

ANNUAL REPORT
to
Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation, Sydney
2007-2008



Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation
S Y D N E Y

Conserving the world's plants for a sustainable future

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Overview

Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens is one of the great botanic gardens of the world, the oldest in Australia, and the country's first scientific institution. It has a special place in the hearts and minds of all Australians.

Beginning in 1816 on Sydney Harbour, the Royal Botanic Gardens is one of the most spectacular locations for a botanic garden anywhere in the world. Together with our regional botanic gardens, it is home to more than 1.2 million preserved plants in the Herbarium and over 20,000 different kinds of plants and seeds in the living collection across the four estates and the SeedBank. In addition, the Royal Botanic Gardens Library holds 70,000 volumes of books and journals, as well as archives, maps, photographs, artworks and images, including some hundreds of years old.

Our Visitors

Each year we have over 8 million visits to our Botanic Gardens and the Domain to enjoy the history, heritage, beauty, stunning horticultural and landscape displays or the recreational and cultural facilities. Approximately two million are international visitors and over 20,000 are children visiting in school programs.

Visitors tell us they enjoy the peace, tranquillity and beauty of our Gardens. They come to learn about plants, gardening and how to live more sustainably. Many like to exercise or relax and enjoy family or community festivals and celebrations.

The Foundation plays an important role in connecting these much loved gardens with garden lovers like you who contribute to enhancing their vitality and relevance.

The Trust Programs

The knowledge and results of the work of the Trust botanists, conservation experts, ecologists, educators and researchers is vital to many other scientists, land managers, environmental groups and individuals dedicated to preserving our biodiversity and conserving our plant species.

Trust scientists have many local and international collaborations with academic, commercial, governmental and private sector partners. The longevity and depth of their research is widely valued in addressing the environmental issues of today.

The Botanic Gardens Trust has a leadership role in assisting with the development of botanic gardens in South-East Asia and helps develop capacity of the management and more generally in conservation of this region.

The Trust's work helps conserve the world's plants for a sustainable future and your support makes it more possible.

Our Foundation

The Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation is New South Wales' pre-eminent fundraiser for botanic research, conservation, education and display. The Foundation's vision is *to conserve the world's plants for a sustainable future* and its work strategically supports the Botanic Gardens Trust.

Chairman's Report

It is with pleasure that I present the second Chairman's Report on the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation. I am proud and thrilled to have the honour of this role.

I would like to thank you for your generous donations given for specific projects or given directly to the Fellowship program, and providing the Foundation the ability to directly support the Trust where it is required. As a result, the Foundation has been most pleased to welcome new benefactors into the Fellowship program. This growing network of philanthropic supporters is core to the Foundations' capacity to significantly enhance the important work of the Trust. We thank you very much.

In particular, I would like to recognise John B Fairfax and Family for their generous support to facilitate the purchase of the property adjoining Mount Tomah Botanic Garden; Mrs Roslyn Packer AO, the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation and an anonymous benefactor for funding Youth Community Greening; and Tony Maxwell and Robyn Godlee and Allianz Australia for funding Rainforest Seed Research.

I am pleased to have been able to meet many of you at activities of the Foundation in the past year and I look forward to meeting those of you whom I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting in the forthcoming year.

We were pleased to welcome two other new Councillors to the Foundation's Board strengthening the Foundation's networks and capacity for success. They are Ronald Griffin and John Taberner (effective 1 July 2007). I also took up my position as Councillor and Chair on that date. Other than Dr Entwisle, Executive Director of the Botanic Gardens Trust, all Councillors offer their services on a pro bono basis.

I am grateful for the time and experience each of our Councillors volunteer in committing to this role and I also thank them for the support they have secured for the organisation over the past year.

Pauline Markwell continued as full time Director of the Foundation, assisted by a half-time Foundation Coordinator, Dimi Rayner. I would like to thank Pauline and Dimi as they worked closely with all Councillors in our fundraising work, ran the business of the Foundation, organised benefactor events, behind the scene talks and activities, and worked with Trust staff on each of the Foundation's projects.

The forthcoming year is an exciting and challenging one as we plan the launch of the Bicentenary Campaign to celebrate the 200 birthday of the Royal Botanic Gardens. There are many significant and important projects to increase the Trust's capacity to undertake vital science, conservation, education and horticulture into the next 100 years. We also face uncertain times following the collapse of the global financial markets – which will seriously challenge many in our community and the audacious plans of the Foundation in supporting the Botanic Gardens Trust.

