



MELBOURNE FRIENDS

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA



THE FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS MELBOURNE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTICE is hereby given that the thirty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Incorporated (the 'Friends') will be held at
6pm Monday 21 November 2022

BUSINESS

1. To confirm the minutes of the thirty-fifth Annual General Meeting held on 15 November 2021.
2. To receive from the Council a report of the activities of the Friends for the year ended 30 June 2022.
3. To elect members of the Council. The following, being eligible, have been duly nominated for election as stated:

President	Lynsey Poore
Treasurer	Melissa Russo
Ordinary Member	Loris Meadows
	Cathy Trinca
	Sue Foran
	Lisa Steven

4. To receive and consider the financial statements of the Friends for the year ended 30 June 2022, which have been duly audited.
5. To receive and consider the report and financial statements of the Friends' Trust Fund for the year ended 30 June 2022, which have been duly audited.
6. To re-elect Cathy Trinca as a trustee of the Friends' Trust Fund.

By order of the Council

Phillip Trinca, Secretary

Dated: 20 October 2022

At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting the President will announce the **recipients of the Friends' Trust Fund Scholarship Awards and Volunteer Service Awards to Members with 10 or more years of voluntary service.**

Guest speaker following the AGM: Emma Cutting, founder of the Heart Gardening Project will talk to us about the Melbourne Pollinator Corridor, and 8km community-driven wildlife corridor which will connect the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne through to the Westgate Park.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FRIENDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Patron

The Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria

Council

President	Lynsey Poore*
Vice-President	Nicola Rollerson (resigned 13 April 2022)
Secretary	Phillip Trinca (April 2022 – 30 June 2022) Adnan Mansour (resigned 13 April 2022)
Treasurer	Melissa Russo (appointed to casual vacancy 16 June 2022) Mark Anderson (resigned 13 April 2022)
Members	Susan Broadbent (resigned 14 June 2022) Professor Tim Entwisle † Sue Foran * Loris Meadows (appointed to casual vacancy 16 June 2022) * Margaret (Meg) Miller # Miranda Milne (appointed to casual vacancy 16 June 2022) # Lisa Steven * Catherine Trinca * Mary Ward (Immediate Past President) (resigned 13 April 2022) Anne Waterhouse (appointed to casual vacancy 16 June 2022) #

* Retires at Annual General Meeting 2022

Retires at Annual General Meeting 2023

† Ex-Officio Member of Council

Trustees of the Friends' Trust Fund

William Mackay Phillips Jones (Chair), Catherine Trinca, Mark Calder, Jeremy Gibson and Mary Ward

Conveners of Committees at 30 June 2022

Botanic Illustrators	Sue Foran
Editor, Botanic News	Beth Quinn
Events	Lisa Steven
Grants	Lynsey Poore
Growing Friends	Michael Hare
Membership and Marketing	Vacant
Operations	Lynsey Poore
Photography Group	Jane Bennett
Plant Craft Cottage	Cathy Trinca
Volunteers	Vacant

Friends' Staff

Marketing and Relationship Manager	Jill Scown
Finance Officer	Karlene Taylor
Office Support and Technology Manager	Georgina Ponce de Leon Huerta
Botanical Illustration Teacher	Dianne Emery

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year the Friends celebrated our 40th anniversary and I want to congratulate and thank all the members past and present, the Council members, the Conveners, the Office Volunteers, and the volunteers at our various groups for a marvelous 40 years of support and commitment to our Botanic Gardens. The office staff also played their role keeping the day-to-day affairs under control.

A morning tea to celebrate the 40th anniversary was held on the Hopetoun Lawn and many past and present members enjoyed the event. A tree planting of a Wollemi Pine by myself and Past Presidents was also held to mark the occasion.

As COVID restrictions ease, our groups are getting back into the swing of things. The Convener reports with this Annual Report provide more details on their successful activities but some deserve a special mention. The Events Committee has continued to provide an exceptional program of events to keep members informed and engaged. We thank them for the special events to mark our 40th anniversary.

The Growing Friends, after an absence of two years, held an Autumn plant sale which was successful and an attraction for new members to join. The nursery has also resumed opening time to members and the public each Friday.

The Plant Craft Cottage also celebrated a 40th milestone in 2021. An afternoon tea was held to recognise this anniversary and the many past and present members who have shared so much time together at Plant Craft Cottage. The Cottage craft groups and gardening group were able to resume in March 2022. Due to another group of dedicated volunteers, visitors are now also able to visit the Cottage every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10am – 3pm.

We have an active Photography Group who have continued learning about photography and are also able to supply photos of the Gardens for our publications.

Botanic News has continued to keep us all informed with interesting articles about the Gardens and beyond and I would like to congratulate our new editor, Beth Quinn. The e-news, delivered fortnightly, also keeps us informed of upcoming events while providing entertaining and educational snippets for us to enjoy.

Thanks to all Conveners for their support and commitment to the Friends.

The Friends' Trust Fund continues to provide funds for staff scholarships and the Helen McLellan Research Grant, and I congratulate all the current successful applicants who are highlighted in the Trust Fund Report.

The Council has seen some changes this year with five of our long-standing members standing down. My thanks go to all of them for their commitment and loyalty over many years and their expertise will be sorely missed. Mr Phil Trinca has kindly stepped in as an Acting Secretary and Karlene Taylor, Finance and Business Manager for the Friends, has provided financial reports for the Council until a new Treasurer is appointed at the 2022 AGM.

Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank all our members for their ongoing support during the past year. By supporting the Friends, you help to support our world-renowned Gardens, something we are all passionate about.

THE COUNCIL OF THE FRIENDS

Council members form the Committee of Management of the Friends, which is charged with controlling and managing the Friends' business and affairs. The powers of Council are defined by the Rules and the Act. These give Council the authority to exercise all the powers and functions of the Friends, except those reserved for general meetings.

The Council meets on a regular basis to consider the overall management and policies of the Friends and to review the Friends' performance for its members, as well as to monitor its financial performance against the budgets set for the year. Pleasingly, as noted below, the Friends achieved a profit during a year that was still hampered for much of the year by Covid 19 restrictions.

During the financial year ending 30 June, there have been regular meetings of the Council. Since April this year, the Council has been meeting monthly. At these meetings the Council is fortunate to receive regular reports from the Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria covering key developments at the Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens. The Council also receives and considers reports from the Operations Committee and from other Council Committees, as well as from the Friends' staff members at Gate Lodge.

