sales area in the Royal Botanic Gardens with a resulting increase in the number of volunteers involved, not only in Sydney but also at Mount Annan and Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens. There is one team at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, two teams at Mount Annan Botanic Garden and six teams at the Royal Botanic Gardens, a total of 76 volunteers.

The sales area is now open all 5 week days for 2 ½ hours over the lunch period, as well as the second Saturday morning of every month. Frequently the Growing Friends team members have opened extra weekend days to support other activities taking place e.g. during Friends Artisans and Botanica exhibitions, during the second hand Book Sale and at times when other activities are occurring.

Growing Friends again successfully participated in sales at Mount Annan Botanic Garden and at the Collector's Plant Fair at Bilpin. Plants were donated for use by: Community Greening, Community Education, Mount Annan Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah Garden Shop and the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Merchandise

The range of cards was increased using images from Botanical Artists who kindly allowed Friends the use of their work.

The Friends merchandise, including the Famous Recipe book was sold at our major exhibitions, the Friends office and the shops within the Botanic Gardens.

Photographic Workshop

A beginner's Photographic Workshop was held for the first time by Friends with the Royal Botanic Gardens Photographer, Jaime Plaza. It was well attended, with positive feedback.

Talks & Walks

Friends continued the program of walks and talks throughout the year at Mount Annan Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah Botanic Garden as well as at the Royal Botanic Gardens. Beth Stokes has continued to chair the activities sub-committee.

One of the most popular talks this year was by Dr Tim Entwisle, on *E algis omnia* – from algae everything. We appreciate the time that Dr Entwisle, as well as all of our presenters kindly give in preparing and presenting to our members and guests.

Tours

Friends successfully ran tours to Madagascar, New Zealand, Highgrove and Gardens of Scotland and the Gardens of South East Queensland. The income from Tours increased over 50% from the previous year.

FRIENDS VOLUNTEERS

The Friends of The Gardens was again indebted to volunteers in 2009/10 for its successes. As in the past, volunteers not only gave their time, but brought many talents and skills to the organisation enabling Friends to undertake a wide variety of activities and events. Volunteers also represented Friends at outside events, supported Botanic Gardens Trust events and promoted membership of the Friends at these events. A morning tea was held by Friends in August 2009 to recognise and thank volunteers for their vital contribution. In May 2010 the Botanic Gardens Trust hosted a party for all Botanic Gardens Trust volunteers, including Friends.

The total number of individual volunteers was 274, filling over 400 different positions. During the year 33 new volunteers commenced with the Friends, while 39 volunteers retired.

Friends committees and sub-committees which oversee the wide interests of the Friends benefited from the service of 65 volunteers, while 113 exhibition and special event volunteers staffed the Botanica and Artisans Exhibitions, as well as the Book Sales and New Years Eve event. There were 46 catering volunteers who prepared and served fabulous refreshments at the Friends events and 67 Information Booth volunteers whom provided a helpful information service 6 days per week at the Woolloomoolloo Gate for visitors to the Royal Botanic Gardens. Additionally, 7 Speakers Bureau volunteers presented to outside organisations on topically information, whilst also promoting the Gardens and Friends' membership and 21 office volunteers made a regular and substantial contribution to administering the Friends' activities. The Works team of 11 volunteers set up the major exhibitions and other events and 10 watering volunteers were available on call to help water new trees in the Royal Botanic Gardens. Friends' volunteers also supported wildlife monitoring in the Botanic Gardens.

The Growing Friends groups (76 volunteers) at the three Gardens continued their work propagating and selling plants. Sales were held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Mount Annan Botanic Garden and again this year at the Collectors Plant Fair at Bilpin.

Many Friends volunteers have served for many years, some in more than one area. Their work contributes significantly to making Friends a success. The Friends Committee and staff thank all 2009/10 volunteers for their valuable and ongoing support.