Thank you again for your most valuable support and we look forward to having you on board in 2009.

Clive Austin

Foundation Director's Report

In the past year, the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation (RBG Foundation) has welcomed many new Fellows and Supporters growing the body of people directly supporting the Foundation's capacity to support the Trust and flagship projects.

In the Fellowship Program we have welcomed new benefactors at all levels as well as many supporters who have made donations at levels leading up to the Fellowship Program. Donations have supported Youth Community Greening, Rainforest Seed Conservation research, restoration of Heritage Statuary, the purchase of *The Jungle*, the property adjoining Mount Tomah Botanic Garden and contributions to the Children's Garden and Macquarie Precinct projects.

The RBG Foundation conducted two cocktail receptions during the year for current and prospective supporters. In August 2007, Robyn Williams of the ABC Science Show spoke on *Science Informing Climate Change* which linked the Trust's research to changes happening to our environment. Many Science staff provided informative displays for guests in and above the Red Box Gallery in the Herbarium.

The Importance of Oriental Plants in our Lives was the theme of Dr Peter Valda's wonderfully entertaining and informed talk in the Oriental Garden in March 2009. On this delightful autumn evening, guests were also able to enjoy being guided through the Oriental Garden by our horticulturalists as well as the fine hospitality.

Our Annual Benefactor Luncheon was well attended. Prior to lunch, Dr Barry Conn gave an enlightening presentation about his research in Papua New Guinea documenting the trees which will lead to a publication as a tool for local forest management. He illustrated some of the difficulties of working in a country like PNG - no small aspect of the challenges to completing this valuable work. In addition, benefactors were invited to Trust hospitality including OpenAir Cinema, Sydney Festival events, the Rose Garden Annual Party, and exhibition openings in the Red Box Gallery.

Active fundraising during 2008 focused on the Children's Garden, Australian Native Rockery, Macquarie Precinct Redevelopment, Heritage Statuary Restoration (all at the Royal Botanic Gardens) and Youth Community Greening.

The Foundation continues to conduct its own financial affairs and takes investment advice from independent advisors, Ord Minnett. During the year, the Foundation office has streamlined and upgraded some administrative functions.

The RBG Foundation continues to market itself on the Trust website, through presentations to external organisations, articles in *The Gardens*, the Friends' quarterly magazine and on the Trust Honour Board.

I would like to thank most sincerely all those who have supported the RBG Foundation – benefactors, Foundation's partners, Councillors, external professional advisors as well as management and staff of the Botanic Gardens Trust – all of whom have been germane to our successes in the past year. It has been my pleasure to have worked with you all. Thank you.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead developing many new friendships.

Pauline A Markwell

Foundation Highlights in 2008

- ❖ Commencement of a new Chair and Councillors
- ❖ Launch, funding and staffing Youth Community Greening
- ❖ Launch, funding and staffing Rainforest Seed Conservation Project
- ❖ Funding the purchase of *The Jungle*, the property adjacent Mount Tomah Botanic Garden
- ❖ Successful program of benefactor and prospective supporter events with well regarded community celebrities generously giving their time and support
- ❖ Growth of the Foundation's Fellowship and Supporter Programs.

Projects Supported in 2008

During 2008, donations were made to the Trust for the following projects:

Foundation Flagship Projects

- ❖ Children's Garden, \$26,000 – visitor research and design concept development
- ❖ Youth Community Greening, \$40,000 – staffing and program delivery
- ❖ *The Jungle*, \$125,000 – deposit for the purchase of this property
- ❖ Rainforest Seed Conservation Research, \$30,000 – staffing and research delivery

Other projects

- ❖ Bench purchase and refurbishment, tree plantings, development of Camellia Garden and enhancement of the Main Pond and Palm Grove in the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Foundation Flagship Projects

A summary of the major projects and funding status:

- **Macquarie Precinct – Monumental Gate and redevelopment of precinct:**
Councillors – Lesley Kernaghan and John Taberner; Target estimated \$8.9 million

A design competition will be run to elicit new and exciting ideas. The Foundation received contributions for the design competition.

The intent is to provide an entrance 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 will 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 this entrance will be a Bicentenary Gift to Sydney.

