

FRIENDS *of* GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS INC.

ABN: 21 699 253 561 INC NO. A13509G



Achievements - Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

May 2017

Financial Contributions to Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park by the Friends

\$260,801

1992	Purchase Seed Fridge (GBG Nursery)	\$2,300
	Purchase Photocopier (GBG office)	\$3,058
1994	Development of Master Plan: Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park	\$10,000
1997	Restoration of Japanese Bronze Cranes	\$14,000
	Restoration of the Cabmen's Shelter <i>plus grant \$10,000</i>	\$4,000
1999	Installation of Bunce Bollards <i>plus public subscription \$10,000</i>	\$3,000
	Provision of Covered Growing House (GBG Nursery)	\$5,700
	Rejuvenation of Camellia Collection	\$700
2001	Development of Stage 1 of 1995 Master Plan - 21 st Century Garden	\$20,000
2002	Conservation of the Pit Glass House (1860s) <i>plus grant \$9,100</i>	\$2,250
	Development of 21 st Century Garden	\$20,000
2003	Further Development of 21 st Century Garden	\$20,000
	Development of Concept Plan - Temperate Garden	\$3,000
2004	Development of Stage 2 of GBG Café Feasibility Study	\$12,000
	Acquisition of sculptures for the Fern Gully	\$1,100
2005	Development of Concept Plan: Conversion of Walter Conservatory to cafe	\$20,000
	Installation of the Mosaic Seat at the PlaySpace	\$2,500
	Landscaping at the Temperate Garden	\$9,900
2006	Restoration of Florence Clarke Pelargonium House	\$6,500
	Restoration of Eastern Park Rotunda (c 1916) <i>plus grant \$32,000</i>	\$6,000
2007	Review 1995 Conservation Management Plan of Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park	\$10,000
2005-2007	Acquisition Project of rare plant material including <i>Araucarias</i> and Chilean plants for revegetation of Eastern Park and the Gardens	\$15,000
2010-2015	Restoration documentation for the Ladies Kiosk (1904) in Eastern Park	\$17,000
	Development of Central 'Flag Bed'	\$6,245
2015	Restoration of the Ladies Kiosk (1904) in Eastern Park	\$36,548
2016	Scope for the Sustainable Visitor Facility	\$10,000

Gift Fund *read more [Gift Fund](#)*

\$27,338

Established the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund was established in 1997 as a Public Ancillary Fund with an initial deposit of \$1,500; this enables the public to make donations to benefit Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park. The Friends are Trustees of this Gift Fund

The Gift Fund has, since 2010, made the following distributions for the benefit of the Geelong Botanic Gardens:

2011	Provision of Heritage Seating in the Gardens	\$6,758
2013	Landscape Design Concept for Conservatory Restoration	\$4,100
2016	Repair and Restoration of the Bronze Cranes	\$6,480
2013-2017	CoGG/GBG Education Program	\$10,000

Education Program at Geelong Botanic Gardens *read more [Education](#)*

\$35,000 (since January 2013) plus management of Education Program to December 2012

1999	The City employed a consultant to design an Education Kit. The Gardens Education Program was initially delivered by Volunteer Guides	
2002 - 2012	The Friends employed an Education Officer to provide programs for more than a thousand students visiting the Gardens. This number of students continue to visit the Gardens annually.	
2012	The delivery of the GBG Education Program was transferred to the City. The Friends have made a commitment to contribute \$10,000 each year over the period 2013 – 2017 to support this program – total commitment of \$50,000 . This has been funded with contributions by the Friends and distributions from the Gift Fund.	
2013-2017	CoGG/GBG Education Program – contribution from the Friends (refer to Gift Fund for additional \$10,000 contribution)	\$35,000

Contributions to Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park by member donations, sponsorship or public subscription

\$31,000

1999	Bunce Bollards (public subscriptions)	\$10,000
2002	Computerised Plant Labelling Machine (member donation)	\$15,000
2005	Development of Heritage Trail Interpretive Signage (sponsor)	\$6,000