Appointment of Auditors

The firm of DFK Kidsons has been appointed to audit both the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Incorporated and the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Trust Fund. Their audit opinions are included in this Annual Report.

Financial Results

The total Assets of the Friends as at 30 June 2022 was \$326,339 compared to \$291,107 in the previous year, being an increase of \$35,232. Liabilities increased by \$13,365. This was mainly due to Payables increasing by \$11,838 from the previous year. The value of Net Assets for 2021/22 is \$202,362, compared with \$180,495 at 2020/21.

The improved financial position of the Friends has been achieved through several changes in the organisation during the COVID-19 Pandemic, one of which has been to respond to opportunities using increased online communication, while minimising associated costs. This has resulted in developing a very active income stream by providing numerous online Events to members and non-members and has contributed more than twice the previous year's income for this category. Botanical art classes were held online for most of the year and when COVID-19 restrictions were lifted toward the end of the financial year, face to face classes resumed. The financial results from botanical art classes and workshops testifies not only to the high quality of the tuition and to the enthusiastic demand from our students but also to the importance of this program.

Towards the end of the financial year Growing Friends, once again, was able to hold a plant sale to add to the revenue. Income from membership was maintained throughout the year without increasing annual subscriptions. Despite Plant Craft Cottage being closed for most of the year, this group of supporters also contributed to an increase in income. The level of government assistance received due to the impact of COVID-19 was reduced.

Expenditure was tightly managed, once more by increased use of online communication which reduced printing and photocopying costs, as well as postage. Staff hours were reduced and staff continued to work from home for most of the year.

Non-cash items such as depreciation and provisions for leave are included as expenses in the Statement of Profit and Loss Report. The overall operating surplus at year end is \$21,867 which compares very favourably with the previous year. Employee entitlements are higher than normal as a result of COVID-19 lockdowns, and staff are working to further reduce this liability in the coming year.

At the conclusion of the financial year 2021/22, the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Inc. is in a sustainable financial position and is able to pay all debts as they fall due. At the time of presenting these reports, there is no knowledge of events which may impact on this. The Balance Sheet confirms this understanding.

Grants Committee

The Grants Committee coordinates the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Trust Fund financial contribution to the Gardens. The Committee comprises the Friends' President, Secretary and Treasurer and Trustees of the Trust Fund, including the Chair of the Trust.

The Committee meet as required to evaluate potential projects and assess scholarship applications proposed by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV). Significant grant proposals are discussed with the Director and Chief Executive of the RBGV prior to any decision. The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Trust Fund annual report, including audited financial statements, are provided following the Annual Report of the Friends. The Chairman of the Trust regularly reports to Council on the Trust Fund performance and other related matters.

Grants to the Gardens

The total amount granted by the Friends' Trust Fund for the 2021/2022 year to the RBGV for research, scholarships and development projects was \$178,085.

The grants provided included:

- \$70,000 towards a new 'Changing Places' facility being jointly funded by the RBGV and others to improve accessibility to the gardens and the precinct,
- \$30,000 to fund a new Ambassador Pod for the RBGV Guides,
- \$19,700 towards the Helen McLellan Research Grant
- \$12,645.50 for RBGV Staff Scholarships.

Helen McLellan Research Grant

The Helen McLellan Research Grant was established in 2010 to commemorate the generous bequest to the Friends of the late Helen McLellan, with up to \$20,000 granted annually. In 2021, the Trust committed to funding a grant totaling \$53,180 over three years to Dr Camille Truong for her research work on the Biodiversity and Phylogenomics of Australian ectomycorrhizal fungi in *Peziziales* (Ascomycota). Following a grant of \$19,780 in 2021, \$19,700 was paid in 2022.

Friends' Scholarship Scheme

The Friends' Trust provides up to \$15,000 per annum for RBGV staff scholarships. Whilst the biennially awarded \$2,000 Sharwood Travel Bursary was not granted in 2022, the Trust provided \$13,521 in scholarship funding to the following recipients:

- Renee Wierzbicki, Horticulturalist, Curator of the Herb and Medicinal Collection at the Melbourne Gardens, was granted funds to undertake a History of Healing course at Endeavour College of Natural Health.
- Carolyn Shurey, Learning Facilitator, received funding for a six-month training course in the field of Forest Therapy, a practice that promotes healing and wellness in natural environments.
- Claire Mosley, Learning Facilitator, received funding to attend the National Australian Association for Bush Adventure Therapy Symposium.
- Menaka Collure, Finance Officer, received funding for a Digital Finance micro-credentialed course from CPA.

Operations Committee

The Operations Committee meets four times a year. The committee consists of the Vice President, the Secretary, the Director, Melbourne Gardens and the Volunteer and Friends Coordinator, the Editor of *Botanic News*, and the Conveners of the Friends' committees. By invitation, the head of the RBGV Visitor Experience and Tourism team may also attend.

The Operations Committee provides a forum for the Conveners to report on their programs, activities, and events and to discuss new ideas and more in-depth reports. During 2021/22, the President hosted the meeting in May 2022, following the resignation of the Vice President in April 2022.

The head of RBGV Visitor Experience and Tourism was also unable to attend most meetings this year due to long-service leave followed by a vacancy of this position.

All meetings during 2021/2022 were successfully conducted. Thanks go to all the Conveners for their continued dedication, for continuing to work whenever possible to recruit new members and for organising activities and events over the past year.

Botanical Art

The Friends' Botanic Art Program has thrived over the past 12 months despite some continued constraints due to COVID-19. Following the encouraging uptake of our online botanical art program during 2020/2021, we have continued to offer a hybrid program, with a selection of online classes, via Zoom, and face-to-face classes at Domain House, Melbourne. The online class experience continues to attract local, regional, interstate, and international students thereby successfully broadening access to the botanical art program.

All our tutors – Amanda Ahmed, Dianne Emery, Craig Lidgerwood, Kate Nolan, John Pastoriza Pinol and David Reynolds – are experienced teachers and recognised botanical artists in their own right. Their skills enable us to offer a very high-quality art program designed to meet a variety of student needs, skill levels and interests.