Friends volunteers 2009/10, many of whom served in more than one capacity:

Ms Jenny Albanis, Mr David Allen, Ms Judith Anderson, Mrs Roslyn Andrews, Mrs Alison Arnold, Ms Ruth Armstrong, Mrs Anne Arnott, Mrs Wendy Atmore, Dr Peter Ayres, Mrs Marilyn Baggio, Mrs Victoria Bannon, Mrs Margaret Barnaby, Mrs Jan Beardmore, Mr Russell Beardmore, Mrs Katherine Bell, Mrs Jenifer Best, Mr Victor Betteridge, Mrs Prunella Booth, Mrs Julie Boreham, Mr Noel Boreham, Mrs Heather Branch, Mrs Caroline Bray, Ms Mary Bray, Miss Sunday Brent, Mrs Helen Brockhoff, Ms Wendy Brodhurst, Mr Rodney Browne, Mr Jean-Louis Buhagiar, Ms Lynne Cairncross, Mrs Libby Cameron, Mrs Anne Campbell, Ms Marianne Cannon, Mrs Alison Carr, Mr Robert Carruthers, Mrs Kate Chambers, Mrs Margaret Chambers, Mrs Margot Child, Ms Dawne Clark, Mrs Diana Coates, Mrs Susan Cohen, Mrs Kath Collins, Mrs Gillian Cook, Ms Annie Cooney, Mrs Eleanor Cornish, Ms Wendy Cottee, Ms Julie Cremer, Mr Barry Cresswell, Mrs Heather Crompton, Mr Brian Darlington, Mrs Catherine Darmo, Mrs Heather Davidson, Mrs Catherine Davies, Mr Michael Davies, Mrs Bev Davis, Mrs Carolyn Davis, Mrs Elizabeth Davis OAM, Mr Raoul de Ferranti, Ms Susanne de Ferranti, Ms Margaret Dean, Mr Des Dent, Ms Elizabeth Dent, Miss Pat Duncan, Mrs Chris Elliott, Mrs Jan Etteridge, Mr Bruce Fergus, Mrs Beryl Ferguson, Mrs Annie Fergusson, Mrs Janet Fish, Mrs Suzanne Fitzhardinge, Mrs Margaret Fitzpatrick, Mrs Deirdre Fleeting, Ms Maureen Foord, Mrs Barbara Forward, Mrs Lesley Foster, Mrs Ruth Foster, Mrs Ruth Fowler, Ms Elizabeth Garbacz, Mrs Diana Garder, Mr Wayne Gardner, Mrs Julia Gardoll, Mrs Heather Goodwin, Mr Derek Graham, Mrs Carolyn Green, Mrs Carol Griesser, Mrs Dallas Griffin, Mrs Jan Grimison, Ms Leanne Grimstone, Mrs Anne Grose, Mr Michael Guffond, Ms Robin Guthrie, Mrs Jo Hambrett, Mr John Hancock, Mrs Margaret Hanks, Mr Philip Hannaford, Mrs Sandra Hannaford, Ms Lynne Harlow, Mr John Harries, Mrs Kotchie

