

Botanic Gardens Trust

Annual Report 2007–2008

Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain

Mrs Macquaries Rd, Sydney 2000
Ph (02) 9231 8111 Fax (02) 9251 4403

- Gardens offices 8.30 am–5 pm
Monday – Friday
- Botanic Gardens Shop 9.30 am–
4.30 pm 9231 8125
- Community education service
bookings 9231 8134
- Free guided walks 10.30 am every day
- Botanical information service
9231 8155
- Plant pathology diagnostic service
9231 8186
- Botanic Gardens Restaurant & cafe
9241 2419
- Pavilion on the Park restaurant & cafe
9232 1322
- Accessible entrances & toilets

Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Mount Annan Dr, Mount Annan 2567
Ph (02) 4648 2477 Fax (02) 4648 2465

Open all year round except Christmas
Day • shop & visitor centre • barbecue
& picnic facilities • restaurant
& cafe • Education service & tours

Mount Tomah Botanic Garden

Bells Line of Rd, via Bilpin 2758
Ph (02) 4567 2154 Fax (02) 4567 2037

Open all year round except Christmas
Day • shop & visitor centre • restaurant
& cafe • education service & tours

This annual report and further information
on the research, conservation and
education programs and services of the
Botanic Gardens Trust can be found at
www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au



Map of the Sydney region

Botanic Gardens Trust Annual Report 2007–2008

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Letter to the Minister

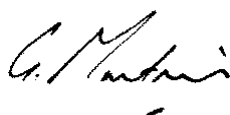
The Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MP
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment
Parliament House, Sydney 2000

Dear Minister

I have great pleasure in presenting the 2007–08 Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust for presentation to Parliament.

This Report covers in full the Trust's activities and Statement of Accounts in accordance with the *Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980*, the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act* and the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Regulations 2005*.

Yours sincerely



Greg Martin
Chairperson
Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

Photo: Bark of *Eucalyptus pauciflora* (Snow Gum or White Sally) — part of the Candlebark–Apple Box–Robertson's Peppermint tall open forest community as defined in the Trust's NSW Vegetation Classification and Assessment Project.



Chair and Executive Director's Report



Greg Martin



Tim Entwisle

In just eight years the Botanic Gardens, one of Australia's most treasured living institutions, will be 200 years old. Sydney's Botanic Bicentenary will be a chance to reflect on an extraordinary history whose achievements are founded on the twin and interdependent attributes of all great institutions: relevance and resilience. Planning for this historical event continued throughout the year with the finalisation of the Trust's 2016 program. Fundraising commenced — our big challenge over the next few years will be to raise the money required to realise our vision.

A major Bicentennial project is the transformation of the Macquarie Precinct in the Royal Botanic Gardens. A design competition will herald a grand botanical gateway to the Gardens at the corner of Bent and Macquarie Streets, with visionary landscaping and new visitor facilities. The design will be sympathetic to the existing fabric of the Gardens' landscapes (including Morshead Fountain) and adjacent precincts, and be a statement for the future. The Tropical Centre and other glasshouses newly opened to the public will display evolution in action and how plants will respond to climate change. The whole precinct will connect to the centre of the Gardens through a treetop walk alongside the Palm Grove.

Another exciting project for the Royal Botanic Gardens is a Children's Garden. A safe, stimulating and exciting garden for children — a garden where children can explore and make things, and fire their imaginations. Concept designs by the Government Architect's Office feature innovative design, without detracting from the heritage values of the Garden's location. There is much planned, and we look forward to sharing our vision for a 21st century botanic garden, tackling the big environmental issues and inviting visitors to marvel at plants and their importance to life on earth.

This year saw a renewed focus on the stewardship of the lands of the Royal

Botanic Gardens and Domain. As part of the \$8 million Central Depot restoration, three heritage glasshouses were sympathetically renovated and a new Plant Pathology laboratory built. The Main Ponds restoration program was completed, raising the sandstone walls in anticipation of rising sea levels. A new, 25-year lease for the Domain Car Park was signed, with plans for better visitor amenities, improved landscape in the Domain and additional support for the Trust's programs.

The historic Palm Grove continued to be under threat from increasing numbers of Grey-Headed Flying-Foxes, now up to 22,000 at their peak. A licence to relocate the flying-foxes will be sought from the State and Commonwealth governments. In the meantime, our current wildlife licence allows the use of local deterrents such as the colourful 'inflatable man' which discourages the animals from those trees at most risk.

The Trust takes every opportunity to link the role of botanic gardens with the natural environment. An important step in providing that bridge between the built and natural environment came this year with the opening the Waratah Education Centre at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden. The building includes many sustainable features, including geothermal heating, and natural ventilation and lighting. In 2009 this facility will connect to the World Heritage Exhibition Centre, a partnership between the Botanic Gardens Trust and New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Through a generous donation by John Fairfax and his family, supplemented by funding from the Environmental Trust, we have been able to purchase a 33 hectare piece of land adjacent to Mount Tomah Botanic Garden. The purchase of 'The Jungle' provides a secure base for the development of Mount Tomah Botanic Garden into the future and secures a block of temperate New South Wales rainforest for future generations.

We are delighted to report the launch, by The Hon. Paul Lynch MP, Minister

Photo: Bark of Angophora leiocarpa (Northern Smooth Barked Apple or Dirty Gum) — part of the cypress pine shrubby woodland community as defined in the Trust's NSW Vegetation Classification and Assessment Project.

for Aboriginal Affairs, of the Stolen Generations Memorial at Mount Annan Botanic Garden in October. The memorial provides an opportunity for all visitors to the Garden to reflect on the Stolen Generations and the impact this era had on the lives of Indigenous Australians. The setting, in native Cumberland Plain woodland, allows for quiet reflection.

The Bowden Centre (opened May 2007) at Mount Annan Botanic Garden continues to attract praise for its striking design and sustainability features. On top of a string of environmental awards, the centre and its architects Kennedy Associates also won the 2008 Sulman Award for Public Architecture. For an architect, this award is the equivalent of an artist's Archibald, a ringing endorsement of the Trust's commitment to design innovation. A new feature at Mount Annan, the Grevillea Garden, displays over 170 species of Grevillea, and the extensive use of dry stone walling continues what is becoming an attraction in itself.

Published research is a key performance indicator of research endeavours and citation of Trust scientific papers, an international indicator of scientific performance, was again in excess of comparable organisations. Eighteen new species of plants, fungi and algae from New South Wales and beyond were discovered and described.

Partnerships were established and fundraising commenced for the Centre for Plant Conservation and Research, a 2016 Bicentenary project at Mount Annan Botanic Garden. State-of-the-art laboratories, a 21st century library, and a suite of multi-function rooms and lecture facilities will attract scientists from New South Wales and other parts of Australia, as well as international scientists with research interests in Gondwana and inter-continental research.

The Asia-Pacific Capacity Building program will be just one program in the Centre for Plant Conservation and

Research at Mount Annan Botanic Garden. A pilot Diploma in Asia-Pacific Botanic Garden management will be run in mid-2009, as a partnership between the Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand, Botanic Gardens Conservation International and the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

During the year the Trust reviewed its visitor proposition for Mount Tomah Botanic Garden and began reviews of Mount Annan and Sydney estates. The exercise is providing an opportunity for the Trust to analyse the unique features of each of its estates, to refocus its strategic marketing initiatives to increase the number of visitors — and their enjoyment — through offering an inspirational experience of the world of plants.

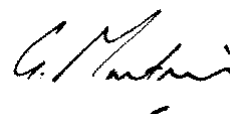
Corporate sponsorship and private benefactors continue to provide essential support to the ongoing success of the Gardens. The Trust would especially like to thank Allianz Australia and Mr Tony Maxwell and Ms Robyn Godlee for their generous support of the Rainforest Seed Conservation Program, a conservation initiative to study and bank the short-lived seeds of Australian rainforest species.

We were delighted this year to send the first Australian seeds into space, to test their resilience and promote the importance of seedbanking as an insurance policy against climate change.

The Trust thanks the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation for its pledge to support Youth Community Greening, a program to help disadvantaged youth to learn about gardening, conservation and the environment. The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, Mrs Ros Packer and a private benefactor have generously provided four-years funding to the Foundation for the project.

The Community Support section of this annual report provides further details of the wonderful support the Trust receives from the corporate and private sector. The Trust greatly values

the support and investment of its stakeholder organisations, the Friends of The Gardens and the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation, our volunteers, and the generosity of our donors and sponsors. Special thanks go this year to our volunteers for their unstinting contributions. The Trust would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of all staff, Friends, volunteers, honorary associates, external members of our Trust and other committees — all our supporters — for their ongoing commitment to the work of the Trust. As we enter the third year of the Botanic Bicentenary countdown, we invite you to join with us in supporting and preparing for this historic celebration.



Greg Martin
Chair, Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust



Dr Tim Entwisle
Executive Director

Highlights of the Year

PLANT BIODIVERSITY AND HABITATS

- Publication of five new species of vascular plants, two species and three genera of marine algae, four species of lichens and seven species of fungi.
- New collections of 99 rare and threatened plants added to the Herbarium collection, and 36 range extensions.
- Success with research grants awarded to the Trust — including involvement in two collaborative postdoctoral grants awarded by the Australian Biological Resources Study.
- High productivity of scientific publications; 84 scientific publications produced (14 above target).
- Citation of Trust scientific papers again in excess of comparable organisations.
- Completion of Stage 2 of the New South Wales Vegetation Classification and Assessment project covering 53 million hectares (65 per cent) of the State now classified into 310 plant communities.
- Collaborative research with the Sydney Metropolitan and Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authorities on the distribution of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, the cause of root-rot disease, highlights the importance of this disease on bushland communities in these regions.
- SeedQuest NSW partnership with the Millennium Seedbank (UK) sees 298 NSW seed collections made and duplicated at the NSW Seedbank.
- Australian native seeds journey with Space Shuttle *Discovery* to the International Space Station.

PLANTS IN NATURAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

- Public programs for over 55,000 visitors to the Trust's three botanic gardens; nearly 14,000 participate in the Trust's outreach initiatives.
- Nearly 24,000 students participating in school-based lessons in the Gardens.
- Collaborative partnerships

strengthened with Australian Museum, Taronga Zoo, Western Plains Zoo and Museum of Sydney.

- Volunteer guides provide around 960 free guided tours for more than 6,800 visitors to the three botanic gardens.
- Weekly Aboriginal Heritage tours of the Royal Botanic Gardens increasingly popular with tourists.
- Around 140 aspiring artists and plant enthusiasts take part in a range of botanical illustration workshops.
- 'Community Greening' reaches around 3,300 people, particularly in areas of disadvantage.

PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE

- Stolen Generations Memorial at Mount Annan launched in October by The Hon. Paul Lynch MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.
- Total water use at Mount Annan reduced by 36 per cent to 33,000kL.
- Annual target met of 2.7 hectares of primary control of African Olive within Cumberland Plain Woodland at Mount Annan.
- New 'garden wall' at the Tropical Centre entrance supports a display of bromeliads and orchids that will provide colourful displays for a number of years.
- Purchase of a 33 hectare piece of land adjacent to Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, 'The Jungle' provides a secure base for the development of Mount Tomah Botanic Garden into the future and secures a block of temperate New South Wales rainforest for future generations.
- Historic Main Ponds in the Royal Botanic Gardens restored.

BOTANIC GARDENS AND PARKLANDS

- Domain hosts tens of thousands who come to see USS Kitty Hawk, QE2 and Queen Victoria ships.
- Increase by 33 per cent of community and government sponsored events in Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain.
- Mount Tomah Waratah World Heritage Education Centre opened in June.

- Wild about Waratahs and Autumn Harvest Food & Wine Fair attract around 5,000 visitors.
- Annual event calendar at Mount Annan draws around 15,000 visitors — a record year.
- Fathers Day at Mount Annan sees a 42 per cent increase in visitors and 25 per cent increase in gate revenue.
- Landcom sponsored Carols at Mount Annan attract the largest crowd yet of around 6,500 — an increase of over 15 per cent.
- Bowden Centre at Mount Annan receives the 2008 Sulman Award for Public Architecture.
- Grevillea Garden at Mount Annan, displaying over 170 species of Grevillea within a rustic landscape of dry stone walling, is completed.

SUPPORT & PARTNERSHIPS

- Friends of The Gardens provide \$500,000 financial support to the Trust.
- Donations to Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation fund Youth Community Greening and Rainforest Seed Conservation Program.
- Environmental education program, Community Greening, funded to 2011.
- Restoration of heritage statuary in the Royal Botanic Gardens funded through gifts to Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation.
- Existing partnerships with Landcom, M5 South West Motorway and Pernod Ricard Australia continue to make an important contribution to the Trust's work.
- HSBC and Neutrog Fertilisers partnerships deliver sustainable horticulture initiatives.
- Private donors support fit-out of Waratah World Heritage Education Centre, Tropical Centre 'Garden Wall' and purchase of laboratory equipment.
- Generous donation by John Fairfax and his family, supplemented by funding from the Environmental Trust, funds purchase of 'The Jungle', adjacent to Mount Tomah Botanic Garden.



The Organisation

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (Botanic Gardens Trust) is a statutory body and is part of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW).

Our Mission

To inspire the appreciation and conservation of plants.

Our Objectives

The *Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980* defines the Trust's objectives as:

- to maintain and improve Trust lands, the National Herbarium of New South Wales and the collections of living and preserved plant life owned by the Trust
- to increase and disseminate knowledge about the plant-life of Australia, and of New South Wales in particular
- to encourage the public use and enjoyment of Trust lands by promoting and increasing the educational, historical, cultural and recreational value of these lands.

When acting in pursuance of its Objects, the Trust is required to give particular emphasis to encouraging and advancing the study of systematic botany, and to plant conservation.

Our Values

In all that we do, the Botanic Gardens Trust values:

- Our natural and cultural environment
- Advancing, disseminating and using knowledge
- A safe, healthy and fulfilling workplace
- Excellence
- Innovation and initiative
- Achieving more through partnerships.

Our Business

The Trust is responsible for a multifaceted organisation situated on four separate estates: the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Domain, Mount Tomah Botanic Garden and Mount Annan Botanic Garden. Our estates are places of natural beauty where people can come for peace, relaxation, entertainment, recreation, education — and to discover more about plants and horticulture. The National Herbarium of New South Wales is a reference library of over 1.2 million preserved plants, and underpins an extensive science program — with cutting-edge research programs in botany, ecology and horticulture of plants, especially those of New South Wales and Australia.

Our Estates

The Royal Botanic Gardens is an oasis in the heart of the city of Sydney, comprising 30 hectares of magnificent landscape adjacent to the Harbour, the Opera House and the central business district.

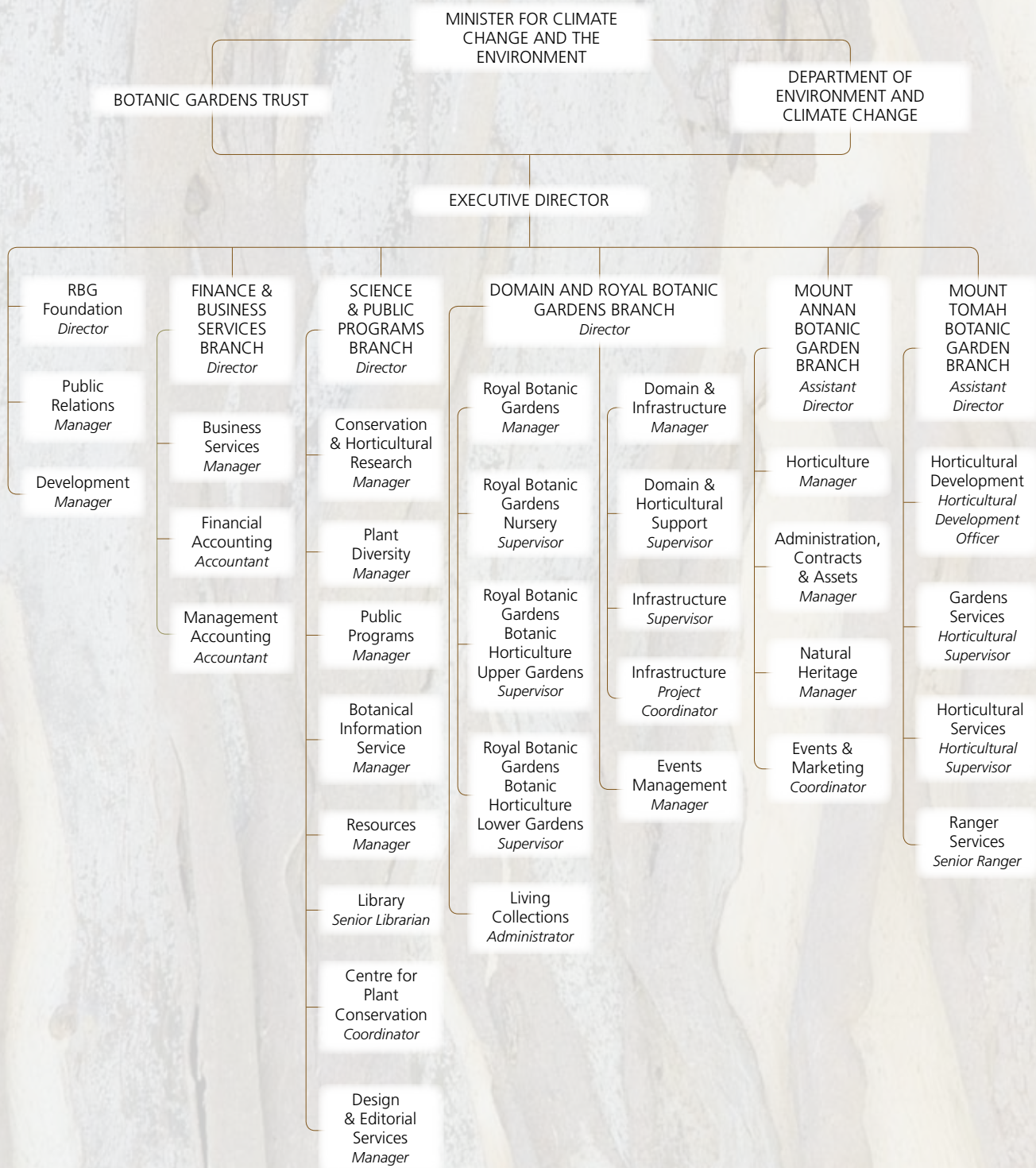
The Domain is a 28-hectare urban park situated on the eastern edge of the Sydney central business district. Its spectacular geographical setting offers extensive harbour and city views as well as recreation opportunities. The park is used for leisure, sport, recreation and tourism, as well as special events, and is endowed with significant natural and cultural heritage values.