The entrance will provide strong linkages to the City of Sydney and Macquarie Street buildings, connection with the north-west part of the Domain and Shakespeare Place. This development gives opportunity to link the entrance to the Tropical Centre, to use the southern boundary (aligned to Cahill Expressway) innovatively, to bring the Shakespeare monument into the Royal Botanic Gardens from Shakespeare Place – literally or figuratively, and to create stronger links between the Domain Phillip Precinct, Hospital Road, Mitchell Library and the Royal Botanic Gardens.

- **Children's Garden:** Councillor - Caro Webster; Target \$5 million est. Initial contributions have been received.

This will be a safe, stimulating and exciting garden for children. It will fire imaginations, create deep affinities and life long learning. As the premiere city in Australia, Sydney needs to offer its children their own garden. Features will include story telling and hands-on activity areas, water fun and discovery areas. Many vegetation types will be included to maximise play, learning opportunities, durability and safety.

- **Heritage Statuary:** Councillor – Ian Conley; Target \$220,000; La Ballerina has been funded by private donations.

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 our four million annual visitors.

Items to be restored are marble statues from Italy - Spring, Summer, 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 water.

This garden will feature a wide range of plants from large bottle trees, Gynea 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.

- **Youth Community Greening:** Councillors – Gretel Packer and Lesley Kernaghan; Funding: \$704,000 over 4 years by the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, Mrs Roslyn Packer AO and another private benefactor until 2011.

This is an environmental education program for children and youth in disadvantaged areas. Educational horticulturist, Kathy Pflieger, was appointed to establish community gardens developed to the ideas, needs and uses of the children. She provides ongoing support in their ownership and management of the gardens.

Through the program Kathy will assist a school each year to create an Arbor Day planting and conduct the touring program, *Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) Goes West*, to regional New South Wales.

- **Rainforest Seed Conservation Research:** Councillor – Lesley Kernaghan; Funding: \$360,000 over 3 years by Tony Maxwell & Robyn Godlee and Allianz Australia.

Seeds for the Future is a project to save rainforest species, the most important source of plant diversity. Dr Kim Hamilton was appointed research scientist to lead this ground-breaking research to collect, screen and test Australian rainforest species for their tolerance to drying for seed bank storage. Where this is not a viable method of storage, other methods will be tested. Ex-situ research will be done on various rainforest species for their tolerance to resist affects of climate change.

Our Benefactors and Supporters

We wish to acknowledge and thank these generous people and organisations that have made contributions to the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation, as benefactors (Fellows) or supporters. All gifts are important to the Foundation being able to support the work of the Botanic Gardens Trust.

Charles Darwin Fellows (\$500,000+)

John B Fairfax AM

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

Allianz Australia

Gretel L Packer

James O Fairfax AO

Roslyn Packer AO

Ian & Helen McLachlan

Geoffrey & Rachel O'Connor

Tony Maxwell & Robyn Godlee

Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation

Pre 2006

Bruce Arnott

Thyne Reid

Ron Brierley

The Estate of Josephine Swane

Eden Gardens and Garden Centre

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

Playoust Family Foundation

Lee-Anne Reid

Modified Accessible Taxis Joint Venture

Pre 2006

Dick Honan & Honan Family

The Estate of Elsie May Webster

Allan Cunningham Fellows (\$5,000 [over 5 years] to \$25,000)

Patricia & Clive Austin

David & Kathryn Groves

Greg & Myra Bell

Lesley Kernaghan

Roxanne Clayton

Cyril G. Maloney

Ian Conley

Pauline A. Markwell

Antony Coote AM

Ian & Helen McLachlan

Jennifer Crivelli

Elizabeth Mooney

Elizabeth Davis OAM

Faye Parker

Julie Drew & Michael Grace AM

Sam & Helen Sheffer

Sue Gazal

Prue Socha

Ronald & Helen Griffin

Maxine Stewart

Pre 2006

Judith Beswick

Ross A Field

Amana Finley

John Valder AO OBE & Kay Valder OAM

Margot de Ferranti

Foundation Supporters (Gifts up to \$5,000)