We have offered both online and face-to-face botanical art workshops this year. These workshops included master classes with David Reynolds, Kate Nolan and John Pastoriza Pinol, online calligraphy classes with Maria Montez, a coloured pencil workshop with Janet Matthews, and a very popular online workshop with internationally renowned botanical artist Jessica Shepherd.

Due to the impact of COVID restrictions we elected not to hold the biennial reFraming Nature Exhibition in 2021. Instead, focusing our energies and resources into maintaining the botanical art program and planning for the Friends' botanical art exhibition; the 16th biennial exhibition of The Art of Botanical Illustration (TABI) to be held in September/October 2022. TABI has become Australia's premier botanical art exhibition, attracting submissions from national and international botanical artists and a global audience.

The TABI 2022 exhibition will be held as a hybrid exhibition, with artworks displayed at Domain House, Melbourne, and online, from 17 September - 2 October 2022. This TABI exhibition will be unique as it is being held coincident with the 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, hosted by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. TABI 2022 will form part of the cultural program for the Congress and will host an exhibition of art works from international botanical artists who have an affiliation with several of the botanic gardens represented at the Congress. This European Exhibition will form part of the TABI online exhibition.

The TABI committee have enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with Monika Kiehn, Vice President of the Vienna School of Botanical Illustration, who coordinated the artworks from these European artists to enable us to bring this unique exhibition to fruition. We are delighted to welcome and exhibit artworks of fellow botanical artists from Austria, Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Ukraine. TABI 2022 will also be one of the highlights of the Friends' 40th Anniversary celebrations.

We wish to acknowledge the generous sponsorship of Bed Bath N' Table, Metro Creative Program, Kyneton Old Rectory and Eckersley Art and Craft. Their wonderful support of TABI and interest in the exhibition is greatly appreciated.

The Whirlies, a non-tutored group of experienced and talented botanical artists within the Friends' botanical art program, are holding "The Acacia Project" exhibition at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Melbourne Information Centre from 1 September until 11 September 2022. The Whirlies researched, documented, and painted the 23 species of rare and endangered species of Acacia found at the Melbourne Gardens. The artworks from this exhibition will be donated to the State Botanical Collection housed in the National Herbarium of Victoria, and sales from the accompanying publication will be donated to the RBGV for Acacia research.

Botanic News

Botanic News is a publication which showcases the Friends' groups and activities, operations of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, elements within the Gardens, the Trust Fund, and calendar of events. Its primary purpose is to create enthusiasm for the Friends, to keep its current members engaged and to inspire other readers to become members.

With the expansion of the Friends' website and the launch of the weekly eNews, the *Botanic News* will have a more defined and focused role as a Friends' communication tool. For instance, we have initiated a new section called Digging Deeper in which we go for a behind-the-scenes look into a particular event or project taking place within the Friends or the Gardens.

Due to complications stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic, coupled with the rising paper, printing and paper costs, we decided to release the *Botanic News* solely online in mid-2020. We are currently evaluating the feasibility of printing the magazine once again.

To create a high-quality publication on a quarterly basis, it requires a dedicated team of volunteers who lend their time and expertise. We are grateful to everyone who has written articles, contributed photographs, edited, proofread, and laid out the magazine. We also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Corinne Yee, who guided the *Botanic News* as editor for two and a half years.

Events

For the second year in a row, our community had to adapt to disrupted scheduling of the Friends' events program. It was challenging for both members and the Events Committee, and we shared the disappointment of our members when our in-person events could not be held onsite and seemingly at short notice. We acknowledge and thank everyone for their continued support and patience as we worked through the many changes needed through the Melbourne lockdowns.

To address a very real challenge to our financial security, we moved most of our events online and we thank our members for their support of the *Talking Online* series in the latter half of 2021. An unprecedented loyal following of attendees enjoyed the weekly sessions that showcased the Gardens' history, collections, and people alongside great garden adventures wider afield. It certainly gave us the chance to celebrate the Gardens' 175th Anniversary and the good work the Gardens do as we had planned at the start of the year.

We learnt about the Seedbank project Raising Rarity and celebrated the trees and newly completed Arid Gardens. We explored the birdlife of the Gardens and enjoyed a fascinating history of the Herbarium. It was fitting to finish off the anniversary theme with a welcome return to an in-person presentation at Mueller Hall that celebrated the people of the Gardens over the years, with Tom May, Terry Smyth and Neville Walsh sharing their many stories and highlights of their long-serving and loyal careers at the Gardens.

We had occasion to host several workshops at Plant Craft Cottage between lockdowns. We thank the many facilitators that shared their knowledge and skills with us. The workshop program continues to evolve in 2022 and we are delighted that our members are embracing the many facets of craft now on regular offer. The Cottage has been a wonderful venue to host these sessions with its display of botanical craft through the rooms and on offer in its shop. Whether inside for warmth on a wintery day, outside in the garden for sunshine and space, the Cottage is a welcoming place to learn and absorb from the best.

We closed 2021 having hosted 42 online talks, not surprisingly, a similar number to that

held in 2020, the first year of the pandemic. Our video library continues to expand, and we are delighted to have over 50 'read and watch' online sessions on offer for our members.

The start of 2022 has been a happy one with most events now hosted onsite at the Gardens. We do, however, continue to offer an online program for those members who have enjoyed participating from home. Our own Friends' 40th celebrations were launched in February this year with a wonderful Summer Picnic on Hopetoun Lawn. It was lovely to have so many in attendance sharing stories and tales from over the years with each other. Our No. 1 ticket holder, Sylvia Churchill, delighted everyone with her swan biscuits, a tribute to the baking and resourceful fundraising talents of the first Friends' group that came together to *Save the Lake* in 1982.

Our committee thanks all our members, presenters and supporters who play such a vital role in keeping our Friends' community connected and engaged. We thank everyone for allowing us to highlight and support the good work of the RBGV Melbourne Gardens and teams involved.

Growing Friends

As with the previous year, the continuing COVID-19 lockdowns restricted activities and caused the cancellation of the Spring Plant Sale. With the easing of the restrictions late in 2021 the Growing Friends were able to organise a small but very successful Christmas Plant Sale in December.

The new year saw a return to more normal conditions with nursery open days recommencing in February. The installation of the new entry gate into the nursery, and its signage, allows the public easy access into the nursery and has contributed to increased numbers of customers and plant sales. The highly successful Autumn Plant Sale, the first such public sale by the Growing Friends in over two years, took place on the Glasshouse Lawn and provided a welcome return for many of our regular customers.