Mount Annan Botanic Garden displays the enormous diversity of our Australian flora. Covering over 400 hectares on the south-western outskirts of Sydney between Camden and Campbelltown in the Macarthur region, it is Australia's largest botanic garden.

Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, in the beautiful Blue Mountains west of Sydney, displays one of the world's finest collections of cool-climate plants in a 28-hectare botanic garden adjacent to a 189-hectare natural area. It is the natural gateway to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Photo: Bark of Cadellia pentastylis (Ooline) — part of the Ooline forest community as defined in the Trust's NSW Vegetation Classification and Assessment Project.

Organisation structure



Positions as at September 2008

Corporate Governance

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust is a statutory body established by the *Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980*. The legislation defines the objectives, powers and functions of the Trust and vests certain land and property in the Trust. It also governs the Regulations relating to all three botanic gardens and the Domain. The Trust is formally accountable to the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment for fulfilling the statutory requirements.

The non-executive Trust members are appointed by the Governor of NSW on the recommendation of the Minister for a term of up to four years. The Trust's membership represents a diversity of expertise and experience in horticulture, plant sciences, business, industrial relations, education, and cultural and community affairs.

Remuneration

Remuneration of Trustees is determined by the Premier under the guidelines for the Remuneration and Categorisation of Boards. The Trust is classified as an Advisory Committee which, under the terms of the Act, is '... subject to the control and direction of the Minister ...'. The Chairperson receives an annual fee of \$7,350 and the other Trustees each receive \$3,675 per annum.

Trust Liability

Trustees and employees of the Trust are covered by the Treasury Managed Fund for any legal liability, as long as the action is not illegal or criminal and outside the scope of their duties.

Best Practice

In meeting the Trust objectives and setting a clear strategic direction for the organisation, the Trustees are committed to best practice in corporate governance. In 2007–08, Trustees conducted their activities with reference to the Premier's Conduct Guidelines for Members of NSW Government Boards and Committees (see Appendix G).

Legislative Changes

In 2007–08 there were no changes to the *Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980*, the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act* or the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Regulations*.

Trust Meeting Attendance

The Director, Finance and Business Services is Secretary to the Trust, and keeps the common seal. The Senior Executive Assistant records the minutes of the Trust. The Trust met six times.

Trustee	Meetings Attended
Dr Katrina Fairley-Grenot	5
Ms Tim Jackson	3
Mr Greg Martin	5
Mr Tom Pinzone	5
Mr Michael Samaras	5
Prof. Susan Serjeantson	5
Mr Nigel Swinn	3

Risk Management

Deloitte was engaged to review and update the Trust's business risk assessment and strategic internal audit plan. The full report is reviewed annually, with updates approved by the Trust Finance Audit and Risk Management Committee.

The three-year internal audit plan has been developed to focus on areas of greatest risk and is directly linked to the risk assessment review undertaken by Deloitte. The internal audit plan is cyclical over the period, balancing risk with finite Internal Audit resources. This approach is consistent with the approach advocated by the Institute of Internal Auditors and the plan is aligned to current Best Practice Statements on Internal Audit and Internal Controls.

Through the activity of Internal Audit within those areas of risk identified, the Trust will receive assurance that the systems within the organisation are operating in both an effective and efficient manner and providing quality information to management upon which decisions are made.

Our Trustees



Kate Fairley-Grenot



Tim Jackson



Greg Martin



Tom Pinzone



Michael Samaras



Susan Serjeantson



Nigel Swinn

Dr KATE FAIRLEY-GRENOT

BSc (Hons), PhD (Sydney), MSc Science & Technology Policy (Sussex), FAICD

(Appointed 8 January 2005; present term expires 7 January 2009)

Kate Grenot is a practitioner in the Australian life sciences industry, with interests in the role of plant science in society and in the domestic economy. Kate has a PhD in plant physiology and investigated signal transduction in plants as a research fellow at Harvard. She subsequently spent several years with Coopers & Lybrand and now works as a management consultant in Sydney. Kate is a reference committee member for the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies.

Ms TIM JACKSON

Cert.Hort.UK, MAIH

(Appointed 29 May 2005; present term expires 28 May 2009)

Tim Jackson, former Vice President of the NSW Council of the Australian Institute of Horticulture, was President of the Friends of The Gardens from 2001 to 2003. A pioneer member of the Growing Friends, Tim was instrumental in establishing the Friends' Artisans Exhibition in 2000 and in implementing the garden-themed Literary Lunch in conjunction with the Sydney Writers Festival in 2004. Tim, a member of the Horticultural Media Association, writes freelance gardening articles for various magazines and is still involved in the Australian Institute of Horticulture and very involved in community-based gardening.

Mr GREG MARTIN

BEC, LLB

(Appointed Chair 1 December 2003; appointed to Trust 1 July 2003; present term expires 30 June 2011)

Greg Martin joined Challenger Financial Services Group as Chief Executive, Challenger Infrastructure in May 2006 after a career spanning more than 25

years with The Australian Gas Light Company (AGL). While at AGL, Greg held a variety of senior management roles both in Australia and overseas and within a number of AGL's associated entities. Between 2001 and 2006 he served as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of AGL. Greg is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is a non executive director on the Board of Energy Developments Ltd and has been appointed to the Board of the newly formed Australian Energy Market Operator Limited.

Mr TOM PINZONE

BE, FIEAust, MAICD

(Appointed 26 April 2006; present term expires 25 April 2010)

Tom Pinzone is a consulting civil engineer with over 35 years professional experience. He is a Director of GHD Pty Ltd and leads its Transportation Business Sector. His experience includes urban and regional development, water and wastewater and transportation projects. He is the co-author of a widely quoted series of Australian Infrastructure Report Cards. Tom has a long history of service with professional and industry associations at executive and committee level including Engineers Australia, ACEA and AusCID and has served on a number of government advisory groups.

Mr MICHAEL SAMARAS

BA (Hons) MBA

(Re-appointed 26 June 2006; present term expires 25 June 2010)

Michael Samaras is the Manager, Media and Communications for Sydney Airport. His communications experience covers the fields of media, marketing, community and government relations. Michael is also a Director of the Auburn & Lidcombe United Friendly Society. He has experience in a number of infrastructure sectors including urban road transport.

Prof. SUSAN SERJEANTSON

BSc (Hons), PhD

(Re-appointed 21 December 2004; present term expires 20 December 2008)

Sue Serjeantson is a science policy consultant and until May 2008 was Executive Secretary of the Australian Academy of Science. Her research interests have focused on human genetics, at the University of Hawaii, where she obtained her PhD, and then at the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research. Sue joined the Australian National University in Canberra in 1976, first at the John Curtin School of Medical Research and then, for four years from 1994, as Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). Her research in molecular genetics and in improving the outcome of organ transplantation has been recognised by the National Clunies-Ross Award for Science and Technology, the Ruth Sanger Medal and by the Order of Australia.

Mr NIGEL SWINN

(Appointed 11 November 2005; present term expires 10 November 2008)

Nigel Swinn has worked as a brand builder for over twenty years — originally growing a successful brand consultancy in New Zealand called Designworks, then after the business was bought out by John Singleton's STW group, forming an Australian consultancy called Yello. Now head of Yello's strategic services, Nigel works as a brand consultant to a number of Australian and New Zealand businesses — working closely with the senior executives of companies as diverse as Westpac and Vodafone, Camp Quality and the Cancer Council. Previously a marketing manager at Tourism New Zealand, Nigel has facilitated business and brand strategies for brands ranging from large corporates such as Air New Zealand, Rio Tinto and Wattyl paints, to small and entrepreneurial brands like the award-winning Bee Eco products range, the Cape York Indigenous Enterprise community and Taronga Zoo. ■

Trust Committees

Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee

Ensures the sound financial position of the Trust through regular reviews of financial position, budget, finance and business decisions, and policies which have an effect on these areas. The committee also has an important role in risk management and audit through endorsement of internal and external audit plans, review of audit reports and implementation of recommendations, and the review of risk assessment and management. During the year an Internal Audit of Fraud and Corruption Prevention was commenced.

Scientific Committee Oversees the scientific programs of the Trust and reviews and advises the Trust on research, scientific policy and the operations of the National Herbarium of New South Wales. The focus, directions and performance of the Sciences Branch and of individual programs are monitored through regular reporting. This year the committee provided advice on the upcoming major review of the science programs at the Trust, major funding bids, ongoing restructuring of the Sciences Branch and planning for new scientific programs.

Botanic Gardens Committee Advises the Trust on the operations, requirements and priorities of the Botanic Gardens Branch and Public Programs Section programs. It also advises the Trust on risk management and ethics in collections curation and promotes interaction between the Trust and other collection-based cultural institutions in the areas of education, interpretation and exhibition design. This year the committee advised the Trust on the renovations of Sydney Gardens' Main Ponds, Children's Garden, signage and interpretation policies; Mount Annan's Connections Garden, Adventure Playground, and regional cycleway; Mount Tomah's woodlands, tree landscape projects and World Heritage Centre; and the Public Programs Section yearly plan.

Trust Committee Composition

Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee

Dr Kate Fairley-Grenot (Chair), Mr Greg Martin, Mr Tom Pinzone

Scientific Committee

Assoc. Prof. Jeremy Bruhl, Dr Tim Entwisle, Dr Dan Faith, Dr Murray Henwood, Dr Klaus Koop, Prof. Sue Serjeantson (Chair), Dr Brett Summerell, Dr Jane Tarran

Botanic Gardens Committee

Dr Tim Entwisle, Ms Judy Fakes, Ms Tim Jackson (Chair), Mr Anton James, Prof. Peter Martin, Mr Simon Leake, Ms Colleen Morris, Mr Michael Samaras, Mr Mark Savio

Statement of Responsibility

The Trust's Board, Executive Director, senior management and other employees have effected a risk management and internal control process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of the agency's objectives. The internal audit function conducts a program of review to assess these controls.

To the best of our knowledge, this system of risk management and internal control operated satisfactorily during the year.

Significant improvements in risk management and internal control effected during the year, as well as those planned for the future, are included in this report.



Greg Martin
Chair, Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust



Dr Tim Entwisle
Executive Director



Tim Entwisle



Mark Savio



Brett Summerell



Caz McCallum



Clare Hamilton



Rob Smith

Our Executive

DR TIM ENTWISLE

BSc (Hons), PhD

Executive Director and New South Wales Government Botanist

Accountable to the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, Director-General Department of Environment and Climate Change, and the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment for the efficient and effective management of the organisation, including its horticultural, scientific, educational, marketing, commercial and corporate support functions.

DR BRETT SUMMERELL

BScAgr (Hons), PhD

Director, Science and Public Programs

Responsible for the leadership and management of Science and Public Programs, including systematics, ecological and horticultural research, as well as the National Herbarium of NSW, library and laboratories, and for the community education program.

CLARE HAMILTON

BBus (Accounting), CPA

Director Finance and Business Services

Responsible for the organisation's financial resource management and business services, including leasing and Sydney Gardens retail. Secretary to the Trust and the Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee.

MARK SAVIO

Hort.Cert

Director, Domain and Royal Botanic Gardens

Responsible for the management of all services and operations at the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain.

CAZ McCALLUM

MAG (Turf Mgt), BA, DipEd

Assistant Director, Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Responsible for the management of all services and operations at Mount Annan Botanic Garden.

ROB SMITH

BA, NatHortCert, FRIH

Assistant Director, Mount Tomah Botanic Garden

Responsible for the management of all services and operations at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden. ■

Delivering Our Services

There are five broad areas under which the Botanic Gardens Trust delivers its programs.

Botanic Gardens and Parks Programs

- maintaining and developing the Domain for recreation, relaxation and celebrations.
- maintaining and improving significant living collections in the three botanic gardens.
- interpreting the living collections in the three botanic gardens for visitors.
- looking after the heritage items on each site.
- maintaining the facilities and open space of the three botanic gardens to accommodate a wide range of recreational and educational uses.

Public Programs

- facilitating community and other events and activities on Trust lands.
- coordinating, facilitating and promoting plant conservation programs within and outside the Trust through the Centre for Plant Conservation (to become part of the proposed Centre for Plant Conservation and Research).
- providing valuable scientific, Indigenous and environmental educational resources for individuals, other learning institutions and key communities.
- providing visitors with meaningful learning experiences as well as enjoyable outings, together with a Statewide service of learning opportunities for those who don't or can't visit our sites.
- maintaining a program of activities and events for tourists to NSW.

Research

- investigating the systematics, ecology, horticulture and pathology of plants and related organisms and disseminating the results.
- contributing to the development and implementation of State, national and international policies.
- maintaining and enhancing the collection of preserved plants in the National Herbarium of NSW, and making the information held in the collection readily accessible.
- providing botanical information and identifications.
- supporting science and related programs through provision of library, scientific illustration, research facilities and vehicles.

Commercial Services

- enabling commercial operators to establish services and businesses for the public.
- maintaining pay parking operations to assist with Trust-funded projects.
- maintaining retail outlets to support Trust objectives and generate income.
- operating a quality commercial horticultural service.
- administering a system of licences and leases that balance the interests of all current and future users of Trust lands.

Management of Resources

- complying with applicable legislation including the *State Records Act 1998*, the *Privacy and Personal Information Act 1998* and the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*.
- as part of the Department of Environment and Climate Change, implementing Government policy initiatives such as Equal Employment Opportunity, Ethnic Affairs Priorities and the Disability Policy Framework to ensure that discrimination in access to employment, services and facilities is eradicated.

- taking a strategic approach to ensure that we provide clear and relevant information to the public about the activities and objectives of the Trust.
- developing sponsorship and other support for the activities of the Trust.

Results and Services Priorities

Trust performance is measured through key indicators linked to its Results and Services Plan, a whole of Government initiative to better link corporate outcomes with Government. The Plan provides information to Treasury and to the Minister about the Trust's performance, particularly the results that the Trust is achieving with the funding it receives. This Plan also identifies the Trust's service delivery priorities. The Trust is required to submit a Results and Services Plan as part of the annual budget process. Like the rest of the Department, the Trust addresses the key Government environmental priorities and also contributes to key economic and health results for New South Wales.

The Government's major objective of a sustainable community is reported on through Results and Services strategies designed to protect and restore biodiversity, to protect cultural heritage, to develop Sydney as a tourist destination, to work towards more liveable neighbourhoods, and to increase the number of people using sport and recreation to improve their wellbeing.

This annual report is structured around the Trust's Corporate Plan, an integration of Government Results and Services Priorities with Trust key services and objectives. It includes a number of major milestones towards the Trust's Botanic Bicentenary in 2016. These milestones take us to 2010, and include some that will commence in subsequent years. ■



Plant Biodiversity and Habitats

The scientific program of the Botanic Gardens Trust is the oldest and one of the most highly respected in Australia. Through our research and scientific programs, the Trust is a major contributor to the discovery and conservation of plant biodiversity in New South Wales, as well as nationally and internationally.

The Trust also manages natural areas and living plant collections (including the New South Wales Seedbank), as well as preserved plant collections within the National Herbarium of New South Wales. These habitats and collections are key assets of the Trust, and a vital resource to our scientists as well as the broader community.

Program Highlights

Success with grants awarded to the

- Publication of five new species of vascular plants, two species and three genera of marine algae, four species of lichens and seven species of fungi.
- New collections of 99 rare and threatened plants added to the Herbarium collection, and 36 range extensions.
- Success with research grants awarded to the Trust — including involvement in two collaborative postdoctoral grants awarded by the Australian Biological Resources Study.
- High productivity of scientific publications; 84 scientific publications produced (14 above target).
- Citation of Trust scientific papers again in excess of comparable organisations.
- Completion of Stage 2 of the New South Wales Vegetation Classification and Assessment project covering 53 million hectares (65 per cent) of the State now classified into 310 plant communities.
- Collaborative research with the Sydney Metropolitan and Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authorities on the distribution of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, the cause of root-rot disease, highlights the importance of this disease on bushland communities in these regions.
- SeedQuest NSW partnership with the Millennium Seedbank (UK) sees 298 NSW seed collections made and duplicated at the NSW Seedbank.