Harrington, Mrs Joanna Harrop, Ms Anne Hawker, Mrs Patricia Hay, Mr Barrie Heidenreich, Mrs Helen Hemphill, Mrs Eleanor Herriott, Mrs Susan Hill, Mr Alan Hind, Mrs Liz Hind, Ms Kim Hines, Mr John Hinson, Mrs Rosemary Hodgkinson, Mr Geoffrey Hook, Mrs Lesley Hook, Mrs Libby Horrobin, Mrs Joan Humphreys, Mrs Susan Hutchison, Ms Jane Ireland, Mrs Suzanne Isherwood, Mrs Tim Jackson, Mrs Jeanie Jagelman, Ms Kamala Jegaraj, Mrs Jillian Johnson, Mrs Winsome Johnstone, Mrs Helen Keene, Mrs Rosemary Kenney-Herbert, Mrs Susan Khouri, Ms Annie Kiefer, Mrs Gabrielle King, Mrs Lynne King, Dr Diana Kingston, Mrs Suzanne Knowles, Mr Mel Kovacs, Mr Greg Lamont, Mr Richard Landon, Mrs Barbara Lane, Ms Sybil Laws, Mrs Gayl Leake, Mrs Robin Leonard, Ms Susan Liu, Mrs Robyn Macintosh, Mrs Judith MacIntyre, Mrs Margaret Mahony, Miss Rae Mashford, Ms Deryl Mason, Mrs Elizabeth McCabe, Ms Ann McCauley, Mrs Jenifer McDermott, Mrs Janette McDonald, Dr Stan McDonald, Mrs Mardi McElvenny, Ms Jocelyn McGirr, Mrs Ann McIntyre, Mrs Robin McIntyre, Mrs Judith McKernan, Ms Sue McLay, Mrs Janet McMahan, Mrs Elizabeth McNaughton, Ms Madeleine McPherson, Ms Hanne Martin, Ms Lizzie Martin, Mrs Susan Meares, Mrs Jann Meikle, Mr John Meikle, Mr John Middleton, Mrs Rosemary Millar, Mrs Margaret Mills, Mr Patrick Mills, Mrs Pam Milthorpe, Mrs Judith Mitchell, Ms Robyn Mitchinson, Ms Miranda Montrone, Mrs Dianne Moore, Mrs Manja Morey, Mrs Elizabeth Morgan, Mrs Jan Morgan, Ms Grace Mroz, Mr Sean Mullen, Mrs Jennifer Nagle, Mrs Anne Neild, Mrs Diane Newsom, Ms Devika Ogden, Mr John O'Neill, Ms Juvenalia Ormonde, Ms Trish O'Rourke, Mr Mark Paul, Mrs Susan Paxton, Mrs Wendy Perkins, Mrs Rosemarie Pettit, Mrs Elisabeth Pidd, Mrs Margery Postlethwaite, Mrs Sandy Pratten, Mrs Jill Prior, Mrs Elizabeth Rabbitts, Ms Ann Rasmussen, Mr Jorgen Rasmussen, Mrs Peta Rattray, Mrs Krythia Reid, Mr Geoffrey Richards, Mrs Suzanne Richards, Mrs Gillian Richmond, Mr Bruce Robertson OAM, Mrs Beverley Roden, Ms Shelley Roden-Smith, Mrs Jane Rodgers, Mrs Helen Rogers, Mr Douglas Roser, Mrs Karen Roser, Mrs Enid Ross, Ms Kathlyn Rowlands, Mrs Joyce Roy, Professor Paul Roy, Mrs Carmen Sablatnig, Mrs Elva Salter, Mrs Joan Scott, Mrs Rosemary Sewell, Mrs Doris Shearman, Mr Graham Shields, Mrs Patricia Shields, Mrs Ute Short, Ms Linda Sieber, Mrs Bettine Silver, Ms Ecila Simpson, Mrs Lesley Simpson, Mr Timothy Sjoquist, Mrs Judith Sleijpen, Mr Colin Snodgrass, Mrs Janet Snodgrass, Mrs Prue Socha, Mrs Mavis Sourry, Mr Bruce Spence, Mrs Patricia Spring, Mr Hugh Springford, Mrs Robyn Stafford, Mrs Margaret Stewart, Ms Diana Storer, Ms Lindy Stuart, Ms Eleanor Sydney-Jones, Mrs Elfriede Taylor, Dr Hugh Taylor, Mrs Ailsa Thompson, Mr Philip Thompson, Mrs Frieda Thornhill, Mr Peter Thornhill, Ms Stefani Thornthwaite, Mrs Mary Threlfall, Ms Jane Treloar, Mrs Margaret Turner, Dr Anne Underwood, Dr Peter Valder, Mrs Anne van Roekel, Ms Lynn Vlismas, Ms Joan Walsh, Ms Susan Wannan, Mrs Maureen Ward, Ms Robyn Ward, Mr Antony Waterworth, Mrs Angela Webb, Mrs Caroline Webster, Ms Roslyn Wheeler, Ms Sue Whitham, Mrs Jennifer Whittam, Mrs Jann Wiener, Ms Joan Wilcox, Mrs Jennifer Wilson, Mr Neil Wilson, Ms Virginia Wingett, Mrs Jean Winton, Mrs Margaret Young, Ms Susan Young, Mrs Vivien Young.