The continued restriction of nursery activities, as well as other reasons, have reduced the volunteer group working within the Growing Friends to 33 members.

Membership

Whilst the past 12 months have been challenging, including continued lockdowns in the second half of 2021 and the Friends' office remaining closed until February 2022, the Friends have managed to maintain their member numbers, which has been very heartening.

Friends' member activities resumed in the gardens between lockdowns in late 2021 with limited numbers of participants and also continued online. During 2022, the Friends were able to resume walks, talks and workshops within the Gardens which have been enjoyed by many. These activities will continue in tandem with online activities including art classes and online presentations.

The Friends were able to attract members at plant sales which resumed in December 2021. New students to the Friends' art program have also delivered growth in membership each term. We continue to be extremely grateful to our existing, loyal

members who have remained with us during recent difficult times. Your support has been very much appreciated.

Photography Group

As at 30 June 2022 the Photography Group had 31 members, a similar number to June 2021. There were a few resignations from the group and a small number of new members joined over the twelve-month period.

The Photography Group continued to pursue a program of monthly themes, taking images in the Melbourne Gardens on a variety of topics. These monthly themes are designed to improve group members' botanical and photographic knowledge. Throughout these twelve months, most group members have remained active and connected to each other via face-to-face meetings, emails, and posting and commenting on images on our Flickr site.

In early 2022, the Friends office set up a new Flickr site dedicated solely to our group. The Photography Group has also increased its efforts to support the work of the Friends through encouraging the use of our images from the Flickr site for Friends publications and acting as official photographers at specific Friends events. Two examples of such events were the Volunteers Morning Tea and the planting of a commemorative tree to mark the 40th anniversary of the Friends, both held in May 2022.

The Friends Photography Group will continue to meet at the Plant Craft Cottage at 10am on the third Wednesday of each month, then walk in the Gardens taking photos. After each month's meeting, some of the photographs can be viewed by all Friends members via a link to our Flickr site on the Friends website:

www.flickr.com/groups/14816701@N23

Plant Craft Cottage

The Plant Craft Cottage (PCC) is managed by Convener Cathy Trinca. The Cottage celebrated its 40th birthday in 2021 and a celebratory afternoon tea was held on Tuesday 14 December 2021. Several original cottage members attended and received their 40-year Volunteer Awards.

The Cottage was closed for over two years due to COVID, but after a thorough cleanup of the cottage, shed and garden, it reopened to the public in March 2022. The Cottage and the shop are now open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10am to 3pm and are staffed by volunteers. Many of these volunteers are new and have been trained to open and welcome visitors to the Cottage.

The Plant Craft Cottage Craft Groups have resumed their regular monthly meeting schedules with the return of Basketry, Natural Dye, Pot Pourri and the Plant Card Groups. Wonderful new craft items are being produced by these groups and are being sold in the revitalised shop. These include baskets, potpourri, herbs, pressed flower cards and dyed wool. New to the shop are botanic art prints, books, and cards from the Friends' Botanical Illustrators Group.

The PCC Garden Group has resumed working in the garden every week since COVID lockdowns ended to provide a gorgeous setting for all visitors and Friends groups who

also use the Cottage. The group has a plan to completely locate and map the plants in the garden, and re-stock parts of the garden with new and relevant plants. Some lovely Salvias were donated by Meg Bentley and the Growing Friends have provided some plants. We have also welcomed several new volunteers in the Garden Group.

The Friends' Photography Group continue to meet at the cottage before heading out to take photos in the Gardens. The Friends' Events Committee is also holding numerous workshops at and walks from the Cottage each quarter, as well as Volunteer Week and New Member Welcome Events.

Open House Melbourne (OHM) was to be held after two years of cancellations in July 2022, with preparations for this at the Cottage ongoing at the end of June 2022.

Volunteers

We are always humbled by the number of people who volunteer their time to support and grow the Friends. Most of our pre-COVID volunteers resumed their roles and we welcomed many more once COVID lockdowns ceased.

Many new volunteers were welcomed at Plant Craft Cottage, the Friends' Office, and the Growing Friends.

This year we congratulate the following volunteers who will receive their Volunteer Service Awards at the 2022 Annual General Meeting

10 years

- Wendy Crebbin (Growing Friends)
- Kate Crocket (Growing Friends)
- Ann Cunningham (Plant Craft Cottage)
- Adrian Mohedano (Plant Sales, Exhibitions)
- Georgina Ponce de Leon (Plant Sales, Exhibitions)
- Carolyn Renwick (Office, Plant Sales, Events, Exhibitions)

15 years

- Michael Hare (Growing Friends)
- Mary Lewis (Office)
- Pamela Smith (Growing Friends)

20 years

- Rosemary Ball (Growing Friends)
- Meg Miller (Council, Editor *Botanic News*, Plant Sales)

25 years

- June Cherry (Growing Friends)
- Virginia Morrison (Growing Friends)

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
MELBOURNE INCORPORATED
REGISTERED NO: A12817T

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
MELBOURNE INCORPORATED

CONTENTS

Independent Audit Report	15
Declaration by Council	18
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	19
Balance Sheet	20
Statement of Cash Flows	21
Statement of Changes in Equity	21
Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements	22
Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 Prescribed Form	30

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE INCORPORATED**

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the declaration by Council members.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc. is in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2022, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The Council members are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Association's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2022, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Council Members

Council members are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures, and for such internal control as Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, Council members are responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Council members are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE INCORPORATED (CONT'D)**

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

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

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

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

We communicate with Council members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DFK Kidsons Partnership

DFK Kidsons Partnership
Chartered Accountants

20 October 2022
Melbourne

M L Port

M L Port
Partner

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
MELBOURNE INCORPORATED

DECLARATION BY COUNCIL

In the opinion of the Council:

- a) the attached financial statements and notes thereto comply with the Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures Requirements;
- b) the financial statements and notes thereto give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc. as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- c) at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Council, and is signed for and on behalf of the Council by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Trinca', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Philip Trinca