- Australian native seeds journey with Space Shuttle *Discovery* to the International Space Station.

Well managed scientific and conservation collections

The Botanical Information Service identified and processed 99 new records and threatened plants from New South Wales. The Herbarium accessioned four new species to science (still to be researched and described), six new records for New South Wales, and 36 extensions of range.

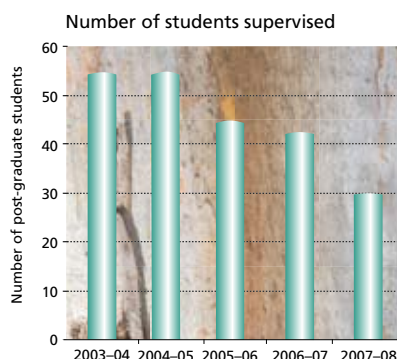
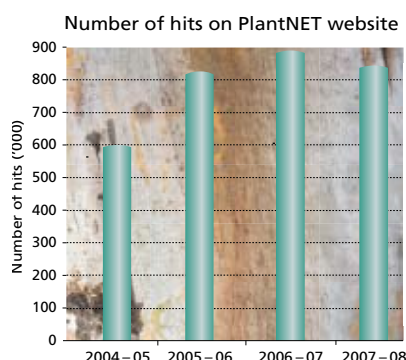
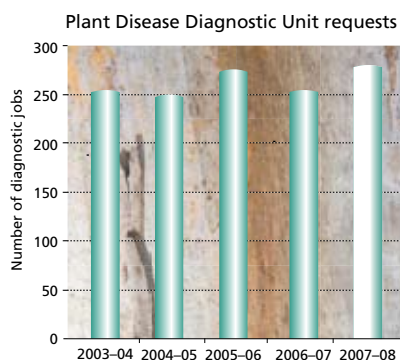
Duplicate specimens were exchanged with other herbaria, resulting in 2,409 specimens being added to the herbarium; 1,893 duplicates were sent in exchange. Specimens added from other sources totalled 1,503. Around 15,000 specimens were mounted by the volunteer mounting team.

Curation of herbarium specimens in the National Herbarium of NSW met or exceeded most national benchmarks for Australian herbaria. The large number of unmounted specimens is being addressed through the specimen mounting program, staffed by volunteers, which continues to make significant inroads into mounting the collection, especially new accessions.

The level of databasing was considerably higher than the previous year due to funding for stage two of Australia's Virtual Herbarium project. This funding allowed for 12,800 specimens to be databased during the year.

The SeedQuest NSW partnership with the Millennium Seedbank (UK) saw 298 NSW seed collections (accessions) made and duplicated at the NSW Seedbank (Mount Annan) and the Millennium Seedbank. Despite drought conditions in many parts of the State, the SeedQuest project is maintaining its collecting target — total collections sent to the Millennium Seedbank thus far are 1,167 — well on way to the target of 1,500 by year 2010.

Photo: Bark of Corymbia torelliana (Cadaga or Cadaghi), typically from Queensland, is yet to be included in the Trust's NSW Vegetation Classification and Assessment Project.



Accurate and timely scientific information

The Trust's aim is to publish a mix of papers for general and scientific audiences each year. Eighty-four scientific publications were produced by Trust scientists and honorary research associates in a range of international journals, well over the target of 70. Sixteen general interest articles were published, just under the target of 20. Two volumes of each of the Trust's journals *Telopea* and *Cunninghamia* were published and included a range of scientific papers not only from staff of the Trust but also scientists from Australian and State government agencies and a number of universities.

A number of species new to science were described by Trust scientists and honorary research associates, including five species of vascular plants, two species and three genera of marine algae, four lichens and seven species of fungi.

The target for botanical information service delivery of 70 per cent of inquiries to be answered within seven days was exceeded this year (reaching 88 per cent). The number of requests for diagnosis at the Plant Disease Diagnostic Unit (PDDU) continued to be high with a strong demand for detection of soil-borne pathogens, particularly those species causing *Phytophthora* root-rot. The PDDU was funded by the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority and the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority to survey bushland in those regions for the presence of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* — the cause of root-rot. Over 800 soil samples were analysed, with many areas confirmed to be infested by the pathogen. Management plans will be developed to control the pathogen spread.

PlantNET, including NSW Flora Online, is the Trust's web plant information service. Patronage continues at a very high level and it is increasingly used to provide identification information for a range of clients. Further development of this site is planned for 2008–09.

The Trust is represented on the New South Wales Scientific Committee which makes recommendations on the listing of organisms as threatened species within the State. Trust scientists also serve on a number of international biodiversity committees including Species 2000 and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Such programs aim to ensure that biodiversity information is consistent between countries and is shared in an equitable fashion.

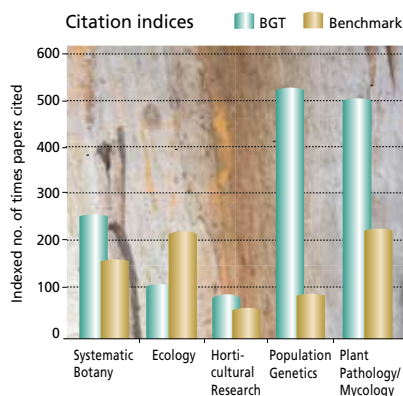
The Citation Indices graph compares the number of times scientific papers by groups of our researchers are cited in international journals with a comparative group of researchers from other Australian institutions. This year again Trust scientists performed above average. Note that this is not the complete number of times papers have been cited as the International Scientific Index does not collate information from all journals. It is also weighted in favour of disciplines that have a short and rapid citation life (e.g. medicine).

The number of grants achieved and the total amount of funds awarded was increased substantially over last year with success in a number of areas of research. Of particular note was that Trust scientists were awarded two of the five new grants for employment of post-doctoral scientists working in taxonomic research by the Australian Biological Resources Study. Note that the data included in the Externally Funded Grants graph includes grants awarded directly to the Trust as well as those awarded to other institutions where Trust staff are co-investigators. See Grant Funding to the Trust (Appendix D) for a detailed list of grants.

2016 Botanic Bicentenary Project Milestones

Towards 2016 we will:

Make the living collections knowledge accessible to all NSW citizens through the web by 2008



The first stage of a web-based tree database was completed. It will allow visitors, including professionals such as landscape designers, tree-care professionals and academics, the opportunity to review the Trust's tree collections and their locations prior to visiting the Gardens. This Friends' funded project will be launched in 2008–09.

Develop and utilise new molecular tools (e.g. DNA barcoding) for identification and diagnosis of species, and for investigating the evolution of the Australian biota by 2009

DNA barcoding is a technique where small specific segments of DNA are fingerprinted to provide a 'barcode' for the identification of that organism. The identification of species from only fragments of material may be possible and barcoding has wide ranging uses from forensics to threatened species protection. The Trust is represented on the Australian Barcode Network Committee, set up to facilitate communication and collaboration between researchers and organisations in barcoding projects and to represent Australia in the Consortium for the Barcode of Life program. The committee will also lobby for major funding for Australian collaborative projects focused on DNA barcoding.

As a result of this the Trust, along with the Australian Museum and the NSW Department of Primary Industries, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario and the Ontario Genomic Institute to collaborate on barcoding activities through 'iBOL', the International Consortium on the Barcode of Life. The Trust, along with scientists from the Australian Tropical Herbarium and The University of Adelaide, are coordinating Australian involvement in TreeBOL, a project which aims to produce DNA barcodes for all of the trees of the world. This ambitious project has been seed-funded by the Sloan Foundation for approximately \$500,000.

Establish a local season calendar accessible to the whole community for Sydney, based on floristic and Indigenous knowledge, by 2009

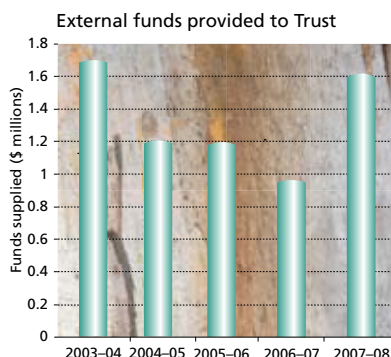
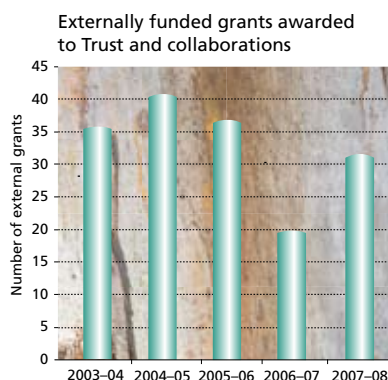
The Trust is leading the establishment of a national 'phenology' project to monitor changes in plant biology and behaviour associated with climate change. A Memorandum of Understanding between Earthwatch, Council of Heads of Australasian Botanic Gardens, and Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand has been drafted.

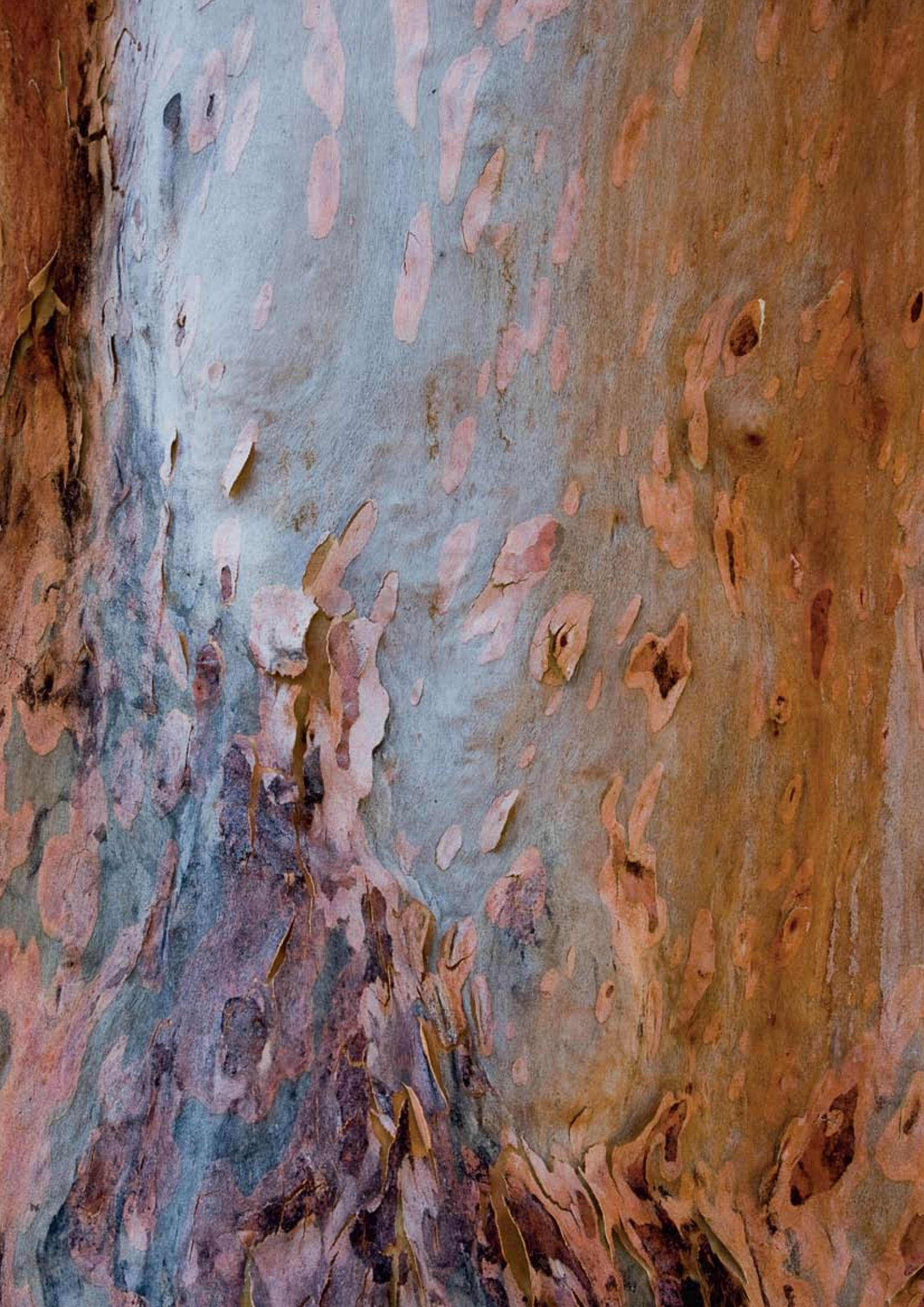
Continue to contribute to relevant targets in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation by 2010

See Appendix A.

Planned Bicentenary Milestone Projects

- Recognise, interconnect and advance Indigenous knowledge as part of our conservation research program by 2010.
- Extend the breadth and reach of our scientific knowledge through strategic alliances with relevant overseas herbaria and research organisations by 2009.
- Create a 'natural history cluster' and 'intellectual precinct' with like-minded organisations in Sydney by 2009.
- Complete the opening up of the preserved plant collections (the Herbarium), including links to an enhanced PlantNET, as part of the Atlas of Living Australia project by 2010.
- Establish a long-term science program in New South Wales to record and document changes in plant, algal and fungal communities in response to changing environments by 2010. ■





Plants in Natural and Cultural Landscapes

Botanic gardens worldwide are committed to education for sustainability. Our diverse collections and cultural landscapes provide a unique opportunity to influence public attitudes towards plant conservation and the environment. The Trust's plant-related programs and displays appeal to different sectors of the community and suit the wide range of learning styles. Our programs encourage sustainable gardening and link humans to the natural world, thereby equipping the community to become environmentally responsible.

Program Highlights

- Public programs for over 55,000 visitors to the Trust's three botanic gardens; nearly 14,000 participate in the Trust's outreach initiatives.
- Nearly 24,000 students participating in school-based lessons in the Gardens.
- Collaborative partnerships strengthened with Australian Museum, Taronga Zoo, Western Plains Zoo and Museum of Sydney.
- Volunteer guides provide around 960 free guided tours for more than 6,800 visitors to the three botanic gardens.
- Weekly Aboriginal Heritage tours of the Royal Botanic Gardens increasingly popular with tourists.
- Around 140 aspiring artists and plant enthusiasts take part in a range of botanical illustration workshops.
- Community Greening reaches around 3,300 people, particularly in areas of disadvantage.

High quality school education and public programs delivered

Community Education staff and trained volunteer guides ran public programs for around 55,000 visitors to the Trust's three botanic gardens this year. All programs provided a personal and interactive experience to bring students and the general community closer to nature, to experience its abundance and complexity and to learn how to care for it. An additional 14,000 people participated in the Trust's outreach initiatives.

Lessons in the Gardens were delivered to nearly 24,000 students and resource materials were developed for schools, including a new excursions brochure promoting all three botanic estates, a presentation folder *Bringing Learning to Life* and updated teachers kits.

A number of lessons for Kindergarten to Year 12 students were revised to incorporate key messages for 'Climate Change Education in Botanic Gardens' and new lessons such as *The Need for Shelter*, *Warbling Magpies*, *Garden Design* and *Maintaining a Balance* were written.

Lessons about Aboriginal culture and plants continued to be very popular with around 6,800 students participating. The majority of lessons conducted at Mount Annan Botanic Garden related to this theme and over 2,000 children from Stages 2 and 3 (Years 3–6), their teachers and families in the local Campbelltown area took part in a special whole day program called 'Safe Koori Kids'. This program was funded through the National Health and Medical Research Council and was designed to build Aboriginal family and community resilience and promote safety.

An interpretive banner with a Darug story, 'Waratah Creation', was developed to take out to schools and also to be displayed annually at the Mount Tomah Waratah Festival. A poster about the impact of picking waratahs in the wild was also developed in collaboration with Department of Environment and Climate Change's Parks & Wildlife Division. These will be distributed to schools in the Blue Mountains and on the far north and south coasts. Mount Tomah Botanic Garden staff delivered programs on the significance of the Waratah to around 1,000 students at eight schools as a follow-on to the Mount Tomah Waratah Festival.

Professional development opportunities were provided on request. For example, 90 Aboriginal highschool students from Sydney and students from Ti Tree School in the Northern Territory (and their mentors from University of Sydney) attended a half-day workshop on plant related careers, Aboriginal cultural heritage and plant uses at the Royal Botanic Gardens. Six teacher-trainees from the Faculty of Education at UTS undertook 120 hours of practicum at the Royal Botanic Gardens where they participated in program delivery and developed educational materials for use inside and outside the classroom.

The Trust ran its eighth year of *Australian Biota* lessons to Year 11/Stage 6 Preliminary Biology in partnership with the Australian Museum and

Photo: Bark of Angophora leiocarpa (Northern Smooth Barked Apple or Dirty Gum) — part of the cypress pine shrubby woodland community as defined in the Trust's NSW Vegetation Classification and Assessment Project.



JANINE PLAZA

Photo: Horticulturist Paul Nicholson (foreground), Executive Director Dr Tim Entwisle and Begonia enthusiast Peter Sharp at the opening of the Begonia Garden in the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Taronga Zoo. Over 2,700 students took part in sessions delivered at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Mount Annan and Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens. The program was conceived in 2000 and attracted 540 students in its first year. In addition, Trust community education officers delivered *Australian Biota* and *Maintaining a Balance* lessons at Western Plains Zoo to approximately 500 Stage 6 students (years 11/12) from 15 different Central Western and Western high schools.

