

The full audited annual reports are tabled at this meeting and are also available to members from the Friends' Office. There are reports for:

- Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens and
- Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund
 - a Public Ancillary Fund, with a Trust Deed, administered by the Committee of the Friends as Trustees.

Financial Management

- Davidsons continues to provide professional accounting advice and to lodge IAS and PAYG returns when necessary.
- Financial records are maintained by our administration staff
- Annual audit is completed by the Audit department of Davidsons.

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund

- The Gift Fund is a separate business entity to the Friends and is reported separately.
- Many members have again taken the opportunity to make a 'tax deductible donation' to the Gift Fund – thank you for these contributions.
- Donations \$9,695.00 2024/25 cf \$4,763.84 2023/24
- Interest \$15,189.53 2024/25 cf \$19,188.55 2023/24
 - This difference due to timing of Interest being received
- Total Assets are \$422,663.54 June 30, 2025 cf \$414,364.87 June 30, 2024.

Contributions to Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park from the Gift Fund

- \$16,586 has been distributed from the Gift Fund to the Geelong Botanic Gardens during 2024/25:
 - \$8,250 Landscape Design Scope for Gate 3 Entrance
 - \$2,805 Plants from Wombat Gully Nursery
 - \$1,790 Support for the Education Program (teaching materials)
 - \$500 Australian Plants from Kuranga Native Nursery
 - \$3,241 Gardens: development and improvements
- This distribution ensures that we are compliant with the Statutory Requirement for distribution from a Public Ancillary Fund – 4% of Total Assets at end of previous Financial Year.

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

Contributions to Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park from Friends

- This includes some Garden Beds and the Volunteer Guides:
 - \$120 maintenance of the Perennial Border and Rose Garden
 - \$550 support for the Volunteer Guides
- and**
 - \$973 Wadawurrung Project, supported by grant funding.
- Volunteer Hours constitute a significant annual contribution by the Friends. This is not quantified or valued in exact dollar terms:
 - Volunteers, such as the Gardeners (Perennial Border, Weeders and Heritage Rose Bed), Librarians and Guides are directly involved in projects and programs within the Gardens
 - Volunteers involved with Committee, The Friends' Nursery, The Geelong School of Botanical Art and Events ensure that the Friends can exist as a viable organisation to support its members and also to support the City, the Gardens and the community.

- Financial support for the activities of these volunteers is ongoing. Additional uniform items were purchased (\$2,350) to for volunteers to supplement those obtained last year with grant money.
- The Wadawarrung Project received a further component(\$13,860) of the grant.
- Grant also received (\$850) towards the Seniors' Week event

Annual Reports

- **Profit and Loss:**
 - Loss recorded at \$-32,225 cf \$-28,215 2023/2024
 - Significant elements:
 - \$17,406 Reduction in valuation of stock in Plant Nursery
 - \$1,760 Increase in Accounting Fees – assistance with Government Audit of Covid Grant
 - \$4,648 Decrease in Event Revenue
 - \$5,983 Decrease in Seasonal Plant Sales
 - Administration, Operating and Staff expenses have been well held
- **Balance Sheet:**
 - Total Equity is \$318,361 cf \$350,586 last year
 - The Plant Stock in the Friends' Nursery is valued on June 30 each year and listed as a Current Asset. The movement in the valuation of the Plant Stock (decrease \$17,406) is listed in the Profit and Loss. Plant propagation significantly decreased during the year.
 - 'Provision for Annual Leave' and 'Provision for Long Service Leave' liabilities are recognized and allocated against the appropriate expense accounts of 'Annual Leave Provided' and 'Long Service Leave Provided'.
 - The Term Deposits are evidence of a long history of careful financial management since the Friends began in 1985. These funds ensure a secure future for the Friends and indicate the ability of the Friends to continue support, regardless of the annual return of any particular year.

General Comments

- We will continue to strive to generate income and to contain our costs and investigate new strategies for managing both income and expenses, while also considering member benefits.
 - Membership subscriptions will not alter for next year.
 - Prices for the Plant Nursery, Botanic Art and Events, Tours and Workshops are reviewed annually and at planning stages - all have member discounts.
- Staff and volunteer expenses continue to be monitored closely, resources will be used carefully and training opportunities will again be provided.
- Interest rates are low and this will continue to have an effect on revenue.
- Sincere thanks to the members of Committee for continual support over the last year.
- Very sincere thanks to our two staff members in our office. Sally and Tracey manage all of the receipting of monies and ensure that our record-keeping of all financial transactions are completed accurately and promptly...as well as a million other 'non-financial' chores.
- I am confident that procedures are in place that ensure current and future financial management will be compliant and as straightforward as possible for future Committees.

Judy Fyfe Treasurer
August 19 2025