Funds obtained for the benefit of Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park (applications written/supported by the Friends)

\$229,112

1997	City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) Community Concepts Computer for cataloguing GBG Reference Library	\$2,000
1998	Parks Vic Heritage Conservation Grant Restoration of the Cabmen's Shelter	\$10,000
2000	CoGG Arts and Festivals Grant	\$3,500

	GBG 150 th Anniversary Historic Photos Exhibition	
2001	Volunteers Small Equipment Grants Audio system, projector, digital camera	\$3,500
2001	Federation Community Project Grant Restoration of Hitchcock and Trail Fountains	\$20,000
2002	Parks Vic Conservation and Heritage Projects Grant Conservation of the Pit Glass House (1860s)	\$9,100
2003 - 4	Catholic Education Grant Develop Education Program for schools	\$2,000
2004	Volunteers Small Equipment Grants Lectern	\$2,012
2006	Heritage Victoria Grant Restoration of Eastern Park Rotunda (c1916)	\$32,000
2014	CoGG Community Concepts – CoGG (Capital budget) Interpretive Signage and labelling	\$35,000
2014 - 2016	Heritage Victoria Restoration Fund Restoration of the Ladies Kiosk (1904) in Eastern Park	\$80,000
2015	CoGG (Capital bid) Restoration of the Ladies Kiosk Ladies Kiosk Project was a funding partnership of the three organisations: City, Friends and Heritage Victoria	\$30,000

Financial Contributions to the GBG Reference Library, Art Collection and Meeting Room by the Friends

\$41,575

1997 - 2004	Development of GBG Library- shelving, cataloguing, database setup and librarian wages	\$16,534
	Additions to Library resources	\$5,500
1997 - 2004	Fit out and equip GBG Meeting Room	\$10,473
2000	Published reprint of Daniel Bunce <i>Manual of Practical Gardening</i>	\$1,660
2001	Purchase of artworks: <i>Pelargonium x hortorum</i> , <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> , <i>Ginkgo biloba (detail)</i> , <i>Geranium sp 1</i>	\$4,400
2003	Projection screen	\$350
2004	Lectern <i>plus grant \$2,012</i>	\$330
2010/11	Tables	\$475
2012	Storage Cupboards	\$473
2014	Storage Cupboards	\$900
2016	Display Boards	\$480

Financial Contributions to Interpretation and Promotion of the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park by the Friends

\$21,682 (not including CoGG/GBG Education Program)

1996	Professional photographs of Geelong Botanic Gardens	\$350
1997	Development of Promotional Video for the Botanic Gardens	\$9,100
1999	Development and publication of the Schools' Education Package'	\$2,100
	Development and publication of the Heritage Rose Gardens Leaflet	\$1,500
	Printing of GBG postcards	\$4,000
2000	Development and publication of Tree Discovery Walk brochure	\$1,800
2002	Purchase 3 'A' frame signs	\$2,100
2012	'A' Frames	\$732

Volunteer Guides

Since 1986, the Guides twice weekly walks and associated activities have been instrumental in promoting public enjoyment of the Gardens. The Friends support these members with training opportunities, equipment, conference registrations etc

Promotion and Professional Development

The Friends continue to promote The Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park with subscriptions to *Geelong and Bellarine Tourism* and Geelong What's On, the website, *Facebook*, *Instagram* etc

The Friends also regularly provide support for members and Volunteers to attend workshops, seminars, conferences, network meetings etc.

Volunteers in the Gardens [read more *Volunteers*](#)

Friends have many active volunteer roles in the Geelong Botanic Gardens:

- **Perennial Border** - members have actively worked in the Gardens since the late 1980s when the Friends and staff established this significant section of the Gardens. This area is still maintained and financially supported by the Friends
- **Heritage Rose Garden** – these garden beds are also maintained by the Friends (members who also belong to the Western District branch of Heritage Roses) and this garden is financially supported by the Friends.
- **Silver Border** -To celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the Friends in 2010, the Gardens Staff and Friends established these stunning garden beds near the Conservatory, financially supported by the Friends. The Perennial Border volunteers continue to help to maintain this Border.
- **GBG Reference Library**–Friends volunteer to coordinate this library and other reference collections which are held at the Gardens.