The Trust is also involved in a school program partnership with education staff at the Museum of Sydney. The *Contact* program was developed in 2002 for Year 8/Stage 4 History students and the area of study is Australia 1788–1820: the nature and impact of colonisation and contact. In this, its sixth year of operation, around 1,000 students and their teachers took part in lessons delivered at the 'Cadi Jam Ora – First Farm' display at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Since August 2005, the Trust has sponsored the Department of Education and Training's Year 11 Premier's Debating Challenge for Schools. As well as providing stimulus topics about plants and environmental topics for all debating students, the Trust hosted the regional and State semi-finals. Topics chosen for these debates included 'The Federal Government should take control of the environment' and 'Nuclear energy is worth the risk'.

The Trust is committed to providing children (and their carers) with meaningful learning experiences beyond the school curriculum. This year's holiday activities reinforced where our food comes from and the dependence of all life on plants. School holiday programs at the Royal Botanic Gardens targeted vacation groups and 700 children participated in activities including *Bugs and Beasties* and *Spudz4Kids*. 2008 is the United Nations Year of the Potato.

Mount Annan Botanic Garden provided full-day orienteering, plant craft and

bushwalking activities for 160 children and, at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, seasonal adventure quests continued to be popular. Self-guiding quests on *Webs and Wing*; *Scales, Tails and Teeth*; *Larger than Life* and *Beez Buzzabout* with clues scattered all around the Garden entertained and educated over 2,400 children and their families.

Botanical illustration at the Royal Botanic Gardens began with the establishment of the Herbarium in 1901, and the tradition continues to this day. Under the guidance of award-winning teachers, including the Trust's illustrators, over 140 aspiring artists and plant enthusiasts took part in a range of income generating botanical illustration workshops. Over a dozen courses of varying length were offered, as well as an autumn school holiday course — *The Beauty of Insects*, designed especially to improve basic drawing skills in school and university students, and absolute beginners.

Volunteer guides are trained to research, design and deliver themed talks and walks that appeal to different sectors of the community. As just one example, this year's History Week talk and walk focused on the Palace Garden and the Macquarie Street precinct. Volunteer guides also led walks for NSW Government Heritage Volunteer Awards participants, a *History of the Domain* tour for the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation and an Introduction to the Gardens tour for new Friends' members.

The Trust's major Arbor Day celebration (as part of Community Greening) took place at Willmot Public School. Over 220 students, 80 staff and community guests participated in the planting of more than 1,000 native plants. Mount Annan Botanic Garden staff celebrated Arbor Day with 54 children at Claymore Public School, 28 children at St Helen's Park Public School and a further 28 at Kentlyn Public School. Unfortunately, poor weather precluded any Arbor Day event linked to Mount Tomah Botanic Garden.



STEPHEN PAUL



JAIME PLAZA

Photo top: Since its inception in 2000, Community Greening has assisted nearly 200 communities develop communal gardens throughout NSW.

Photo below: A student from Bilpin Public School tests a state-of-the-art video microscope in Mount Tomah's new Waratah Education Centre.

In September, Mount Annan Botanic Garden staff supported Camden Council's Camden Fun Day for preschoolers. The community education officer and two fourth-year apprentices helped 200 children plant a 'magic bean', complemented by storytelling focusing on colours.

Partnership education programs in the urban and regional environment

The Trust is committed to delivering educational programs 'beyond our Gardens' walls' to improve community knowledge of plants in their local area and to train the gardening public in sustainable horticultural methods.

Eden Education is a joint initiative of the Trust with Eden Gardens and Garden Centre at North Ryde that has been running for four years. Eden Gardens and Garden Centre also supports the Botanic Gardens Trust's and NSW Department of Housing's Community Greening initiative by providing surplus plant stock and materials for communal gardening projects for disadvantaged communities. This year more than 1,100 people attended Eden Education's 80 gardening skills courses and short workshops. Eden Education and Community Greening staff were also involved in a Spring Sustainability Expo held at Eden Gardens in September, in conjunction with City of Ryde Council. Over 700 people attended a range of lectures, workshops, live entertainment, stalls and children's activities.

The Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living (MCSL) is a Trust and community partnership aimed at encouraging sustainable practices in all facets of urban life. This year around 2,900 children were engaged in school or holiday programs, and another 2,000 people participated in community activities.

Over 1,500 people attended MCSL's Spring Open Day in September and enjoyed a range of gardening demonstrations, workshops, organic food, tours and eco-smart home ideas.

School based activities included the third annual Sustainable Schools Expo, with Mount Annan Botanic Garden's community education staff, and a display was held at Macarthur Square during Science Week.

The future of Community Greening was secured with the announcement by The Hon. Matt Brown MP, NSW Minister for Housing, of a government funding commitment of \$781,000 to 2011. The Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation pledged support for 'Youth Community Greening', a program to inspire disadvantaged youth to learn about gardening, conservation and the environment. The Trust is grateful to the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, Mrs Ros Packer and a private benefactor for providing four years funding towards the 'Youth Community Greening' project.

Community Greening staff delivered 269 sessions to 3,365 participants on 250 visits to community garden projects. The 'Youth Community Greening' team visited 20 schools and garden clubs in its first two months of operation. Since its inception in 2000, Community Greening has assisted nearly 200 disadvantaged communities develop communal gardens throughout NSW. To date, approximately 23,000 participants have received horticultural training and advice from Trust community education horticulturists.

For the second time, Community Greening celebrated International Day of People with a Disability in NSW through the statewide 'Don't DIS My ABILITY' campaign. The Ambrose Community Nursery in the Rosemeadow Estate held an Open Day in December to highlight the participation by people with a disability in this garden project. The local community was joined by VIPs, clients of the Junction Works Disability Service and students from Passfield Park Special School.

In an inspired initiative, the Australia Day Council purchased 146 small Wollemi Pines from the Trust to be used as table



JAIME PLAZA



JAIME PLAZA

Photo top: A living 'garden wall' of bromeliads and orchids at the entrance to the Tropical Centre provided a natural focus for school groups attending the launch of Youth Community Greening, a community garden program aimed at youth in need.

Photo below: Plant Pathologist Dr Ed Liew and researcher Trish Meagher injecting phosphonate into a wild Wollemi Pine affected by Phytophthora root-rot.

decorations for the official Australia Day function and then donated them back to the Community Greening outreach program. The plants were collected and stored at the Ambrose Community Nursery at Rosemeadow Public Housing Estate prior to their distribution by Department of Housing staff to selected communities throughout the State.

Visitor facilities and services managed successfully

A signage advisory team was established to foster a more strategic approach to signage production and to develop interpretation at Trust estates. Nearly 200 staff, volunteers and Friends attended briefing sessions to learn more about interpretation objectives and signage production. Signage maintenance focused on replacing damaged signs in the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain. Two new electronic message boards were installed at Woolloomooloo and Morshead Fountain Gates.

This year volunteer guides conducted over 1000 free guided tours for 7,000 visitors to the three botanic gardens. Royal Botanic Gardens' guides stationed at the Palm Grove Centre provided interpretation and information to 15,000 visitors. Guides also produce a monthly 'Must See' flyer which is distributed through the information booths and on the Trust's website. Weekly Aboriginal Heritage tours of the Royal Botanic Gardens attracted 800 visitors.

A podcast, *Touching Time*, is now available for hire from the Mount Tomah Garden Shop and is freely available on the web for downloading. The program includes interviews with Trust scientists as well as Tomah horticulturists and botanical and education staff.

Plant scientists trained and mentored

Following the success of the first botanical intern program last year, the Friends of The Gardens' funded program was run again in January and February 2008. Eleven interns participated in lectures, fieldwork, job application training and a diverse range of work projects (rearranging 2,000 boxes of three major plant families, and incorporation of and processing of over 2,500 specimens).

Scientific staff made significant contributions to the teaching programs of several universities either by presenting lectures or through the supervision of postgraduate students (e.g. University of Sydney, University of New South Wales, University of Technology Sydney, University of Newcastle and the University of New England). Trust scientists also hold adjunct positions at these universities. The Trust continued its partnership arrangement with the University of New England and Australian Museum to deliver specialist biosystematics units.

Postgraduate students continue to make significant contributions to the Trust's scientific program, with over 30 supervised by Trust scientists and 12 based full-time with the Trust. The Director Science and Public Programs helped to present a workshop to over 30 participants on the identification of the fungal genus *Fusarium*, in Malaysia, with participants from throughout Asia. *Fusarium* species cause a number of devastating diseases of plants, produce an array of toxins and can act as human pathogens.



JANIE PLAZA



SIMONE PIETA COTTRELL

2016 Botanic Bicentenary Project Milestones

Towards 2016 we will:

Complete the new Education Centre at Mount Annan Botanic Garden by 2007

Completed in 2007.

Begin propagating work for a bicentennial commemorative plant release by 2007

The Waratah Camellia has been chosen as a potential commemorative plant for the Trust's Bicentenary in 2016. To date only 32 cuttings, collected from Camden Park, have struck so tissue culture will be investigated as an alternative means of propagation. Seeds from Grevillea hybrids have also been collected in the Garden each month for propagation. This lengthy process may, in the long-term, identify new commercial potential for a variety of native plants.

Organise collecting trips and partnerships to introduce new and exciting plants into the Trust collections by 2008

The Friends of The Gardens agreed to fund this project for three years and the first collecting trip will take place in 2008–09.

Build an education classroom linked to the Visitor Centre at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden by 2008

The Waratah World Heritage Centre was opened by futurist Richard Neville in June. The building includes many sustainable features, including geothermal heating, natural ventilation and lighting, and a large thermal mass through using local basalt stone walls and flagging. Additional funds were donated by the O'Connor family to fit-out the classroom with state-of-the-art teaching facilities including audio visual equipment, video microscopes and aquatic display cases.

Complete the Wollemi Walk of Discovery — clonal collection planting and development at Mount Annan Botanic Garden by 2008

Corporate support will be sought in the coming year for the development of the Wollemi Walk of Discovery.

Planned Bicentenary Milestone Projects

- Create a Wollemi Pine grove and other 'accessible wilderness' experiences in the Conservation Area at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden by 2009
- Enhance the interpretation of our Gardens (including the microscopic world and wildlife) through better signage, innovative wayfinding, and novel forms such as artwork, new technologies and challenging approaches by 2009
- Reveal the 'underwater garden' of Sydney Harbour by 2010 ■

Photo top: Students from nearby Bilpin Public School helped celebrate the opening of the Waratah Education Centre with a choir performance of the song 'Snow Gum'.

Photo below: Wollemi Walk of Discovery at Mount Annan Botanic Garden. Corporate support will be sought in the coming year for further development of the walk.



Protecting Our Heritage

The Botanic Gardens Trust is entrusted with the care and protection of gardens, parks, bushland and buildings with significant heritage value. We are committed to maintaining and improving our cultural, built and natural heritage, including the collections of living plants — for future generations. Values of sustainability and environmental responsibility underlie management decisions throughout the organisation. We aim to lead the way in sustainable horticultural practices.

Program Highlights

- Stolen Generations Memorial at Mount Annan launched in October by The Hon. Paul Lynch MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.
- Total water use at Mount Annan reduced by 36 per cent to 33,000kL.
- Annual target met of 2.7 hectares of primary control of African Olive within Cumberland Plain Woodland at Mount Annan.
- New 'garden wall' at the Tropical Centre entrance supports a display of bromeliads and orchids that will provide colourful displays for a number of years.
- Purchase of a 33 hectare piece of land adjacent to Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, 'The Jungle' provides a secure base for the development of Mount Tomah Botanic Garden into the future and secures a block of temperate New South Wales rainforest for future generations.
- Historic Main Ponds in the Royal Botanic Gardens restored.

Excellence in horticulture and maintenance of built assets and landscapes

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain

Horticultural standards continue to rise, and a program of repair and maintenance of our most important asset, the living collections, is proceeding. New gardens in 2007–08 include:

- New 'garden wall' at the Tropical Centre entrance. A metal frame supports a planting media of coco chips and oversized perlite. A small drip irrigation system supports a display of bromeliads and *Oncidium* orchids that will provide very colourful displays for a number of years.
- The Solander Garden lawn adjacent to the Anderson building was closed due to a nearby branch fall from a

large eucalypt. It was decided that the small lawn should be replaced with an extension to the existing garden bed. The area was replanted with a range of native species linked to Daniel Solander's botanic collecting expeditions.

- A second Begonia Garden was opened. The begonia collection is one of the largest in the world and these outdoor displays are of international significance.

An important responsibility of the Trust is to maintain the heritage values of its estates. The Trust has received an annual budget of \$400,000 for heritage building maintenance at the Sydney estates since 2003. This funding provides for an increased level of maintenance to the Trust's collection of heritage buildings, in an effort to bridge a significant gap in the preventative maintenance area. Initial works were to weatherproof the buildings, predominantly by re-roofing them or doing substantial roofing repairs to prevent any further water penetration and subsequent damage. More recently, aspects such as plaster repairs, timber repairs and painting have been completed to improve the appearance and functionality of these buildings, whilst at the same time ensuring conservation and heritage values.

This year, major works in the heritage building program included external repairs and painting of historic buildings, restoration of the Morshead Fountain, and development of a condition assessment report and maintenance program for all heritage buildings.

Separate to this program was the redevelopment of the Central Depot, resulting in the conservation and adaptive reuse of two former stables buildings for staff amenities and offices, and the completion of the restoration of four heritage glasshouses. This work was done in accordance with the endorsed Conservation Management Plan for the Central Depot Redevelopment.

Photo: Bark of Eucalyptus pauciflora (Snow Gum or White Sally) — part of the Candlebark–Apple Box–Robertson's Peppermint tall open forest community as defined in the Trust's NSW Vegetation Classification and Assessment Project.



SIMONE PIETA COTTRELL



JAMIE PLAZA

Photo top: Guests at the opening of the renovated Morshead Fountain included Executive Director Dr Tim Entwisle, (now) Premier The Hon. Nathan Rees MP, Brigadier Isaksson, President of the 9th Division Council and Patron of Australia-wide Rats of Tobruk Association; Joe Madeley, OAM, State President, Rats of Tobruk Association; RSL President, Don Rowe and other special guests.

Photo below: Development of the Australian Woodland at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden continued with the planting of mallee eucalypts and extension of native turf lawns.

The Trust is compliant with the *NSW Heritage Act* by reviewing proposed maintenance and development programs on the Sydney estates with the current exemptions allowed by the Heritage Office. When necessary, the Trust also completes heritage impact statements and conservation management plans. Heritage approvals are sought from the Cultural Heritage Division of DECC and the Heritage Office as required. Work on the Trust's 'Section 170 Register' was initiated with the engagement of a consultant to undertake Stage 1 of a two-stage project. The first stage is identification of all existing databases, inventories and lists of the Trust's heritage and conservation collections and a gap analysis of the missing information to compile the Register. Stage 2 allows for the missing information to be collected and collated with the current information to develop the Register by the statutory date of 30 June 2009.

Other asset maintenance included:

- The Domain lighting project with 184 light poles and fittings being replaced and new lights installed at four pedestrian crossings.
- Assessment and GIS mapping at all 1,200 stormwater and irrigation service pits in the Domain and Royal Botanic Gardens to facilitate a maintenance program.
- An asbestos audit report and management plan, including staff information workshops.

Mount Tomah In only the second year since 1990 in which the annual rainfall exceeded the long term average of 1,580 mm, trees just surviving during the drought put on a metre of growth.

Lawns in high public use areas were renovated. The Wedding Tree Terrace and BBQ lawn were heavily impacted by wet weather and the high number of weddings. Low water-use turf installed in the Residence Garden last winter performed well over the summer. There

were no problems with Red Thread (a fungal disease of cool-climate turf in wet, warm weather).

The development of the Australian Woodlands continued with the planting of a mallee eucalypt display. Seed collected from the flowering *Microleana stipoides* lawn is being used to extend the native turf lawns in the new display. Eight interpretive signs in the Australian Woodlands and on the Bridge explain the threats to eucalypt woodland plant communities and how special these communities are.

The Friends-funded development of a tree management system for the Garden was completed by arboriculture consultants Tree Logic who mapped and assessed 300 eucalypts. The data will be uploaded into the Collection Management System (EMu).

As part of the development plan for the Formal Garden, one of the hedges of *Callitris rhomboidea* on the Lawn Terrace was removed. Relevant to the southern hemisphere theme for Mount Tomah, a trial commenced with a yew-like evergreen Chilean conifer, *Saxegothaea conspicua*. This species will demonstrate that cultivation of southern hemisphere species can fill the role provided by the more familiar traditional hedging plants such as beech, box, privet and yew which are used in European gardens.

Road and path maintenance was accelerated with the entire front entrance roadway resurfaced and some of the aging surfaces in the Garden over-sealed. Other building and asset maintenance focussed on painting the Garden restaurant and repairing the lightning-damaged telephone system. Building maintenance included the restoration of the Northern Pavilion. The boardwalk and viewing platform in the Plant Explorers Garden was reopened to the public after repairs.