Secretary

Dated this 20th day of October 2022

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
MELBOURNE INCORPORATED

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Income			
Membership subscriptions		87,441	89,033
Botanical art classes and workshops		129,376	112,081
Growing friends		37,355	1,950
Sale of merchandise		12,562	15,099
Functions and excursions		50,295	24,200
Exhibition revenue		-	13,685
Plant craft cottage		6,361	100
Interest income		303	139
Botanic news production		-	100
Photography group		-	995
Government COVID-19 assistance		20,000	81,500
Other revenue		1,022	1,449
		<u>344,715</u>	<u>340,331</u>
Expenditure			
Employment expenses		165,672	242,490
Botanical art classes & workshops		98,659	94,599
Growing friends		3,743	3,022
Growing friends - depreciation		1,491	1,709
Cost of merchandise		5,288	7,758
Membership expenses		5,489	7,832
Functions and excursions expense		12,150	9,130
Botanic news production		1,506	10,417
Exhibition expenses		-	6,742
Printing, stationery and postage		2,169	2,689
Communications		4,988	4,281
Computer software and consulting		5,036	3,875
Audit & accounting fees		7,385	9,610
Depreciation		607	1,496
Repairs and maintenance		658	775
Plant craft cottage activities		2,431	2,627
Plant craft cottage - depreciation		1,545	3,578
Photography group		323	839
Other expenses		3,708	19,674
		<u>322,848</u>	<u>433,143</u>
Profit/(Loss) before income tax		21,867	(92,812)
Income tax expense	1(a)	-	-
Total comprehensive income/(loss)		<u>21,867</u>	<u>(92,812)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
MELBOURNE INCORPORATED

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash assets	3	307,760	150,094
Term deposits	3	-	125,000
Receivables	4	955	1,845
Inventories	5	2,027	-
Prepayments		8,127	6,313
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		318,869	283,252
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	6	7,470	7,855
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		7,470	7,855
TOTAL ASSETS		326,339	291,107
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	7	71,762	59,924
Provisions	8	49,224	48,099
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		120,986	108,023
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	8	2,991	2,589
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,991	2,589
TOTAL LIABILITIES		123,977	110,612
NET ASSETS		202,362	180,495
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Accumulated funds		202,362	180,495
MEMBERS' FUNDS		202,362	180,495

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
MELBOURNE INCORPORATED

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from members and customers		323,274	259,457
Payments to suppliers and employees		(307,653)	(415,057)
Government COVID-19 assistance		20,000	106,437
Interest received		303	139
Net cash used in operating activities	9(a)	35,924	(49,024)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for plant and equipment		(3,258)	-
Transfer from/(to) term deposits		125,000	(10,000)
Net Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		121,742	258,150
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		157,666	(59,024)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		150,094	209,118
Cash at the end of the financial year	3	307,760	150,094

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Accumulate d Funds \$	Members' Funds \$
Balance as at 1 July 2020	273,307	273,307
Comprehensive loss for the year	(92,812)	(92,812)
Balance as at 30 June 2021	180,495	180,495
Comprehensive income for the year	21,867	21,867
Balance as at 30 June 2022	202,362	202,362

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
MELBOURNE INCORPORATED

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a general purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012.

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Inc (the Friends) is a Not for Profit Association and has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the requirements regarding Not for Profit entities as contained in Australian Accounting standards. The Association has adopted Accounting Standard AASB 1060 "General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-For-Profit Tier 2 Entities". Under this Accounting Standard, the Association is classified as a Tier 2 entity and required to apply the recognition and measurement requirements of all Accounting Standards but substantially reduced disclosure requirements.

The Council has determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. These financial statements do not conform with International Financial Reporting Standards.

The financial report is prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historical costs, and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

All new and revised Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are relevant and effective for the annual reporting period, beginning on 1 July 2021, have been adopted by the Association. Council members have given due consideration to other new and revised standards and interpretations issued by the AASB that are not yet effective and do not believe they will have any material impact on the financial report.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period, unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report:

(a) Income tax

The Friends is a non-profit association exempt from income tax under Section 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(b) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated over the useful life of the asset to the Friends commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. During the year the following range of depreciation rates were used:

	Rate
Plant and equipment	10% - 33%

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
MELBOURNE INCORPORATED

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(c) Employee entitlements

Provision is made for the Friends' liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements expected to be settled within one year together with entitlements arising from wages and salaries and annual leave that will be settled after one year have been measured at the nominal amount. Other employee entitlements payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those entitlements.

Contributions are made by the Friends to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as an expense when incurred.

(d) Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised upon delivery of goods to customers.

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised upon the delivery of the service to customers and members.

Membership revenue is recognised on an accruals basis.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial asset.

Other revenue is brought to account as income on an accrual basis.

(e) Unearned revenue

Membership, functions, classes and workshops revenue received before balance date in relation to subsequent financial years is brought to account as a liability.

(f) Cash

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand, at bank and on short term deposit.

(g) Comparative figures

Where required, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(h) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
MELBOURNE INCORPORATED

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(f) Inventories

Raw materials, work in progress and finished goods are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value on a 'first in first out' basis. Cost comprises of direct materials and delivery costs, direct labour, import duties and other taxes, an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead expenditure based on normal operating capacity, and, where applicable, transfers from cash flow hedging reserves in equity. Costs of purchased inventory are determined after deducting rebates and discounts received or receivable

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
MELBOURNE INCORPORATED

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
NOTE 2: RESULT BEFORE INCOME TAX		
Result before income tax has been determined after:		
Remuneration of auditor		
- Audit of the financial report	7,385	7,035
- Accounting advice	-	2,575
	<u>7,385</u>	<u>9,610</u>

NOTE 3: CASH ASSETS AND TERM DEPOSITS

Cash on hand	330	330
Cash at bank	307,430	149,764
	<u>307,760</u>	<u>150,094</u>
Term deposits	-	125,000
Total cash assets and term deposits	<u>307,760</u>	<u>275,094</u>

NOTE 4: RECEIVABLES

Sundry debtors	955	1,845
	<u>955</u>	<u>1,845</u>

NOTE 5: INVENTORIES

Stock on hand – at cost	2,027	-
	<u>2,027</u>	<u>-</u>

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
MELBOURNE INCORPORATED

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
NOTE 6: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Plant and equipment at cost	59,447	56,189
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(51,977)	(48,334)
	<u>7,470</u>	<u>7,855</u>

(a) Movements in carrying amounts

Movements in the carrying amounts of plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the financial year are detailed below:

Balance at beginning of year	7,855	14,638
Additions	3,258	-
Depreciation expense	(3,643)	(6,783)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	<u>7,470</u>	<u>7,855</u>