Professor Noel & Adrienne Dan

Alistair McLean

Gillian Davies

Robert & Heather Wicht

Andrew & Penny Davis

Susan Wilson

John & Philippa Graham

Pre 2006

Marylyn Abbott

Reg Bryson

Conrad & Stein Berensen

Sir Raymond & Lady Burrell

Morrish Besley AM AC AO

Peter Burrows

Dr Ian Blackburn

Lorelle Clements

Graham Bradley

Michael Coleman

Vic Brown

Mandy Dawkins

Diane T Direnzie
Ronald Finemore AO
Leon Fink
Michael Hamilton
Pat & Dianne Handley
Paul Harris
Dr John Hewson AM
John Lamble
John Leaver
Dr CJ & Mary-Rose McDonald
Mary Moore
Christine Moss

Corporate Supporters - all levels

Alcatel Australia
Ampcor
Australia Post
BOC Gases
Crane Group Limited
Davidson's Nursery
Goodman Fielder Limited
James N Kirby Foundation

Joan Nicol
David Pumphrey
John Reid AO
Gayl & Steven Rich
Susan Rothwell
John Studdy AM
Bret Walker SC
Sir Arthur & Lady Weller
Robert Whyte
Carol Willesee
Edwin Wilson
Peggy Yeum

Leighton Holdings Limited
Philip Bushell Foundation
Reader's Digest
Reckitt & Colman Products
Simsmetal Limited
The Ian Potter Foundation
The Sidney Myer Fund

Operational Guidelines

- Foundation's investment policy is:
 - Foundation property will be invested to perform against agreed market indices.
 - Investment will take into account an appropriate spread of risk in relation to sector, time frame and geography.
 - Foundation property will be managed to build a corpus of funds, in line with the direction of the Foundation.
- Foundation will 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 for RBG Foundation.
- 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. This purpose continues

today. The Foundation operates within the guidelines of the Trust Deed established in 1993 and periodically modified.

The RBG 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 NSW Government (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 5). In FY 2008 there were 10 Councillors.

The Councillors, Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation

On 1 July 2007, we were pleased to welcome three new Councillors to the Council.

Mr Clive Austin LLM (Lon), FAICD

Company Director

Councillor and Chair Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation – appointed 1 July 2007

Council Meetings attended 2008: 5 of 5

Mr Austin is Executive Chairman of Consolo Limited (Group) which has interests in the horticultural and agricultural sector. He is Chairman of Oasis Horticulture Pty Limited. He has chaired Boards and Committees of a number of not-for-profit and Community organisations and currently is Chairman of The Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney, President of The Royal Life Saving Society Australia (NSW) and Past President of Redkite.

Mr Ian Conley BSc (Hons) Mathematics, University of Exeter, UK; GAICD

Company Director and investor

Councillor – reappointed 25 November 2006

Council Meetings attended 2008: 2 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.

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 2008: 3 of 5 (long service leave but represented by Acting Executive Director of Botanic Gardens Trust)

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 2008: 4 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.

Mr Ronald Griffin BEng Chem, USyd, MBA, UNSW

Banker

Councillor – appointed 1 July 2007
Council Meetings attended 2008: 4 of 5

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

Mrs Lesley Kernaghan BA, DipEd

Councillor – appointed November 2006
Council Meetings attended 2008: 4 of 5

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

Mr Don Morris AO, BEc

Chairman of Tourism Queensland, Company director
Councillor – appointed 28 March 2006
Council Meetings attended 2008: 1 of 5

Mr Morris has had a long career in advertising and currently has interests in horticulture and property development and tourism. Mr Morris is resigning from the Foundation.

Ms Gretel Packer

Philanthropist and board member
Councillor – appointed 2 June 2005
Council Meetings attended 2008: 4 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.

Mr John Taberner MA Hons, LLB, LLM (Geo Wash)

Practising Solicitor
Councillor – appointed 1 July 2007
Council Meetings attended 2008: 2 of 5

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.

Mrs Caroline Webster

Freelance horticultural journalist and writer
Councillor – appointed 2 June 2005
Council Meetings attended 2008: 3 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. Mrs Webster will be resigning the Foundation on 1 December 2008.

In 2008, two Councillors resigned their Councillor roles and accepted new positions:

President

Mr Greg Martin BEc, LLB, MAICD, FAIM

Company Director and Executive, Chair of Botanic Gardens Trust since December 2003

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.

Ambassador

Mr Jamie Durie DipHort

Horticulturalist and media personality.

Acknowledgements

The Foundation Councillors and Foundation 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.