Mount Annan Stage 2 refurbishment of the Terrace Garden within the new Connections Garden improved garden displays and provided 124 metres of



JAMIE PLAZA

Photo: Seed Technology Officer Leahwyn Seed has lots to smile about. Despite drought conditions in many parts of the State, the NSW Seedbank at Mount Annan Botanic Garden is maintaining its collecting target of 1,500 collections by 2010, making a major contribution to this insurance policy against species loss and climate change.

gentle path access for visitors walking through the 'Plants through Time' thematic area. Visitors now have a snapshot of Australian plants showing adaptation to the drying continent, and wonderful vistas to the south over Lakeside and beyond. Around 455 tonnes of large rock and 890 tonnes of crushed sandstone were placed in new garden beds. Around 850 plants have been planted in woodland, Sydney sandstone and arid display beds, with Fabaceae, Myrtaceae, Proteaceae and Poaceae most prominently represented.

The Grevillea Garden was completed and launched in May. Displaying over 170 species of Grevillea, it represents the work of over 400 dry stone walling students, staff and advisers from the Grevillea Study Group and the Dry Stone Walling Association of Australia.

Asset maintenance focussed on visitor access, natural areas, and infra-structure especially related to water use.

The Big Idea Garden's display of cultivars for local use was expanded. New interpretation signage to encourage sustainable approaches to gardening included working examples of how to recycle, reuse and reduce water use, and has proved very popular with tour groups.

Potable water use was reduced by 63 per cent, compared to the average annual water use of 71,228kL since 1995–96. Total water use (including unfiltered irrigation water) was reduced by 36 per cent to 33,313kL, significantly lower than the annual target of 50,000kL. Sydney Water continued to work with the Garden to improve its two-star rating. Installation of a fogging unit in two propagation houses, funded by the Friends of The Gardens, contributed to minimizing water use and improving propagation survival rates.

Infrastructure improvements included two kilometres of asbestos mains replacement; GIS mapping of the work as it was constructed; fogger installation in one propagation facility; and an electric security gate instalment with

associated telephony and camera linked to the restaurant and administration building. The gate has proved very effective in controlling unauthorized after-hours vehicle access. An important service road at Lakeside was also repaired and upgraded to facilitate large truck access for major events.

Garden facilities were extended to include Sydney Catchment Authority's (SCA) Kenny Hill site. The built facilities on this site were surplus to SCA needs and will provide useful space for University of Sydney staff and students who will work on site with Trust horticultural and research staff in a partnership to develop a Centre for Plant Conservation and Research.

NSW Treasury provided funding to develop a business plan for a new entrance to the Garden from Narellan Road. The plan was completed and SCA has expressed interest in contributing to a new entrance and link to Cunningham Drive to support the maintenance of their water supply to Prospect Reservoir which supplies over four million people.

A partnership agreement was signed with Ramm Botanicals to provide cultivar material to the value of \$5,000 for three years, to supplement and enhance garden displays. Gardening celebrity Angus Stewart will promote the botanic garden for the term of the agreement.

Discussions were held with Integral Energy and a three-member memorandum of understanding was drafted with the Trust and Landcom. Integral Energy provided separate flora and fauna reports for the eastern boundary area where upgraded powerlines from the new Transgrid substation (under construction) are required to provide a direct link to Campbelltown from September 2009.

The annual target of 2.7 hectares of primary control of African Olive (*Olea europea* subsp *cuspidata*) within Cumberland Plain Woodland was met and corporate support is being negotiated for the removal of all Olive

trees from the site. A major spraying program to control Chilean Needle Grass (*Nassella neesiana*) commenced. Experimental broad-acre spraying of two hectares in the area to the south of the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living was completed. The fauna management plan was reviewed and incorporated new feral animal control measures, including firearms use. Approximately three kilograms of native grass seed (*Chloris*) from Windmill Grass, and Native Love Grass (*Eragrostis*), were used to direct-sow one hectare of a mechanically cleared African Olive site on the eastern ridge of the botanic garden. ■

Trust Environment Statement

Everything we do at the Botanic Gardens Trust has an impact on the environment. We want to leave as small an environmental footprint as we can, and to influence others to do the same.

In the last six years we have:

- Halved potable water consumption in the Domain and Royal Botanic Gardens.
- Used 100% dam and rainwater at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden.
- Used 90 to 100% of mulch and other organic matter from recycled green waste at our three botanic gardens.
- Recycled, every year, over 25 tonnes of general waste (e.g. bottles, cans, paper and cardboard).
- Reduced electricity use by almost 40 per cent and gas consumption by over 80 per cent in the Herbarium building.
- Significantly reduced our use of toxic chemicals for pest control, and continue to trial and use non-toxic alternatives such as biological controls.
- Selected plant species that are less susceptible to pests and diseases and do not require high pesticide treatments.
- Sourced garden materials from sustainable sources — and not used peat moss and arsenic-chrome treated timber.
- Implemented a national botanic gardens weed policy, including the assessment of all new plant collections and potential weed species.

- Used environmentally sustainable design principles for all new buildings, depots and nurseries.

Leading up to our Bicentenary in 2016, we will:

- Use 100% non-potable water for irrigating the Domain and Royal Botanic Gardens. This year consistent progress was made towards harvesting storm water for use on the Sydney estates.
- Develop garden themes that promote sustainable gardening practices; use plant species which require low maintenance and develop displays using recycled landscape materials where practical.
- Remove and control problem weeds from Mount Annan Botanic Garden. This year an opportunity for removing all African Olive from Mount Annan by 2016 became available.
- Review Trust retail products and packaging to minimise our environmental footprint and to promote environmental responsibility.
- Reinstate turf demonstration plots which will display and trial new turf grass varieties that have less dependence on water, chemicals and fertilisers. Completed in 2007.
- Install rainwater tanks in the Domain and Royal Botanic Gardens and Mount Annan Botanic Garden and increase water recycling on all estates. One new tank was installed in the Sydney Gardens this year.
- Set new challenging targets for all energy use. The Trust will audit its energy use and investigate options for 'green generators'.

2016 Botanic Bicentenary Project Milestones

Towards 2016 we will:

Promote and extend the Sustainable Horticulture program as part of 'Healthy Gardens, Healthy People' by 2007

All three estates set up sustainability subcommittees and contributed to a Trust sustainability plan. A pesticide use manual was reviewed to assure a sustainable horticulture focus — using alternative management treatments for pests and diseases, rather than select a chemical or non-organic option.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change established a sustainability working group to oversight the development of a sustainability action plan that will align with the NSW State Plan and the Premier's target of NSW Government being carbon neutral by 2020.

Rainwater tanks and sub-surface irrigation were installed at Lion Gate Lodge to sustain the cottage garden landscape and educate visitors about water harvesting and responsible water use.

Poultry manure, discovered by the Trust Plant Diagnostic Unit to be an antagonist to the root-rot pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, is being trialled at Mount Tomah. Large quantities of this manure have been worked into the soil in areas where the pathogen has been found. Interpretive signage about the trial is being developed.

Complete the Stolen Generations Memorial at Mount Annan Botanic Garden by 2007

The Hon. Paul Lynch MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, launched the Stolen Generations Memorial in October. Over 150 guests were emotionally impacted by the stories of the Stolen Generation conveyed by Indigenous representatives who included Carol Kendall's daughters, Uncle Vince's (Wenberg), John Lennis and the memorial sculptor Badger

Bates. John Klem from the Catchment Management Authority presented a certificate to the Gandangarra Land Council trainees who built much of the boardwalks and paths.

Build a World Heritage Centre at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, linked to existing collections and Conservation Area, by 2008

Design of the World Heritage Centre was completed by Eeles Trelease Architects and development approval was given by Blue Mountains City Council. A pre-qualified list of contractors was invited to tender for the construction. Mothers Art Productions was selected to develop the interpretative material for the Centre and thematic workshops were completed. The Centre is planned to open in 2009.

Create an oral history for the organisation by 2008

The oral history project continued, with more than 30 interviews now completed, capturing the memories of people involved with the Gardens in many different ways over the years. The list of potential interviewees continues to grow. The project will provide material for the 2016 Bicentenary history in both book and DVD formats, as well as recording a permanent archive of the Royal Botanic Gardens' unwritten history.

Rebuild the Woolloomooloo seawall by 2009

A revised business case was completed and included in the Trust's asset management strategy. Repairs are classified as urgent and essential, due to the poor condition of this heritage asset. Treasury has supported the construction costs through an \$850,000 capital allocation in 2008–09.

Redevelop the Sydney Central Depot and Nursery by 2010

Completing the \$8 million State government funded capital program, heritage glasshouses were restored, and new plant pathology building, storage sheds and materials storage bins were

completed. The pesticide store was refurbished and restored, and the historic stables buildings are being adaptively reused. Treasury support will be sought for Stage 2 of the masterplan.

Revitalise the theme gardens and landscapes of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain by 2010

The Main Ponds restoration program was completed. An additional course of the sandstone wall was constructed and existing walls restored. Improved drainage and soil replacement has allowed for a Victorian era plant display to be developed. The project cost approximately \$150,000, mostly funded through external donations. New garden displays are reported elsewhere, and a new Thematic Plan is in preparation.

Recover the Palm Grove through responsible management of the flying-fox camp by 2007

A flying-fox management steering committee was established to help relocate the up to 22,000 flying-foxes destroying heritage landscapes and significant trees in the Royal Botanic Gardens. Representatives from key stakeholder groups provided advice on the relocation program, including the timing of disturbance, methods of tracking relocated animals, vegetation analysis and a communication strategy. State and Federal government approvals are required and the relevant applications are near completion.

Short-term deterrent techniques have met with mixed success. The most effective technique, an air-powered plastic figure placed near the most affected trees, resulted in an immediate dispersal of the flying-foxes. Such non-destructive techniques are allowable under the Trust's Section 120 licence issued by the Department of Environment and Climate Change. If relocation is approved, palm species damaged by the flying-foxes will be replaced, and wild-sourced replacement tree species will be part of the 2016 plant collecting project. ■



Botanic Gardens and Parklands

Our botanic gardens and Domain provide places of tranquility and inspiration for all visitors. They are valued for their botanical displays and open space and as venues for public recreation and private events. Our role is to enhance the experiences of all visitors by providing the best possible services.

The Trust values its visitors and all those who contribute towards its mission. We will strive to make new connections within the community, to be aware of and responsive to its needs, and to ensure that our facilities and programs are accessible to all.

Program Highlights

- Domain hosts tens of thousands who come to see USS Kitty Hawk, QE2 and Queen Victoria ships.
- Increase by 33 per cent of community and government sponsored events in Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain.
- Mount Tomah Waratah World Heritage Education Centre opened in June.
- Wild about Waratahs and Autumn Harvest Food & Wine Fair attract around 5,000 visitors.
- Annual event calendar at Mount Annan draws around 15,000 visitors — a record year.
- Fathers Day at Mount Annan sees a 42 per cent increase in visitors and 25 per cent increase in gate revenue.
- Landcom sponsored Carols at Mount Annan attract the largest crowd yet of around 6,500 — an increase of over 15 per cent.
- Bowden Centre at Mount Annan receives the 2008 Sulman Award for Public Architecture.
- Grevillea Garden at Mount Annan, displaying over 170 species of Grevillea within a rustic landscape of dry stone walling, is completed.

Events, exhibitions and event venues managed in a sustainable and profitable way

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain

The Trust worked with other State and Commonwealth agencies to prepare for the Asia Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) held in Sydney in September. The major impact on the Trust was the partial closure of the Royal Botanic Gardens and reduced business activity for the duration.

The arrival of the warship USS Kitty Hawk, other USA Navy ships and cruise ships QE2 and Queen Victoria also required whole-of-Government planning to manage community interest. Additional visitor facilities were made available in the Domain and the Trust negotiated visitor access requirements and traffic management with the RTA.

Community events in the Domain included the Legs Eleven concert in the Domain, the Walk Against Global Warming rally, Harbourlife dance party at Fleet Steps, Homebake music festival, Carols in the Domain, Sol Y Luna, Tropfest, and Opera in the Domain. All the Sydney Festival events were well site managed and raised revenue for the Trust.

New Years Eve in the Domain and Royal Botanic Gardens, the only major event the Trust runs itself, was relatively incident free. Visitor access to Mrs Macquaries Point was reduced from 25,000 to 20,000 for safety reasons. This had a proportional effect on food and beverage sales but safety related incidents were less than in previous events.

Event revenue was generally higher than in previous years, as was parking and indoor and weddings venue revenue. The additional revenue did not result in higher than average use at the major event sites.

Mount Tomah Well established events such as Wild about Waratahs and Autumn Harvest Food and Wine Fair attracted around 5,000 people. Touring exhibitions included *Greening the Silver City: seeds of bush regeneration*, a Powerhouse Museum exhibition examining the first bush regeneration project in Australia at Broken Hill, and *25 Years of World Heritage* in Australia, a photographic exhibition created by the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

In conjunction with Mount Annan Botanic Garden and the Jenolan Caves Trust, Mount Tomah Botanic Garden was represented at the Australian Tourism

Photo: Bark of Eucalyptus pauciflora (Snow Gum or White Sally) — part of the Candlebark–Apple Box–Robertson's Peppermint tall open forest community as defined in the Trust's NSW Vegetation Classification and Assessment Project.

Exchange in Perth. Appointments were held with approximately 100 international buyers to increase international visitation to Trust estates.

Mount Annan The event calendar at Mount Annan drew around 15,000 visitors — a record year. Fathers Day saw a 42 per cent increase in visitors and a 25 per cent increase in gate revenue. The annual Carols event in December, sponsored by Landcom, attracted the largest crowd yet of around 6,500 — an increase of over 15 per cent. Other events included Valentines Day (10 per cent increase over the previous year); Campbelltown Challenge Walk (2,167 competitors and 500 spectators); Garden Plant Sale in March (10 per cent increase in the number of stalls); and Harvest Food and Wine Fair (42 per cent increase in the number of stalls, but visitor numbers slightly down).

The outdoor photographic exhibition, *Hard Rain*, was met with great interest. Although controversial in some respects with confronting, graphic photography, general commentary proved very positive and visitor numbers increased by more than 40 per cent on the previous year.

Quality visitor facilities, services and programs provided

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain

There were about 3.6 million visitors to the Royal Botanic Gardens, and an estimated further four million to the Domain. Events and public programs on the Sydney sites are reported elsewhere.

In the Botanic Gardens restaurant, the floor was removed, a new membrane installed and new tiles were laid. The restaurant lessee funded the installation of a new kitchen.

Two major heavy vehicular traffic paths were rebuilt in the Phillip Precinct of the Domain. These paths service the temporary stages and public facilities installed for major events.

Mount Tomah About 70,000 visitors came to Mount Tomah, down 2,000 on

last year. Rainfall for the year was 2,500 mm, the wettest year since 1990–01. Targeted events attracted local visitors and helped to maintain relatively high visitor levels, even though the numbers of day visitors to the region has fallen by nearly 50 per cent since 2000.

Venue hire for weddings increased by 100 per cent. Improvements to the service included the production of a wedding brochure focussing on facilities and products available at the Garden. The enquiry process was also simplified and web bookings facilitated.

Tours were given to over 9,500 visitors — an eight per cent increase over last year. Groups included Ku-ring-gai Council Pensioners, Dee Why Legacy, Polish Carers Support Group and Orange Men's Probus Club.

The Quest program, attracting over 2,500 participants, was developed to inform children and adults about important environmental issues. Artistic models of native bees were developed to inspire participants about unique insect fauna of Australia. *Webs and Wings* focussed on the unique insect and birdlife of the Blue Mountains, and *Larger than Life* provided a magnified look at microscopic features of plants and animals.

Mount Annan Visitors numbers surpassed the target of 100,000 (102,000), mainly due to 'after hours' visitation which augmented 'opening hours' visitor numbers of around 77,000. Free entry to walkers every Friday morning was offered from January for a trial period. The offer has been extended to December 2008 due to a 35 per cent increase in pedestrian visitors.

A Camden Council open-air theatre event was held for the first time in May and the Council has committed to continue sponsorship of the event in the Garden next year. Venue bookings grew to 144, exceeding the target by 11 per cent and 28 per cent more than last year.

A draft business plan for a new entrance from Narellan Road was completed in June and submitted to Treasury. If successful in its bid for Treasury funding in 2008–09, it will meet five of the eleven key objectives listed in the Master Plan 2000 and confirmed in the Master Plan Review 2006. It also aligns with State Plan Priorities R4 and E8 and is one of the nominated Trust's 2016 Bicentenary projects, which aim to provide infrastructure to support the next 200 years of development of all estates.

The Bowden Centre (opened May 2007) has enhanced education programs through provision of a first-class training facility for group and family functions, workshops and seminars. Over 1,600 people used the building in 70 bookings during the year. The Centre won the award for Best Small Commercial Building at the inaugural BPN/ Environ Sustainability Awards night in November. This award was followed by two National Timber awards later that month: for Environment Commitment (highly commended); and Best Use of Plywood and LVL (highly commended). The Centre was also nominated in March for two categories of the Royal Australian Institute of Architecture awards (NSW and Australia), for excellence in Public Architecture and Environmental Design. To top off this string of plaudits, Kennedy and Associates won the 2008 Sulman Prize for Public Architecture and the 2008 Prize for Sustainable Architecture.