NOTE 7: PAYABLES

Subscriptions received in advance	13,538	19,989
Functions & events paid in advance	2,559	5,525
Botanical art classes paid in advance	24,674	8,755
Sundry creditors and accruals	15,857	17,645
Contractors' benefits	-	8,010
TABI sponsorship paid in advance	15,134	-
	<u>71,762</u>	<u>59,924</u>

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
MELBOURNE INCORPORATED

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
NOTE 8: PROVISIONS		
CURRENT		
Provision for annual leave	40,447	40,155
Provision for long service leave	8,777	7,944
	<u>49,224</u>	<u>48,099</u>
NON-CURRENT		
Provision for long service leave	<u>2,991</u>	<u>2,589</u>
Total provision for employee entitlements	<u>52,215</u>	<u>50,688</u>

NOTE 9: CASH FLOW INFORMATION

(a) Reconciliation of result after income tax to net cash from operating activities:

Profit/(Loss) after income tax for the year	21,867	(92,812)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	3,643	6,783
Change in operating assets and liabilities:		
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments and receivables	(925)	26,458
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	(2,028)	-
Increase/(decrease) in sundry creditors and accruals	11,839	(4,840)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	<u>1,528</u>	<u>15,387</u>
Net cash (used in) / from operating activities	<u>35,924</u>	<u>(49,024)</u>

(b) The Friends have no credit stand-by or financing facilities in place.

(c) There were no non-cash financing or investing activities during the current or prior financial year.

NOTE 10: ASSOCIATION DETAILS

The Friends is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act (Vic) 2012 and is domiciled in Australia. The registered office and principal place of business is:

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE INC.
Gate Lodge, 100 Birdwood Avenue
MELBOURNE VIC 3004

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
MELBOURNE INCORPORATED

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$

NOTE 11: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The amount received or due and receivable by Council Members is \$nil (2021: \$nil).
Aggregate compensation paid or payable to key management personnel (other than Council Members):

Short-term employment benefits	148,446	207,978
Post-employment benefits	13,372	18,123
	<u>161,818</u>	<u>226,101</u>

The names of all the Council Members who have held office during all or part of the year are:

Adnan Mansour (retired 13 April 2022)	Lisa Steven
Nicola Rollerson (retired 13 April 2022)	Mary Ward (retired 13 April 2022)
Catherine Trinca	Will Jones (ex officio)
Philip Trinca (commenced 27 April 2022)	Sue Broadbent (retired 14 June 2022)
Lynsey Poore	Margaret (Meg) Miller
Mark Anderson (retired 13 April 2022)	Sue Foran
Prof Tim Entwisle (ex officio)	

NOTE 12. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The incorporated association had no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2021.

NOTE 13. COMMITMENTS

The incorporated association had no commitments for expenditure as at 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2021.

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS,
MELBOURNE INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Key management personnel

Disclosures relating to key management personnel are set out in note 11.

Transactions with related parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the current and previous financial year.

Receivable from and payable to related parties

There were no trade receivables from or trade payables to related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

Loans to/from related parties

There were no loans to or from related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

NOTE 15: EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER THE REPORTING DATE

The impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is ongoing and while it has been financially positive for the incorporated association up to 30 June 2022, it is not practicable to estimate the potential impact, positive or negative, after the reporting date. The situation is rapidly developing and is dependent on measures imposed by the Australian Government and other countries, such as maintaining social distancing requirements, quarantine, travel restrictions and any economic stimulus that may be provided.

No other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the entity, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the entity in the future financial years.

Schedule 1

Regulation 15

Form 1

Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

Sections 94(2)(b), 97(2)(b) and 100(2)(b)

Annual statements give true and fair view of financial performance and position of incorporated association

We, Lynsey Poore and Philip Trinca, being members of the Executive Committee of the Council of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc., certify that—

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc. during and at the end of the financial year of the Association ending on 30 June 2022.



Signed:

Phillip Trinca, Secretary

Dated: 20th October 2022



Signed:

Lynsey Poore, President

Dated: 20th October 2022

THE FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE
TRUST FUND
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

THE FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE TRUST FUND ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Introduction

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Trust Fund (the Fund) was established in 1986 to conserve, protect and foster the development of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and the National Herbarium of Victoria, which are known collectively as the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV). The Fund is an endorsed tax concession charity and a deductible gift recipient body under Australian taxation legislation.

Originally the Fund sought to encourage tax-deductible donations. Following receipt of a bequest from the late Helen McLellan of some \$2.5 million in 2008, and after consultation with the major stakeholders, the Trustees decided to maintain a permanent corpus that, prudently invested, would become a continuing source of distributable funds to support the RBGV. In accordance with legislative requirements the Trust holds an annual appeal, and it was pleasing to note the record contributions received in 2022 of over \$50,000.

Grants to the RBGV from the Fund since 1986 have totaled over \$2.25 million and a distribution more than \$158,000 is required in 2022/23 to meet our obligations to distribute a minimum of 4% of the corpus.

The Fund's financial objectives are to maintain the value of the corpus in real terms whilst recognizing the importance of income, including franking credits, to help meet the Trust's legally mandated minimum annual distribution to RBGV.

Government Regulation

The Fund is subject to the legislated guidelines for Public Ancillary Funds that came into force on 1 January 2012. Government oversight of the Fund's activities is undertaken through the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC). The Fund is required to distribute 4% of the value of its Opening Net Assets to RBGV each year. For the 2021/22 year the minimum distribution required was \$178,085.

Stakeholder co-ordination framework

As one of the stakeholders in the financial support of RBGV, the Fund is part of a framework designed to ensure effective co-ordination between stakeholders. That framework is comprised of the Friends' Council, the Trustees of the Fund and the RBGV; all are legally independent, but their joint endeavours are coordinated to achieve optimal benefit for the Gardens.

The Director and Chief Executive of the RBGV and the Chairman of Trustees of the Fund are both ex-officio members of the Friends' Council. In addition, a Grants Committee, which is comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Friends together with the Trustees of the Fund, meet with the Director of the RBGV as required to align grant making policies.

Investment Strategy

A steady, sustainable annual income flow to fund grants to the RBGV is a primary requirement. Accordingly, the Fund's investment policy aims for as high a level of distributable sums as is prudently achievable consistent with maintaining, in the longer term,

the real value and capacity of the corpus.