Botanic Gardens Trust staff have continued to support the Friends in a variety of ways with wonderful assistance given to the Growing Friends by horticulture staff, cottages 5 & 6 being made available for use by Friends, inclusion in the Botanic Gardens Trust IT network and support in the use of venues. Again many Botanic Gardens Trust staff celebrated New Year's Eve with friends and relatives at the Mare & Foal lawn in the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Friends is most appreciative of the contribution by many media and industry people, including magazine writers and publishers, radio and talks presenters who provide enormous and valuable support on a pro bono basis.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2010

As you know we have two separate entities:

- Friends of the Botanic Gardens, Inc (the Friends)
- Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney Trust Fund (the Trust Fund)

The Trust, administered by a separate board of trustees, was set up to accept donations 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 have 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.

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

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Subscriptions	230,688	221,867
Contribution from:		
Activities, raffles & catering	145,111	138,453
Botanica and Artisans commission	93,447	106,975
Tours	27,030	12,009
Profit from sale of merchandise	7,690	5,362
Sales of plants by Growing Friends	65,865	63,137
Interest on invested funds	20,139	30,970
Other	8,809	6,190
	598,779	584,963
 Expenditure		
Salaries and superannuation	335,532	310,045
Magazine	83,513	75,660
Other costs	75,298	77,140
	494,343	462,845
 Net contribution from the Friends	104,436	122,118
Donations & interest to the Trust Fund	186,023	213,898
 Contribution from both entities	290,459	336,016
 Less: Donations to the BGT as per following	267,847	345,388
 Surplus after donations to BGT	\$22,612	\$(9,372)

At the end of the financial year the two entities had the following assets:

	2010	2009
Cash assets	764,188	731,573
Other assets	39,740	23,724
Less: Creditors & Accruals	(101,141)	(75,062)
Net assets before commitments to the BGT	702,787	680,235
Less: Commitments to the BGT as per the following	(675,928)	(648,103)
Net assets	\$26,859	\$32,132

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

Contribution to Nurseries from Growing Friends	6,850
Contribution to fixed costs	50,400
Mount Annan – Signage Hardware	9,323
2016 Bicentenary plant diversification program	95,629
Woolloomoolloo Gate Improvements	14,991
Scholarship fund	23,901
Mount Annan – significant tree mapping	19,035
Mount Annan – replacement BBQ units	17,451
Margaret Flockton Awards	9,103
Sequencher 4.9 DNA sequence assembly software	5,600
Mount Annan- rare and endangered plants	15,000
Statue restoration	3,061
Other	3,897
Less: Return of donations from prior years	(6,394)
Total donations for 2010	\$267,847

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

2016 Bicentenary plant diversification program	87,014
2016 PlantBank	79,294
Connection Garden at Mount Annan	100,000
Margaret Flockton Awards	988
Mount Annan plant programs	18,000
Scholarship fund	36,099
Tree management at Mount Tomah	4,796
Signage at the Connections garden Mount Annan	20,000
Trees in the Garden website	20,240
Signage in the Domain & RBG	1,675
T5 Glasshouse Air Conditioning	25,000
Mount Annan BBQ Units	949
Mount Annan significant tree mapping	964
Mount Annan signage hardware	77
Mount Tomah wayfinding signage	9,000
Total commitments to BGT as at 30 June 2010	\$404,096

In August 2010 the Friends and the Trust Fund committed to fund the following projects during 2011, in addition to those listed above:

Contribution to direct costs	50,400	
Scholarship fund	30,000	
Contribution to the three nurseries	6,000	
Margaret Flockton Awards and Exhibition	897	Balance of the \$10,000
Mount Annan – connections garden	20,000	
Highgrove Florilegium	20,000	
Cabinet to display Florilegium	800	
PlantBank	2,735	
Mount Tomah – de Ferranti Shelter	2,000	
Science Internships 2011	14,000	
2016 Bicentenary plant diversification program	125,000	
Total commitments to BGT subsequent to 30 June 2010	\$271,832	
Total commitments for 2011	\$675,928	