The Stolen Generations Memorial, completed in September, provides visitors with a place for reflection, with easy access along crushed granite paths and boardwalks. The centrepiece sculpture of a man, woman, child and baby is complemented by bench seats and flowing water.

The Garden's Wollemi Walk of Discovery tour, a behind-the-scenes technical tour of Annan's Seed Bank and an Australiana tour involving the Garden and the Department of Primary Industry's Belgenny Farm,



were promoted at the 2008 Australian Tourism Exhibition in Perth. The latter partnership of State government agencies will offer a historic, colonial outback experience, coupled with native flora, fauna and cultural interaction. This initiative aligns with Trust, Departmental and State Plan goals of increasing visitor numbers, targeting in-bound tourists.

A Recreation Plan for the Garden was finalized, following consultation with interest groups and stakeholders. The plan clarifies passive and non-passive recreational areas within the Garden and confirms the Trust's priorities and objectives.

2016 Botanic Bicentenary Project Milestones

Towards 2016 we will:

Define garden landscapes and provide new ways to access, explain and promote the botanical and horticultural elements of the Royal Botanic Gardens by 2008

The Domain interpretation plan was completed. This strategy provides short- and medium-term strategies to help Trust staff fulfil the interpretive aims for the Domain and is in keeping with the guiding principles provided in the Trust's Interpretation Signage Policies.

The cultural collections management policy was endorsed by the Trust. This document provides policies and guidelines for the systematic development, management and maintenance of the Trust's cultural collections at its botanic gardens, the Domain and the National Herbarium of NSW.

Fund and build a Children's Garden in the Royal Botanic Gardens by 2009

Woolcott Research consultants conducted off-line and on-line surveys regarding the Children's Garden concept. Feedback helped inform concept plans for the Garden. Several locations are under consideration and the Government

Architect's Office has been engaged to develop concept designs.

Fund and build an activity area for young people at Mount Annan Botanic Garden by 2010

A project team was established and a brief prepared to develop a concept design and sponsorship proposal. Funding for this first stage was provided by a bequest from Josephine Swane. A consultant was engaged to develop an unusual, low maintenance design, in harmony with Mount Annan's surrounds. Survey work and consultation with local schools and stakeholders was completed.

Revitalise the Domain Car Park and review all parking arrangements to improve access to Sydney estates and contribute to city-wide transport plans by 2009

Following the completion of expressions of interest, four consortia were invited to submit detailed tenders for the car park lease. The Trust negotiated with the Ministry for Transport regarding proposed bus layovers in the car park forecourt. As the old lease agreement with the City of Sydney came to an end, a number of outstanding building repairs and the removal of underground fuel tanks were negotiated for completion prior to the commencement of the new lease in May 2008.

Challenger Diversified Property Group was awarded a new 25-year lease of the Domain Car Park with Interpark contracted to operate the facility. Challenger is now preparing design and documentation to support a development application to the City of Sydney for short-term enhancements that will improve access and amenity. Greater enhancements will be considered in several years time. City of Sydney negotiations regarding make-good costs and long-term access to the City's section of the underground moving footway tunnel were concluded.

Planned Bicentenary Milestone Projects

- Establish appropriate jogging and cycling routes through the Sydney estate by 2009
- Enhance Mount Tomah Botanic Garden as a garden for children by 2010
- Raise the profile and improve facilities offered by the Sydney Tropical Centre by 2010
- Play a lead role in the development and implementation of the Healthy Parks, Healthy People program within DECC by 2010 ■

Photo: Stolen Generations Memorial Walk, Mount Annan Botanic Garden.



Community Support

Volunteers make a significant contribution to the Botanic Garden Trust. The time and effort they contribute and the passion they have for their work and the Gardens makes our organisation a more dynamic place, both for the staff and for our visitors. Volunteers are a fundamental link to the 'real world' and the community we serve. There are approximately 300 volunteers in all operational areas (including 73 Growing Friends) and another 300 volunteers provide support to our Friends' organisation.

Volunteer guides provided visitors with general orientation and on-site interpretation and led guided walks at all three Gardens. Fifteen volunteer guides attended the Australasian Volunteer Guides in Botanic Gardens Conference in Adelaide.

Twenty bush regeneration volunteers helped with bush regeneration tasks in the remnant natural bushland areas at Mount Annan Botanic Garden. Efforts concentrated on African Olive eradication, assisting contractors employed with financial support from the Friends. Fifty-four Herbarium volunteers, who underwent retraining in conservation techniques, mounted 15,000 herbarium specimens onto archival paper. An additional 22 volunteers helped with special projects, book covering and re-shelving in the Library.

Twenty-eight new volunteers were trained to monitor wildlife in the Gardens. They did fly-out counts of flying-foxes in the early evenings to guide the Trust in managing the large bat population that is irreparably damaging the living collection. About 22,000 bats were estimated to be roosting in the Royal Botanic Gardens in February.

The annual 'thank-you' afternoon tea for Trust volunteers was held at the Australian Museum in November. Robin Davies received a special mention as she received a Premier's Award, a NSW Government Heritage Award for her outstanding work in conservation of natural heritage in the Macarthur region. Flora Deverall was recognised for 25 years service as an outstanding volunteer guide and her contribution to the Friends' organisation. Another fifteen volunteers were acknowledged for completing 10, 15 and 20 years of service to the Trust or Friends.

Friends of The Gardens

The Friends continued to provide financial and practical support to the Trust. *The Gardens*, a quarterly magazine, provided information about

Friends' events and articles of interest, as well as details of tours and benefits available to members. A monthly E-News provided late-breaking news about Trust and Friends events, as well as special offers.

The Constitution of the Friends was updated, including the term a President can serve — which was extended from a maximum of three years to six years. The legal name of the Friends was changed from Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney Inc. to Friends of the Botanic Gardens Inc. The informal trading name remains Friends of The Gardens with the addition of a strap line: 'Sydney – Domain – Mount Annan – Mount Tomah – National Herbarium of NSW'.

This year the Friends raised over \$730,000. After expenses, the net surplus was a little over \$280,000, a small increase from last year. In addition, the Friends' Trust Fund income was nearly \$260,000, with \$253,000 coming from donations.

The Friends (including the Friends' Trust Fund) made the following donations to the Trust:

Annual horticulture scholarship 2005	\$4,626
Annual staff scholarship 2006	\$17,000
Margaret Flockton Award 2008	\$7,000
Contribution to fixed costs	\$45,000
Donation to three nurseries	\$4,000
Library	\$2,000
Library — compactus replacement	\$80,000
Library — microfiche reader	\$12,594
Sydney tree survey and assessment	\$13,200
Seedbank — Mount Annan	\$1,000

Photo: Bark of Angophora leiocarpa (Northern Smooth Barked Apple or Dirty Gum) — part of the cypress pine shrubby woodland community as defined in the Trust's NSW Vegetation Classification and Assessment Project.



JAMIE PLAZA



JAMIE PLAZA

Photo top: The Royal Botanic Gardens provides an inspirational setting for art classes run by the Trust. This year around 140 aspiring artists and plant enthusiasts also took part in a range of botanical illustration workshops.

Photo below: Margaret Flockton Award exhibition, Red Box Gallery.

Royal Botanic Gardens heritage trees	\$93,800	Signage — Domain and Royal Botanic Gardens	\$20,000
African Olive control, Mount Annan	\$25,000	DNA free laboratory in the Herbarium	\$8,000
Signage — Domain and Royal Botanic Gardens	\$80,000	Central Precinct wayfinding signage — Mount Annan	\$15,000
Website development — Trees in the Gardens	\$35,000	Children's Garden, Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation	\$11,000
Science student internships	\$14,000	Bicentenary plant diversity program — 2016 project	\$125,000
Tree management — Mount Tomah	\$18,750	Connections Garden — Mount Annan	\$100,000
Conservation area signage — Mount Tomah	\$8,862	Total	\$434,000

Fogger for nursery — Mount Annan	\$13,957
Wildlife interpretation and maps — Mount Annan	\$6,000
Trust staff attendance at BGANZ meeting	\$4,923
Sundry	\$5,814
Total	\$492,526

Total committed to projects in progress at 30 June 2008	\$86,250
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At 30 June 2008 the Friends committed new funding for the following:

Horticultural, staff and science scholarships 2008	\$30,000
Margaret Flockton Award 2009	\$10,000
Contribution to direct costs	\$45,000
Student internships 2009	\$14,000
Tree management plan — Mount Tomah	\$10,000
Contribution to nurseries	\$6,000
Solar pump for Twin Ponds — Royal Botanic Gardens	\$20,000
Signage for Connections Garden — Mount Annan	\$20,000

Donations of books and magazines were made to Community Greening, following the Friends' second-hand book sale. 'Growing Friends' propagated a range of plants for donation to Community Greening, Community Education, and the three botanic gardens (est. value \$2,000); Annan and Tomah Shops were donated over 400 plants for sale (est. value \$2,500).

Friends Volunteers

The Friends has over 300 active volunteers who gave over 21,000 hours of their time, enabling the Friends to undertake a wide variety of activities throughout the year. Many volunteers serve on committees which oversee the many interests of the Friends and many more coordinate and work at the various events. One group of volunteers plans and presents activities at the three Gardens; another assists Trust staff to hand-water the valuable plant collections during water restrictions. 'Botanica' and 'Artisans', two exhibitions held by the Friends, are organised and run by Friends' volunteers, as is the annual second-hand book sale. Volunteers represent the Friends at outside events and support Trust events. They also promote membership of the Friends and give presentations to other organisations. A volunteer subcommittee plans local and overseas tours and office staff are assisted by volunteers on a regular basis.

The 'Growing Friends' groups at all three Gardens continued their work propagating and selling plants. Sales were held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Mount Annan Botanic Garden and at the Collectors Plant Fair at Bilpin. In spite of continuing drought conditions in many parts of NSW, together with disruption to propagation due to the redevelopment of the Central Depot at the Royal Botanic Gardens, substantial revenue was generated. At the Royal Botanic Gardens, once-per-month plant sales were trialled and found to be well supported.

The Friends' 'speakers bureau' supplemented staff presentations about the Trust to a wide variety of groups, including Probus clubs, garden clubs, Rotary groups and other community organisations. Information booth volunteers welcomed visitors at the Woolloomooloo Gate at the Royal Botanic Gardens six days a week. Catering volunteers provided refreshments for Friends' activities at Royal, Mount Annan and Mount Tomah Gardens. They also catered for the opening night parties for 'Artisans' and 'Botanica' and provided morning and afternoon teas during the exhibitions. The Mount Tomah and Mount Annan subcommittees provided catering for a number of Garden's related events.

Trust Volunteers

Contributions by Trust volunteers — such as mounting of preserved specimens in the National Herbarium of New South Wales, guided walks, bush regeneration and Begonia Garden care — are documented in the main body of the annual report.

Thank You

We thank all the following volunteers for their help and support in 2007–08.

Friends Ms Christine Allen, Ms Judith Anderson, Mr Graeme Andrews, Mrs Roslyn Andrews, Ms Judith Antill, Mrs Anne Arnott, Mrs Rae Assender, Mrs Wendy Atmore, Dr Peter Ayres, Mrs Marilyn Baggio, Mrs Victoria

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Begonia Collection: Royal Botanic

Gardens Gordon Chivers, Peter Sharp, Lee Sanders, Wendy Atmore, Margaret Chedra, Bruce Fergus.

Guides: Mount Annan Peter Andrews, Denis Astill, Margaret Beales, Jim Colvin, Robin Davies, Phyllis Jupe, Margaret Shanks, John Shanks

Guides: Mount Tomah Tina Boyd, Annette Bryant, Dawne Dunlop, Christine Hennessy, Isabel Johnston, Philip Merriman, Airdrie Martin, Leif Rosengard, Ailsa Thompson, Tony Tree, Shirlee Tree, Jackie Wall, Heather Weir, Carol Whyte, Kathleen Oakes

Bush Regeneration: Mount Annan

Richard Austin, Melissa Brattoni, Joel Daniels, Robin Davies, Ron Davies, Alicia Draper, David Eden, Lesley Hook, Leonie Kelly, Bronwyn Kery, Sean Martin, Barry Penprase, Hannah Shuttleworth, Eileen Shuttleworth, Alex Stengl, Duncan Stewart, Kris Stolzenhein, Rodney Ward, Doreen Ward

Financial Support

Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation

The Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation supports the Trust in conserving the world's plants for a sustainable future through raising funds for botanical research, conservation, education and display.

The Foundation is a charitable Trust endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*. It has an authority to fundraise from the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing and has GST Concession and Income Tax Exemption status.

The Foundation is governed by its board of Councillors: Mr Clive Austin (Chair) Mr Ian Conley, Dr Tim Entwisle, Ms Sue Gazal, Mr Ron Griffin, Ms Lesley Kernaghan, Mr Don Morris AO, Ms Gretel Packer, Mr John Taberner and Mrs Caroline Webster. During the year, Mr Greg Martin became President (formerly Chair) and Mr Jamie Durie became an Ambassador (formerly a Councillor).

The Foundation seeks benefaction through individual donations, gifts from grant giving foundations and corporate philanthropy for specific projects and other enhancements to the work of the Trust. Our sincere thanks go to the following benefactors for their support for specific projects during the year:

Youth Community Greening, an environmental education program for disadvantaged youth — \$176,000 per year for four years from Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, Mrs Roslyn Packer AO, and a private benefactor.

Rainforest Seed Conservation Program, a scientific research program to save and conserve rainforest plants, part of our threatened biodiversity — \$120,000 per year for three years from Allianz Australia, and Mr Tony Maxwell and Ms Robyn Godlee.

Purchase and initial works for property adjacent Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, including important conservation forest known as The Jungle — \$1,350,000 made possible by gifts from Mr John B. Fairfax and Family and the Environmental Trust of NSW.

Restoration of heritage statuary in the Royal Botanic Gardens funded through gifts from Ms Jennifer Crivelli, Ms Julie Drew, Mr John Gale, Mr Michael Grace, Mr Clive Austin and Mr Ian Conley.



Tropical Centre living 'garden wall', DNA equipment and classroom equipment — further generous support from Geoffrey and Rachel O'Connor.

The **Fellowship Program** is the Foundation's way to acknowledge and thank all benefactors and supporters in a structured way. The Foundation also receives uncommitted donations through the Fellowship Program. The Foundation recognised new donors at all levels this financial year. The levels are:

Charles Darwin Fellow
\$500,000 or more

Sir Joseph Banks Fellow
\$100,000 – \$500,000

Joseph Maiden Fellow
\$25,000 – \$100,000

Allan Cunningham Fellow
\$5,000 – \$25,000

Foundation Supporters
gifts to \$5,000

Two events were hosted by the Foundation and the Executive Director, primarily to build new relationships. In August, ABC Science Show celebrity Robyn Williams spoke on *The Botanic Ark — how climate change brings an urgency to the role of Botanic Gardens* at the Trust's Herbarium. Guests at a function in the HSBC Oriental Garden were entertained by Dr Peter Valder, who spoke on *The Influence of Oriental Plants on our Lives*.

Benefactors and supporters also met Trust scientists, horticulturists and educators at various occasions. Volunteer guide Flora Deverell led a group on tour of the Domain; Dr Darren Crayn made a presentation on molecular research at the Botanic Gardens Trust; Dr Barry Conn spoke about his research work on identifying and mapping trees of Papua New Guinea.

Photo: Thousands flock each year to Mrs Macquaries Point in the Domain to take in Sydney's iconic view of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge across Farm Cove.

Corporate Sponsorships

The Trust continued to develop corporate partnerships through sponsorship of its programs in best practice horticulture, education and conservation.

Towards Sustainable Horticulture, a program sponsored by HSBC, enabled important water saving initiatives in the Royal Botanic Gardens and further developed the What's the Big Idea Garden at Mount Annan Botanic Garden.

New partnerships established with Freehills and Bloomberg provided important funding for conservation and education programs, including the new Education Centre at Mount Tomah.

The Trust also partnered with Neutrog Fertilisers, to support the organisation's commitment to the use of organic and organic-based fertilisers.

Existing partnerships with Landcom, M5 South West Motorway and Pernod Ricard Australia have continued to make an important contribution to the Trust's work.

The Trust would like to thank all Foundation benefactors, sponsors and supporters listed below.

Major Supporters

Australian Biological Resources Study
Australia's Virtual Herbarium Trust
Bloomberg
Citigroup
Friends of The Gardens
Freehills
Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority
Hermon Slade Foundation
HSBC Bank Australia Limited
Landcom
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Natural Heritage Trust
National Action Plan on Salinity
Housing NSW
NSW Environmental Trust
Pernod Ricard Pacific
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority

Supporters

Australian Flora Foundation
Australian Garden History Society
Australian Research Council
Australian Systematic Botany Society (Hansjörg Eichler Research Fund)
Dino Belfanti
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Friends Waratah Members

Friends who gave extra financial support through their Waratah membership during the year were:

Gold Waratahs Dr Charles S Barnes, Mr Donald & Mrs Sally Bradford, Dr Gillian Davies, Mrs Zeny & Mr Bruce Edwards, Mr John Egan, Mr John Flint & Mrs Nora Hinchin, Mr Graham & Mrs Virginia Froebel, Mr Neville H Grace, Dr Max & Mrs Tess Hooper, Mrs Judith MacIntyre, Mrs Susan Maple-Brown, Mrs Judith & Mr John McKernan, Dr William & Mrs Sarah Nelson, Mr Geoff & Mrs Rachel O'Connor, Mr David & Mrs Patricia Pulsford, Dr Alex & Mrs Dorothy Robertson, Mrs Susan Rothwell, Mr Bill & Mrs Maureen Ryan, Mr Mark & Mrs

Ruth Sampson, Miss Alison Stephen, Ms Eleanor Sydney-Jones, Mr Robert & Mrs Caro Webster. Miss Beryl Raymer, Dr Peter Valder.