Strategically, the Fund is targeting a return from income and capital, but before annual drawings and costs, of 4% above the Consumer Price Index (CPI) over a market cycle.

The guidelines adopted by the Fund identify a range of defensive and growth asset classes, including cash, fixed interest, Australian and International equities and more recently an allocation to Alternative Investments.

Prudent diversification across asset classes and securities is intended to mitigate negative outcomes and investments are selected with a view to avoiding a negative return after costs more than once in any five-year period. However, both local and global market conditions vary from year to year and deviations from the strategic targets may occur from time to time.

Wealth Management Advice and related activities

Since 2009, the Trustees have been assisted by Crestone Wealth Management Ltd (previously UBS Wealth Management). Mr Tim James has been the Fund's Client Advisor over this entire period, including the transition from UBS to Crestone. The Trustees record their appreciation of the support and thoughtful advice of Mr James.

Financial statements

Total Revenue in 2022 was \$445,863 compared to \$203,319 the previous year. The increase in revenue reflected higher dividends and distributions, franking credits, realized profits, a bequest and, as already noted, a jump in donations received. Dividend and distribution receipts were almost back to the level seen in the 2019/2020 financial year.

Expenditure in 2022, excluding grants, totaled \$66,841, up from \$62,119 in 2021. The major increase in expenditure was in administration costs, reflecting the Trust meeting postage and other costs formerly met by the Friends.

Following a strong rebound in the value of the Trust's investment portfolio in 2021, Investment returns in 2022 were negative. At the 30th of June 2022 Trust Fund investments were valued at \$3,978,653, down 10.8% from \$4,459,228 in 2021. The performance reflects declines in virtually all asset classes. In particular a sector that is supposed to provide defensive attributes in periods of financial uncertainty, government bonds, as measured by the UBS Composite Bond Index, was the weakest of the major asset classes, down 11.24% in the 2022 financial year.

The 2022 loss before distributions of \$303,738 (2021 Profit \$762,183) reflects the negative impact of the \$682,760 decline in investments over the period (which it should be noted doesn't reflect the \$216,654 in realized profit on investments reported in Revenue).

Grants paid to RBGV for the 2022 year were \$178,221, down on the previous years \$190,260 (which was well above the minimum distribution required for the period, reflecting the Trust's final contribution towards the Sensory Garden).

Comprehensive income (after distributions) from the Fund was a loss of \$481,959 versus a profit of \$571,923 in 2021.

At 30 June 2022 the value of the Fund's net assets, after all expenses and distributions, stood at \$3,970,163, a decrease of \$481,959 on the 2021 balance of \$4,452,122.

Grants to RBGV

Grants made to the RBG by the Friends' Trust Fund in 2022 amounted to \$178,221, just in excess of the minimum \$178,085 required.

The grants provided included \$70,000 towards a new facility being jointly funded by the RBG and others to improve access to the gardens and the precinct, \$30,000 to fund a new Ambassador Pod, \$19,700 towards the Helen McLellan Research and \$12,645.50 to fund Staff Scholarships.

Helen McLellan Research Grant

The Helen McLellan Research Grant was established in 2010 to commemorate the generous bequest to the Friends of the late Helen McLellan, with up to \$20,000 granted annually. In 2021 the Trust committed to funding a grant totaling \$53,180 over three years to Dr Camille Truong for her research work on the Biodiversity and Phylogenomics of Australian ectomycorrhizal fungi in *Peziziales* (Ascomycota). Following a grant of \$19,780 in 2021, \$19,700 was paid in 2022.

Friends Scholarship Scheme

The Friends' Trust provides up to \$15,000 per annum for RBG Staff scholarships. Whilst the biennially awarded \$2,000 Sharwood Travel Bursary was not granted in 2022 the Trust provided \$13,521 in scholarship funding to the following recipients:

- Renee Wierzbicki, Horticulturalist, Curator of the Herb and Medicinal Collection at the Melbourne Gardens, was granted funds to undertake History of Healing course at Endeavour College of Natural Health.
- Carolyn Shurey, Learning Facilitator, received funding for a six-month training course in the field of Forest Therapy, a practice that promotes healing and wellness in natural environments.
- Claire Mosley, Learning Facilitator, received funding to attend the National Australian Association for Bush Adventure Therapy Symposium.
- Menaka Collure, Finance Officer, received funding for a Digital Finance micro-credentialled course from CPA.
- Lisa Wedmore, Executive Assistant, was awarded funds to participate in a study unit in an undergraduate course in Writing, Editing and Publishing at Curtin University.

Performance of the Fund

Our Financial Advisers, Crestone, provide the following portfolio performance data for the last five years.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Portfolio return	8.86%	6.87%	(4.03%)	19.76%	(9.23%)
Target return (CPI + 4%)	6.1%	5.6%	3.7%	7.8%	10.1%
Out (under) performance	2.76%	1.27%	(7.73%)	11.96%	(19.33%)

As the table highlights the 2022 financial year has been very difficult, sharply higher inflation, negative returns from most asset classes and negative real yields all impacted performance.

In last year's Annual Report, it was noted that interest rates had probably bottomed and that indeed has proved to be the case. Interest rates have not however kept pace with an unexpected surge in inflation. Despite central banks scrambling to tighten monetary policy, negative real yields in fixed interest markets have seen what is regarded as a defensive asset class underperform equities.

Despite the poor outcomes achieved in the 2022 financial year our advisor, Crestone and the Trustees believe maintaining exposure to risk assets, primarily Australian and international equities is critical if the Fund is to achieve the target return of CPI + 4% over the long term, despite the inherent volatility in such investments.

Trustees

The current trustees and their respective terms of office are:

- William Jones, Chairman - appointed November 2017, re-elected November 2021 for a second term.
- Catherine Trinca, Secretary - appointed 2018, retires November 2022 unless reappointed.
- Mark Calder - from 2019 retires November 2023 unless reappointed.
- Mary Ward - from November 2020, retires November 2024 unless reappointed.
- Jeremy Gibson - from November 2020 retires November 2024 unless reappointed.