Tea House [read more *Tea House*](#)

The Friends' Tea House opened in 1992 with the Friends providing \$17,000 towards building and establishing it. A further \$22,000 is estimated to have been provided by the Friends for equipment and improvements. The Friends employed staff to manage the Tea House until January 2012, with volunteers providing more than 60,000 volunteer hours. The Friends provided all equipment for the Tea House during its management.

Friends' Nursery

The Friends established a Nursery in 1993, with \$2,100 for the initial equipment and fitout. Members volunteer each week to raise plants, largely sourced from the Gardens, for sale to the public. Nursery sales are a core part of the Friends' business. The Friends provided \$5,600 for a permanent shelter in 2000 and \$9,000 in 2014 for the display tables in the Nursery. A further contribution of \$1,218 has provided six more display tables for the Nursery in 2017. Over 5,000 volunteer hours are involved every year to operate this Nursery.

Music in the Gardens *read more [Music in the Gardens](#)*

Beginning on a small scale in 2000, this very popular Summer Music event brought thousands of people into the Gardens over 15 years. The last 'Music in the Gardens' was held in 2014, involving more than 1,000 volunteer hours and 150 Gardens Staff hours.

Geelong School of Botanical Art *read more [Botanical Art](#)*

This School was established in 2003 and the Friends took over the management in 2007. Classes are conducted during school term, workshops are usually conducted in school holidays and a Biennial Exhibition is held.

The Friends have managed these exhibitions:

2009	<i>Inspired by Nature 1</i> , The Gordon Gallery,
2011	<i>Inspired by Nature 2</i> , The Gordon Gallery
2013	<i>Inspired by Nature 3</i> , art@wintergarden
2015	<i>Inspired by Nature 4</i> , art@wintergarden

Inspired by Nature 5 is planned to open at the Wintergarden in October 2017

Events, Tours and other activities

The Friends provide an annual program for members and the public –bus tours, speaker evenings, open gardens and many more activities to interest the wide membership. The quarterly newsletter *Jubaea* is published by the Friends.

Financial Support for Gardens Staff and Support for Submissions to the City for Budget Considerations and Capital Bids

The Friends have also been generous in their support of the GBG staff with extensive contributions since 1997 to enable staff members to attend professional development and conferences, including international venues. It is estimated that \$5,500 was provided in the period 1997 – 2004.

The Friends funded the keynote speaker at the *International Pelargonium and Geranium Conference* in Geelong, 2006.

The Friends have also, on many occasions, given support for applications (involving the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park) which have been submitted to CoGG for consideration in the Budget or Capital Bid processes.

Some recent examples are:

- Restoration of the Walter Conservatory, due to reopen in 2017
- Restoration of the Ladies Kiosk, reopened in 2017
- Development of the Sustainable Visitor Facilities

Conferences hosted by the Friends

1994	National Conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens
2001	National Conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens
2016	National Conference of the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens

Exhibitions managed by the Friends

1995	<i>It's a Rare Thing; Rare and Threatened Flora</i> - Helen Leitch: Friends of Adelaide Botanic Gardens travelling exhibition, Geelong Art Gallery
2001	<i>Heritage and Botanic Art</i> : in partnership with Geelong Art Gallery
2003	<i>Nature Personified</i> – Helen Leitch: Museum of South Australia travelling exhibition, Gordon Gallery
2008	<i>Hidden in Plain View; The Forgotten Flora</i> : National Herbarium of Victoria travelling exhibition, Gordon Gallery <i>plus grant \$2,000 CoGG Community Festivals and Events</i>