Silver Waratahs Ms Gillian Appleton, Mrs Geraldine & Mr Christopher Arnott, Mr Ike & Mrs Louise Bain, Ms Shane Bedford & Ms Linda Hunt, Mr Warren & Mrs Nancy Boyd, Dr Barbara Briggs, Mrs Elizabeth Davis OAM, Mrs Catherine & Mr Anthony de Leede, Ms Anne De Salis, Dr Roderick & Mrs Gillian Deane, Ms Suzanne Dowsett, Prof Geoffrey & Mrs Jan Driscoll, Ms Annie Fergusson & Mr Jim Fergusson, Mr Bruce Flood & Ms Kathy Olsen, Mr David Fuller, Mr John Gale, Mr Raffael Garofano & Mrs Margaret Garofano, Mr Warren Green, Mr Desmond & Dr Catherine Guy, Mrs Helen & Mr Graham Hamilton, Mr William Hodgson, Mrs Annie Hughes, Mr Gordon & Mrs Jeanette King, Mrs Susan & Mr Gilles Kryger, Miss Nina Loder, Mrs Mary Rose & Dr Colin McDonald, Mrs Caroline Minogue, Ms Helen Murray, Dr Kenneth & Mrs Helen Neale, Ms Jill Paterson, Mrs Patricia Reid, Mrs Janis Salisbury, Mr Colin Simson, Mrs Prue Socha, Dr Velencia Soutter, Mrs Ruth Staples, Mr Graham & Mrs Beverley Thompson, Mr ER & Mrs ME Vellacott, Mr Christopher Wood.

Bronze Waratahs Mrs Beryl Adamson, Mr Ross Adamson, Mr Geoffrey Ainsworth & Ms Laura Olsson, Mrs Antoinette Albert, Mrs Nancy Anderson, Mrs Chris Armour, Mr Henry & Mrs Peta Badgery, Mr Stephen & Mrs Alexandra Barratt, Mr Edmund Burgess & Ms Renette Townsend, Mr Geoffrey & Mrs Sarah Cains, Miss Beverley Cameron, Mrs Adrienne Campbell, Dr Donald & Mrs Margot Child, Mr Paul & Mrs Dianne Cini, Mr Ashley & Mrs Lorraine Colvin, Mr Robert & Mrs Janet Constable, Ms Susanne de Ferranti, Dr Julie Fitness, Mrs Nancy Fox & Mr Bruce

Arnold, Mr Ian Fraser, Mr Andrew & Mrs Narelle Gatenby, Mr Allan Gilden, Mr Paul Gray & Mr Andrew Moate, Mrs Dallas & Mr Brian Griffin, Mr Jim & Mrs Ruth Hallmark, Mrs Hope Hanks, Mr Owen Haviland & Ms Susan Hope, Ms Anne Hawker, Ms Janita & Mr Philip Hercus, Mrs Pamela Hindes, Mr John & Mrs Mary Holt, Mrs Sheila & Mr Philip Jacobson, Mrs Christina Kennedy, Mrs Christine Kenworthy, Dr Holly Kerr Forsyth, Prof Michael & Mrs Sarah Lawrence, Ms Julie Lee, Ms Robin Low, Dr Carolyn Lowry OAM & Mr Peter Lowry OAM, Dr David & Mrs Judith Maynard, Mrs Susan & Mr Richard Miles, Mr Andrew Mitchell & Mr Brendan Hartnett, Mr David & Mrs Cheryl Nelson, Mrs Barbara Palfreeman, Mr Robert & Mr Derek Paisley, Dr Mary & Dr Nancy Rickard, Mrs Sandra Robberds, Mrs Beverley Roden, Mrs Louise & Mr Donald Rowston, Dr Diana & Dr Peter Sainsbury, Mr Garry Scarf & Ms Maureen Blaxill, Mr John Southwell OAM, Miss Suzanne Stebbings, Miss Kathryn Stoddart, Mrs Aline & Mr Peter Ter Horst, Mr Richard & Mrs Anna Walker, Mrs Francis Walsh, Dr John & Mrs Beverley Warneford, Mr Dean White & Mrs Sophie Polednik, Ms Marion and Mr James Taylor, Dr Mary Taylor, Mr John & Mrs Irene Willimott, Mrs Elizabeth Wills, Ms Robyn & Mr Terry Winton, Mrs J O & Dr W H Wolfenden, Mrs Jill Wran.

Friends Life Memberships For the first time in many years the Friends awarded a life membership, to Alex and Dorothy Robertson. They join John and Shirley Stackhouse and John and Jocelyn Morris who were awarded life membership some years ago. Life membership is awarded to those who have made a very considerable contribution to the Friends or to the Trust. ■

Appendices

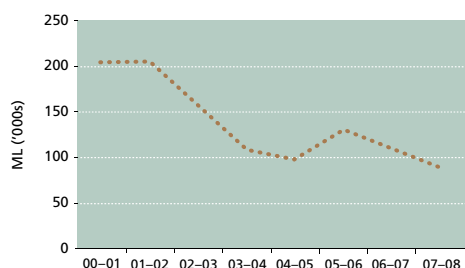


Fig. 1 Royal Botanic Gardens potable water use

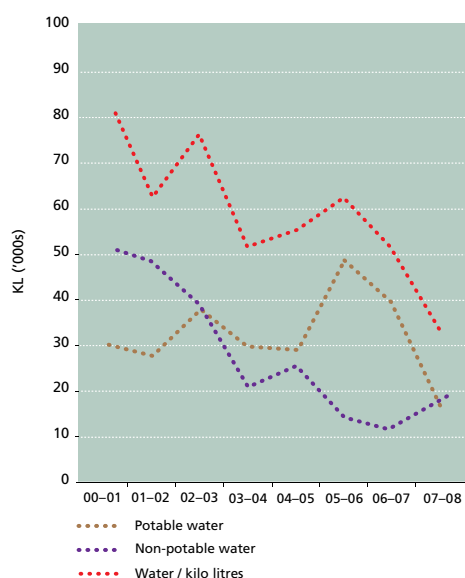


Fig. 2 Mount Annan Botanic Garden water use

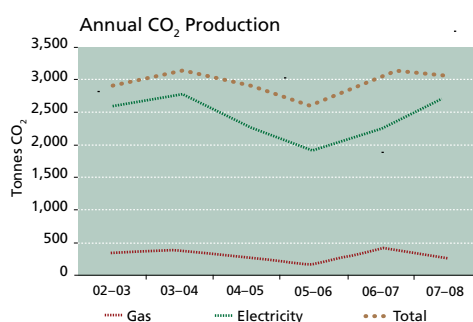


Figure 3 Trust Greenhouse gas emissions

Appendix A

Environmental Management Report

Trust Environment Statement

See main body of report (p.30)

Water Usage

Royal Botanic Gardens

Historically, the Royal Botanic Gardens has been a high irrigation water consumer. A Water Savings Action Plan completed in 2006 identified where water savings could be made.

Permanent monitoring was installed on the main meter and at specific locations including the Central Depot, administration buildings and on the irrigation ring-main, to monitor water flows and to detect (then repair) leaks. This monitoring system was commissioned by Sydney Water, under the Every Drop Counts Business Program. Further water savings were made through careful planting, mulching, only watering high-use lawns, and installing rainwater tanks at some display gardens.

The Gardens had a 20 per cent reduction in water usage compared to last year and a total reduction of 58 per cent since benchmarking in 2000-01, thereby reducing baseflow consumption from 90kL/day to below 40kL/day. Further water saving initiatives are being identified and costed.

Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Mount Annan sources unfiltered irrigation water from the Upper Canal that runs from Cataract Dam to Prospect Reservoir. Regular maintenance work to the canal disrupts supply and causes the Garden to use a local potable water supply for irrigation.

Sydney Water, under its Every Drop Counts Business Program, commissioned a number of meters that were installed to assess water use and identify areas for improvement. The monitoring identified that one third of annual irrigation water flow was lost through leaks and pipe breaks. Water storage for fire fighting also increases potable water consumption.

Mount Tomah Botanic Garden

Mount Tomah uses 100% non-potable water for irrigation and facilities management. Water is sourced from local dams, creeks and rainwater tanks. Following treatment, this water is also used to supply public facilities.

Electricity, Gas and CO₂ Greenhouse Emissions

Additional major events at all Trust estates resulted in a slightly higher than expected energy use. However, all events in the Phillip Precinct now use 100 per cent Green Power. Elsewhere the Trust uses six per cent Green Power and will seek to increase this percentage or pursue 'green generation' itself in future years.

Royal Botanic Gardens

Improvements to street lighting around the Domain increased the lighting standard, improved security, and the use of more efficient light globes resulted in a reduction in greenhouse emissions. Lower gas consumption contributed to an overall slight reduction in emissions.

Mount Annan Botanic Garden

A five per cent (per annum) increase in consumption was due to an increase in venue hire including after-hour's weddings that required lighting. Air conditioning enhancements and additional security lighting have also contributed to the increase.

Mount Tomah Botanic Garden

Construction of the Waratah Education Centre caused an increase in electricity consumption. Conversely, the geothermal heat exchange used for heating and cooling the building provided ongoing energy savings, resulting in an overall reduction.

Waste Management

The NSW Government's Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (WRAPP) is a whole-of-government policy that aims to make NSW Government agencies and State-owned corporations model waste managers by:

- reducing waste
- increasing recycling
- increasing purchases of products with recycled content.

WRAPP requires agencies to give priority to buying materials with recycled content where they are cost and performance competitive, and reduce the amount of waste generated.

Waste data and purchasing data are reported separately. Waste figures quoted compare the performance of the Botanic Gardens Trust with the overall performance of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC).

Waste

Recycled:

- 70% of all paper and cardboard products (DECC 82%)
- 49% of all toner cartridges (DECC 52%)
- 100% of PC monitor CPUs
- 100% of construction materials (asphalt, timber, bricks, plasterboard etc), with the exception of some glass (86%) (DECC 94%)
- 100% of vegetation waste (DECC 87%).

Purchasing Data

Office paper averaged 9% recycled content (some papers with higher recycled content interfere with printers and photocopiers).

Landscape materials (e.g. mulch) was 93% recycled.

Appendix B

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC): a summary of Trust activity in 2007–08 against GSPC targets

The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation was adopted by the 6th Conference of the Parties to the international Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Trust, together with the Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens (CHABG) and the Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) have committed to pursuing GSPC targets wherever possible in their scientific, horticultural and educational activities.

The ultimate and long-term objective of the GSPC is to *halt the current and continuing loss of plant diversity*. Within this ultimate and long-term objective, the GSPC has sub-objectives as follows:

- Understand and document plant diversity, monitor status and trends in global plant diversity and its conservation, threats to plant diversity, and identify plant species, plant communities, and associated habitats and ecosystems at risk, including consideration of 'red lists'
- Develop an integrated, distributed, interactive information system to manage and make accessible information on plant diversity
- Promote research on the genetic diversity, systematics, taxonomy, ecology and conservation biology of plants and plant communities, and associated habitats and ecosystems, and on social, cultural and economic factors that impact biodiversity, so that plant diversity, both in the wild and in the context of human activities, can be well understood and utilized to support conservation action
- Conserve plant diversity: improve long-term conservation, management and restoration of plant diversity, plant communities, and the associated habitats and ecosystems, in situ and, where necessary, ex-situ

- Strengthen measures to control unsustainable utilization of plant resources
- Support the development of livelihoods based on sustainable use of plants, and promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of plant diversity
- Promote education and awareness about plant diversity
- Build capacity for the conservation of plant diversity
- Link and integrate actors to maximize action and potential synergies in support of plant conservation.

The GSPC themes and global targets for the year 2010, and relevant Trust activities in the year 2007–08, are as follows:

Understanding and documenting plant diversity

Target 1: A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora

The Trust maintains the National Herbarium of New South Wales, the principal repository for documented samples and data of the State's plants and one of the major repositories and botanical research centres for Australia and the region.

The 1.2 million herbarium specimens form an authenticated scientific baseline of taxonomic, nomenclatural and distributional knowledge of plant species, and contribute to the accuracy and currency of specialist handbooks and general Floras (e.g. the multi-volume *Flora of Australia*, *Algae of Australia* and *Fungi of Australia* — in progress; the *Flora of New South Wales* — now maintained on line through PlantNET). Herbarium staff are contributing to the new *Australian Plant Census*.

Progress in the digital capture of scientific data, and in the development of our database structures and tools, is leading to an increasing focus on conservation-related information

systems. These include records of historic and current mapping of vegetation cover, species distributions, survey records, living collections, habitat, physical and biological features and geographical information systems (GIS).

Trust scientific staff and research associates are active in the production and documentation of taxonomic knowledge across a wide range of plant groups (seed plants, some gymnosperms and ferns, bryophytes, marine and freshwater algae, and some lichens and fungi).

The Trust has established high-level contact with the *Global Taxonomy Initiative* of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and with other international groups, to further the Asia-Pacific objectives. The Trust continued its contribution to national and international committees related to the management and dissemination of plant diversity data. The Trust is a member of the IUBS *International Working Group on Taxonomic Databases* and the Australian *Herbarium Information Committee* (HISCOM), and is represented on the Executive Committees of key international database groups (particularly, members of staff are the Chair of the *Global Plant Checklist Committee of International Organization for Plant Information*; member of *GBIF Electronic Catalogue of Names Subcommittee* and Chair of the project team of *Species 2000*). The Trust is also a member of the *Species 2000 Asia-Oceania group* and the *Pacific Biodiversity Information Forum*. These groups encourage international and national biodiversity activities in the broad region.

The second phase of a 'Guide to trees of Papua New Guinea' (<http://www.pngplants.org>) project is underway as part of a collaborative research initiative with the Papua New Guinea National Herbarium. More than 520 species have been completed in the project, which will help document the tree flora of that country.

Target 2: A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels

The Trust is represented on the two key inter-agency committees that assess the conservation status of species for legislative listing in the State: the NSW Scientific Committee (for terrestrial species) and the NSW Fisheries Scientific Committee (for aquatic species). Other Trust staff and associates contribute to the provision of information on which the assessments and legislative scheduling of threatened species and threatened communities are made at both State and Commonwealth level.

Target 3: Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience

Scientific staff of the Trust contribute to the development of model systems, training manuals, common conservation data-repositories, and long-term monitoring projects of importance to vegetation management and conservation.

Conservation ecology work detailed under Target 7 below is contributing directly to a capability to model species responses to habitat change, including climate change.

Conserving plant diversity

Target 4: At least 10 per cent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved

The NSW Native Vegetation Classification and Assessment continues, with the ecological (vegetation) communities of over half the land area of the State now documented, including close estimates of the proportion conserved and the nature of threats facing them. This comprehensive review and typology of the ecological communities across the State is becoming a standard reference for conservation planning in the

State, including in reserve acquisition strategies.

Internationally, staff are members of the IUCN (World Conservation Union) Commission on Ecosystem Management, the Species Survival Commission Red-List Committee, and the IUCN Species Survival Commission Reintroduction Specialist Group.

Ecological studies of several communities (some of them endangered) across the Sydney Basin also continue.

Target 5: Protection of 50 per cent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured

This target is not relevant to the Trust except insofar as it provides botanical and plant pathology expertise and services to assist with assessment and management of reserve lands.

Target 6: At least 30 per cent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity

The NSW Native Vegetation Classification and Assessment is progressively describing and classifying (but not mapping) the native ecological (vegetation) communities of NSW. The western half of the State (mainly rangeland production systems with some irrigation cropping) was completed in 2006–07, and further progress in the current year has seen data collection and some parts of write-up completed for important new regions (South-west Slopes Bioregion, Brigalow Belt South Bioregion, and the western half of the New England tableland). This review and typology of ecological communities is an essential information system for conservation management of these areas.

The seed biology of over 150 species of Cumberland Plain plant species is being documented through *in-situ* and laboratory studies at Mount Annan Botanic Garden. This information contributes directly to

management strategies for the several endangered ecological communities and many threatened species of the Cumberland Plain.

Target 7: Sixty per cent of the world's threatened species conserved *in-situ*

Trust staff, and our collections and databases, provide much of the basic taxonomic, distributional and diagnostic information on which the recognition, conservation assessment, and management of plant species depends.

Trust staff also provide expert input and research support to many Recovery Plans and Threat Abatement Plans, and to the NSW DECC Priority Action Statement for threatened species.

Trust staff members are active members of:

- the IUCN Species Survival Commission Reintroduction Specialist Group
- the Wollemi Pine Management and Recovery Committee
- the Border Ranges Multi-Species Recovery Committee
- several single-species and single-community recovery teams.

During the year, input was made to relevant DECC units on the Priority Action Statement for threatened species. The Trust is represented at meetings of the DECC Biodiversity Conservation Managers group, which focuses on threatened species and ecosystems.