Appointments to the Trust are dependent on candidates being duly nominated, the candidate accepting the nomination and the motion for appointment being duly passed by Members of the Friends attending and voting at the Friends' Annual General Meeting.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE TRUST FUND

Opinion

We have audited the special purpose financial report of Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Trust Fund, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the declaration by Trustees.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Trust Fund, is in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, including:

- (a) gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust Fund as at 30 June 2022, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent as described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purposes of fulfilling the requirements of the Trustees. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Trustees

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Trustees are responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE TRUST FUND (CONT'D)**

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

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

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

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

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

DFK Kidsons Partnership

DFK Kidsons Partnership
Chartered Accountants

M L Port

M L Port
Partner

3 October 2022
Melbourne

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE TRUST FUND

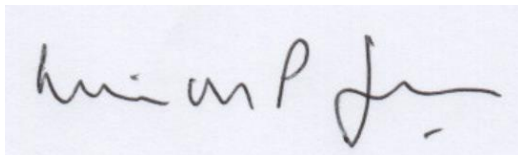
DECLARATION BY TRUSTEES

The Trustees have determined that the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Trust Fund is not a reporting Fund as those to whom the Trustees are required to report pursuant to the Trust Deed can obtain information they require without examining general purpose financial reports. The Trustees have also determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Trustees:

1. the financial report set out on the following pages, presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Trust Fund as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and
2. at the date of this declaration, there are reasonable grounds to believe the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Trust Fund will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Trustees.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William Jones', is written on a light blue background.

William Jones
Chairman

Dated this 3rd day of October 2022

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE TRUST FUND
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<u>Revenue</u>			
Dividends and Distributions		125,998	70,822
Franking Credits		32,666	15,699
Donations		50,435	23,590
Bequests		20,000	-
Realised Profit / (Loss) on Investments		216,654	93,208
Interest		110	-
Total Revenue		<u>445,863</u>	<u>203,319</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Audit Fees		5,200	4,906
Accounting Fees		2,335	2,200
Portfolio Management Fees		56,484	54,293
Secretarial and Administration Costs		2,822	718
Foreign Exchange Loss		-	2
Total Expenses		<u>66,841</u>	<u>62,119</u>
Unrealised increase/(decrease) in investments		<u>(682,760)</u>	<u>620,983</u>
Profit / (Loss) before tax and distributions to RBG		<u>(303,738)</u>	<u>762,183</u>
Income tax expense		-	-
Profit / (Loss) after tax before distributions		<u>(303,738)</u>	<u>762,183</u>
Less grants to the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne		(178,221)	(190,260)
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME / (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR		<u>(481,959)</u>	<u>571,923</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE TRUST FUND

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	770,187	301,964
Receivables	3	31,631	15,451
Other Financial Assets	4	3,176,835	4,141,813
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>3,978,653</u>	<u>4,459,228</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>3,978,653</u>	<u>4,459,228</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and accruals		<u>8,490</u>	<u>7,106</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>8,490</u>	<u>7,106</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>3,970,163</u>	<u>4,452,122</u>
TRUST FUNDS			
Accumulated Reserves	5	<u>3,970,163</u>	<u>4,452,122</u>
TRUST FUNDS		<u>3,970,163</u>	<u>4,452,122</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE TRUST FUND

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Donations/Bequests		70,435	23,590
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>70,435</u>	<u>23,590</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Dividends and Distributions Received		125,998	70,822
Interest Received		110	-
Franking Credits		16,486	127,687
Management Fees		(56,484)	(54,293)
Share Purchases		(1,700,946)	(2,371,251)
Consideration on Sale of Shares		2,199,818	2,388,465
Secretarial and Administration Costs		(1,669)	(934)
Accounts and Audit Fees		(7,304)	(6,875)
Grants to the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne		(178,221)	(190,260)
Net Cash provided by investing activities		<u>397,788</u>	<u>(36,639)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		468,223	(13,049)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		<u>301,964</u>	<u>315,013</u>
Cash at the end of the financial year	2	<u><u>770,187</u></u>	<u><u>301,964</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE TRUST FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Trustees. The Trustees have determined that the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Trust Fund is not a reporting Fund.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the following Australian Standards:

AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 107: Statement of Cash Flows
AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 110: Events after the Balance Sheet Date

No other applicable Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied. These financial statements do not conform with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

The financial report is prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historic costs, and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period, unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report:

(a) Income Tax

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Trust Fund is a non-profit organisation and exempt from income tax under Section 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(b) Investments and Other Financial Assets

Investments and other financial assets are initially measured at fair value. Financial assets not measured at amortised cost or at fair value through other comprehensive income are classified as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss. Typically, such financial assets will be either: (i) held for trading, where they are acquired for the purpose of selling in the short-term with an intention of making a profit, or a derivative; or (ii) designated as such upon initial recognition where permitted. Fair value movements are recognised in profit or loss.

(c) Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial asset.

Other revenue is brought to account as income on an accrual basis.

(d) Cash

For the purposes of the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand, at bank and on deposit.

(e) Comparative figures

Where required, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE TRUST FUND
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
NOTE 2: CASH ASSETS		
003011434 Cash	13,207	13,740
003007416 Cash	616,970	218,663
300741030 Cash	27,603	16,086
00300741022 Cash	827	-
00300741022 USD Cash	162	35,326
CBA cash	70,858	18,131
USD cash	40,560	18
	<u>770,187</u>	<u>301,964</u>

NOTE 3: RECEIVABLES

Franking Credits		
Refundable	<u>31,631</u>	<u>15,451</u>

NOTE 4: FINANCIAL ASSETS

003011434 Portfolio		
- at Cost	865,853	863,594
Change in Market Value	<u>(169,158)</u>	<u>132,645</u>
	696,695	996,239
003007416 Portfolio		
- at Cost	2,201,412	1,606,937
Change in Market Value	<u>(379,551)</u>	<u>435,070</u>
	1,821,861	2,042,007
00300741022 Portfolio		
- at Cost	-	274,358
Change in Market Value	<u>-</u>	<u>26,230</u>
	-	300,588
00300741030 Portfolio		
- at Cost	774,426	685,118
Change in Market Value	<u>(116,147)</u>	<u>117,861</u>
	658,279	802,979
	<u>3,176,835</u>	<u>4,141,813</u>

NOTE 5: ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Accumulated funds at the beginning of the financial year	4,452,122	3,880,199
Comprehensive (Loss)/Profit	<u>(481,959)</u>	<u>571,923</u>
Accumulated funds at the end of the financial year	<u>3,970,163</u>	<u>4,452,122</u>