Research programs with a direct bearing on adaptive management of wild plants *in-situ* include:

- *The seed biology of Cumberland Plain Woodland plants* (see above). CPW is one of a number of Endangered Ecological Communities occurring in the Sydney region. In-situ management and recovery actions for Cumberland Plain species require information on germination,

dormancy, longevity and other ecological characteristics of the species.

- A *Liverpool Plains native grassland survey* mapping of the current and pre-European extents of the grasslands is in the data analysis stage, following completion of fieldwork. This community is listed as an endangered ecological community under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act*, with less than three per cent remaining).
- *Conservation ecology and genetic research* is using molecular, ecological and environmental data from rare and common paleo-endemic NSW rainforest trees to identify causes of rarity and to infer past patterns of spread and retreat with environmental changes. This helps build models for assessment of the responses of wild plant species to environmental impacts like habitat fragmentation and climate change, and hence informs management and recovery strategies.
- *Wollemi Pine ecological and pathological studies*: the Trust remains significantly involved in research and management of the iconic Wollemi Pine, including study of grove ecology and growth dynamics, and tracking and treating the recent outbreak of *Phytophthora* root-rot at one site.

Target 8: Sixty per cent of threatened plant species in accessible *ex situ* collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 per cent of them included in recovery and restoration programs

Trust staff led a successful process during the year, in collaboration with the Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc. and The Millennium Seed Bank Australian Partners consortium, to initiate a national working group for revision of the national standard document *Germplasm Conservation Guidelines*, for species of conservation significance. Two national

workshops (one at Mount Annan) have been held to develop the revised guidelines.

The NSW Seedbank has been a major focus of activity for several years, and the Trust is in its second and final triennium of support funding from the Millennium Seed Bank (UK). This funding has enabled an expanded program of seed collection, seed-banking and technology, and seed biology research over recent years

The NSW Seedbank is an active partner in the newly formed national AuSCaR (Australian Seed Conservation and Research) network, which groups all MSB partners and is laying the foundations for a cooperative continuance of the MSB-funded programs after 2010. The Trust has two staff members on the AuSCaR interim steering committee, which is developing strategic placement and a business program for the organisation.

The NSW Seedbank at 1 July 2008 holds 9,085 accessions representing 4,942 taxa, of which 5,074 collections and 2,353 taxa are native to NSW. Of the 6,923 native taxa that naturally occur in NSW, the NSW Seedbank now has samples of 34 per cent. Of the 594 legislatively listed Threatened Plant species in NSW, the seedbank holds 29 per cent (338 seedlots of 168 species).

Germination tests are carried out on dried seed of nearly all seedbanked species (807 germination tests completed to date) and data is being prepared for publication. A range of factors and tests for germinability and viability are performed and recorded, and in many cases are the first systematic studies of the seed responses of the species concerned, thus providing baseline data of use in *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation.

The Research Program at Mount Annan Botanic Garden has this year focussed on some key areas in order to increase the relevance of the program — at departmental, national and international

levels — in the areas of germplasm conservation and utilisation.

Through the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation, a new 'Rainforest Seeds Project' was launched in early 2008, using three years funding from Allianz and two private benefactors. Seeds of eastern Australian rainforest species will be screened for their ability to be stored by conventional means. Where seeds are recalcitrant to storage, alternative *ex situ* conservation techniques will be developed, including tissue culture and cryogenics. This work involves Collaboration with Griffith University and the Millennium Seedbank.

A number of papers were accepted for publication in the development of robust techniques for simultaneous storage of terrestrial orchid seeds with their mycorrhizal fungi.

The technique involves the use of alginate beads that act in a similar manner to seeds, and will be used on a wider number of species over the next few years.

Other activities included:

- A new 3-day course in 'Plant Germplasm Conservation and Sustainable Development' was developed and delivered to honours-year students from the University of Sydney
- Courses involving Mount Annan staff on seed collection and storage were held for Florabank/Greening Australia and the Sydney Catchment Authority
- Research staff prepared a number of chapters and co-edited the revision of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation's Plant Germplasm Conservation Guidelines.
- Mount Annan Research staff organised and hosted the 7th National Conference of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation, held at Mulgoa 21–24 April 2008.
- Research staff contributed presentations to a number

of conferences including: the International Seed Ecology Conference (Perth 2007), BGANZ (New Zealand 2007), Int. Symposium on Floricultural Crops (Portugal 2007) and ANPC (Sydney 2008).

Target 9: Seventy per cent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained

Trust activity against this Target falls mainly under the heads of research and training in plant pathology, and the promulgation of Indigenous knowledge and insights into the wider community through teaching and interpretation.

In plant pathology (see also under Target 10 below), the Trust contributed to studies of diseases of crop plants and the potential for pathogens to cross from native ecosystems to cropping systems. Major pathogens like *Fusarium* may in some circumstances lead to the loss of important parts of the genomic variation of crop species.

School education and visitor programs have a high component of Indigenous knowledge content — see below.

Target 10: Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems

The Trust is represented on two key inter-agency committees that assess the threatening processes (including those relating to alien species) for NSW legislative listing as Key Threatening Processes.

The Botanical Information Service provides expert identification of exotic and introduced weed species, and works with external collaborators to ensure early detection of newly naturalising species.

The Plant Disease Diagnostic Unit provides affordable diagnoses of these and other plant diseases, including for

natural area and species managers. Research continued on a major external collaborative study documenting the species of fungi causing leaf spot diseases on plants in the families Proteaceae and Myrtaceae. A long-term focus of research is on the distribution, pathology and genetic variation of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (a cause of root-rot and dieback in several national parks and other natural areas in eastern New South Wales) as well as important bushland reserves on Sydney Harbour foreshores. Trust staff are active members of the NSW Phytophthora Threat Abatement Working Group, and of *ad hoc* liaison groups with local councils and other land managers, and are working through these avenues to develop practical management and risk-minimisation protocols. Remedial treatment of a wild grove of Wollemi Pines for *Phytophthora cinnamomi* infection continues.

Using plant diversity sustainably

Target 11: No species of wild flora endangered by international trade

The Trust is represented on the NSW Cut-flower Advisory Committee. The Botanical Information Service provides expert plant identifications, including for export-control authorities. Trust services provide expert forensic identification for plant import/export seizures as needed, and contributes to import risk assessment processes as appropriate.

Target 12: Thirty per cent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed

This target is not relevant to the Trust except insofar as we are able to provide expert advice in some instances, for assessment of sustainable yield.

Target 13: The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted

This target is partially relevant to a range of current Trust programs and

projects through which the Trust advises government bodies on conservation priorities and opportunities, host relevant public and specialist events, and have some staff expertise in Indigenous and non-Indigenous plant practices and cultural knowledge.

The Trust provides much of the advice and raw data, and some of the analysis, on which estimates of decline of wild plant species and vegetation communities can be scientifically based. The NSW Native Vegetation Classification and Assessment project is providing a literature-based assessment of post settlement decline, and current reserve-representation, for all recognised ecological communities across the State as the project trends eastwards.

The Trust is committed to employing Aboriginal people to interpret their own culture and to provide an Indigenous perspective of the environment for visitors. The Trust employs a full-time Aboriginal Education Officer and engages several Indigenous educators on a casual basis for program delivery at all three botanic estates. Lessons about Aboriginal culture and plants continue to be very popular and approximately 30 per cent of all school visitation participated in these. Aboriginal heritage tours of the Royal Botanic Gardens attracted 774 paying participants.

The Trust's 'Community Greening' program is an educational partnership with the NSW Department of Housing and corporate sponsor Eden Gardens and Garden Centre. This year 'Community Greening' staff reached 3,300 participants on 248 visits to community garden projects. The 'Youth Community Greening' team visited 20 schools and taught nearly 500 students in garden-related classes and garden clubs in its first two months of operation. Conservation and sustainability themes form part of the program. Since its inception in 2000, 'Community Greening' has assisted more 23,000 participants in 150 disadvantaged communities around NSW to develop communal gardens.

Promoting education and awareness about plant diversity

Target 14: The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programs

Science staff give presentations to both public and scientific or specialist audiences, and the Trust's two scientific journals continue to document the taxonomic diversity of the State's plants (*Telopea*), and their ecology (*Cunninghamia*).

Prompt and accurate servicing of public botanical inquiries plays an important role in awareness raising, particularly in relation to threatened species in development zones. The Botanical Information Service provides prompt and reliable identifications to public and professional inquirers, as does the Plant Disease Diagnostic Unit (PDDU).

The Ecology of Cumberland Plain Woodland Plants section continues to attract among the highest hit-rate of any Trust web pages. These make accessible ecological data and knowledge for the western part of Greater Sydney (including for several endangered ecological communities and threatened species).

Mount Annan Botanic Garden hosted the biennial national conference of the *Australian Network for Plant Conservation* in April. The theme of the conference was 'Responding to threatening processes in plant conservation'. Over four days, more than 200 plant conservation scientists, managers and community practitioners heard more than 50 presentations and attended workshops and field-site inspections.

Community Education staff at all three botanic gardens delivered school and public programs to over 55,000 visitors this financial year, with a further 14,000 people involved in extra-mural activities. Lessons in the Gardens were delivered to over 23,000 students.

Public programs included structured educational courses and activities with a plant or horticultural focus, on-site visitor interpretation, talks and guided tours. Conservation and sustainability themes were an element of a majority of these interactions.

The 'Community Greening' program reached around 3,300 participants in community garden projects, and the new 'Youth Community Greening' team visited 20 schools and taught nearly 500 students.

Building capacity for the conservation of plant diversity

Target 15: The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy

Tertiary level professional and technical training is mainly through the Science units. Forty-two tertiary students in various branches of plant science were supervised this year, and staff delivered guest lectures at various universities, including our joint Systematics course with the University of New England.

The *Plant Science Student Intern Program* had its first intake of tertiary students over summer, resulting in much extra work done for the Herbarium. The twelve participants left with a much improved understanding of current issues in botany and conservation, an orientation towards the Gardens as a centre of plant science, and improved career prospects. The Intern Program will now be held annually.

The Centre for Plant Conservation (CPC) coordinates several aspects of Trust work on biodiversity conservation, and is a focus of outreach and collaboration with the Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc., and the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators, among other organisations. The CPC Coordinator also maintains close links with a number of other DECC units, and

with biodiversity conservation units in agencies in other jurisdictions.

Target 16: Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels

- Trust staff are active at national and local leadership levels in the Australian Network for Plant Conservation.
- Collaboration has been maintained with the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators, with a number of events hosted.

Plant pathology staff are working to develop *Phytophthora* awareness networks between local government, State agencies, and other land-management authorities.

Also see Appendix C for the Asia-Pacific Capacity Building Action Plan.

Appendix C

Asia-Pacific Capacity Building Action Plan

Objective

To contribute to the long-term conservation of plants and their habitats worldwide, by building capacity and sharing expertise among botanic gardens of the Asia-Pacific region.

Rationale

The Botanic Gardens Trust is a leading botanic garden in Australia and internationally; it is relatively well resourced and has the capacity to help; it has good historical connections with countries in the Asia-Pacific region; Australia and New South Wales both have interests in the local region which this could enhance.

The Trust has stronger links with some countries and botanic gardens, for example Bogor and Singapore, and will use these relationships to assist in the program. There are some countries that, due to historical linkages, proximity or need, have been identified as high priorities: New Guinea, Indonesia, East Timor and New Caledonia. However, rather than identify specific 'target areas', the Trust will be opportunistic and, where possible and reasonable, respond to demand.

Progress Against Actions

Establish relationships opportunistically with botanic gardens within the region

Executive Director Dr Tim Entwisle attended the East Asia Botanic Gardens Network meeting in Seoul. Dr Entwisle and Dr Phil Moors, Director Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, were supported by the Australia-Korea Foundation to attend this meeting and to visit botanic gardens in the Republic of Korea. On the return trip, Drs Entwisle and Moors visited Singapore Botanic Gardens (see below).

Scientists from the Botanic Gardens Trust visited the Asia-Pacific region,

forging relationships and assisting with conservation and research projects. On the advice of the Executive Director, the Friends of The Gardens continued to give priority to travel funding applications in this region.

Develop a Diploma in Asia Pacific Botanic Garden Management with Singapore Botanic Gardens, Botanic Gardens Conservation International and Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand.

Drs Entwisle and Moors met with colleagues from the Singapore Botanic Gardens and Botanic Gardens Conservation International to plan a pilot diploma for mid-2009. A draft course outline was approved, subject to feedback from participating countries. The course will be funded through sponsorship, course registration and in-kind support from members of Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ; e.g. to cover travel for staff to teach in the course). BGANZ will also consider using funds from the major botanic gardens to provide a scholarship for participants in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Seek funding to assist staff (airfares and some living expenses) to travel to Singapore (or elsewhere) to teach in the Diploma course, and to consider funding a scholarship for a non-Australian attendee (can be country specific if this is more appealing to a funding source)

The Development Manager is working with Singapore Botanic Gardens to seek sponsorship for the Diploma as a whole, possibly including travel scholarships for local attendees. Funding will also be sought to support the travel of at least two Botanic Gardens Trust staff to teach in the Diploma.

Prepare and implement procedures for overseas visitors generally

Draft Procedures were prepared and will be submitted to Botanic Gardens Trust Executive in early 2008–09.

Prepare modular program for short-term stays by visiting botanic garden professionals, including consideration of accommodation options at Botanic Gardens Trust estates

To be prepared in 2008–09.

Integrate the Asia-Pacific Capacity Building program, along with any other international training projects for botanic gardens, in the proposed Centre for Plant Conservation and Research

The Asia-Pacific Capacity Building program is part of the business case being prepared for the Centre for Plant Conservation and Research at Mount Annan Botanic Garden.

Appendix D

Research Grants

Grant Funding to the Trust

The Australia and Pacific Science Foundation

Dr Adam Marchant and Dr George Orel — Genetic and horticultural assessment of the Australian native ‘bush potato’ (*Ipomoea costata*). \$11,000 (3rd year of a 3-year \$42,000 grant) (extended beyond 30 June 2007).

Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS)

Karen Wilson & Prof. Jeremy Bruhl (UNE) — Phylogeny, taxonomy and biology of *Schoenus*: A Cinderella of Australian Cyperaceae \$150,000 (1st year of a 3-year \$300,000 grant).

Dr Darren Crayn, Dr Maurizio Rossetto, Dr Peter Weston, Dr John Conran (Uni of Adel), A/Prof. Santiago Madriñan (Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia), Dr Henk van der Werff (Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis MI, USA) plus retirees Bernie Hyland and Bruce Gray (rainforest botanists CSIRO, Qld) — Integrating molecular

and morphological data for generic delimitation and species identification in Lauraceae \$150,000 (1st year of a 3-year \$300,000 grant).

Dr Peter Wilson and Dr Chris Quinn — Generic position of the non persistent-fruited species of *Leptospermum* (Myrtaceae) \$22,000 (2nd year of a 2-year \$44,000 grant).

Australian Flora Foundation

Dr Peter Wilson and Dr Maurizio Rossetto — Reproductive biology of the Magenta Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium paniculatum*) \$11,600 per year (\$21,000 if 2nd year supported).

Australian Research Council – Discovery Grant

Dr Maurizio Rossetto, Dr Darren Crayn with Dr M.S. Pole and Dr A. Lowe (Uni Adelaide) — Developing biogeographical know-how: improving species divergence and dispersal estimations to examine geological and climatic evolutionary drivers, \$282,000 shared with the University of Queensland. \$10,000 to BGT (2nd year of a 3-year \$58,609 grant).

Australian Systematic Botany Society (ASBS) — Hansjorg Eichler Research Fund

Margaret Heslewood (PhD in progress through Uni of Adelaide) Phylogeography and biogeography of genera in the family Cunoniaceae in Australasia; focusing on the genus *Ceratopetalum*; grant will enable sampling from populations of *Ceratopetalum apetalum* (coachwood) at the northern limit of its range. \$2,000.

Australia's Virtual Herbarium Trust

Dr Brett Summerell — Australia's Virtual Herbarium \$83,500 (1st year of a 2-year \$167,000 grant).

Department of Environment and Climate Change (NSW) — Natural Heritage Trust

Dr Alan Millar — Databasing seaweeds in National Herbarium of NSW — \$29,000.

Department of the Environment and Water Resources (formerly Department of Environment and Heritage) — Natural Heritage Trust and National Action Plan on Salinity

Dr Maurizio Rossetto — Translocation of *Elaeocarpus williamsianus* by R. Kooyman \$6,500.

John Benson — NSW Native Vegetation Classification and Assessment \$200,000 (2nd year of a 2-year \$400,000 grant).

Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority

Dr Edward Liew, Dr Brett Summerell and Dr Rose Daniel — Management of the Plant Pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi* within the Hawkesbury-Nepean catchment \$100,000.

Hermon Slade Foundation

Dr Maurizio Rossetto and Dr Peter Weston — Speciation in the Australian flora: testing explanatory hypotheses in waratahs and their allies \$18,800 (1st year of a 3-year \$90,000 grant).

Dr Elizabeth Brown — Relationships of the Austral family Lepidoziaceae \$18,767 (delayed start — 3rd year of 3-year \$56,000 grant) — extended beyond 30 June 2006.

Dr Darren Crayn and Dr Maurizio Rossetto — Evolution and conservation genetics of Australasian Eleocarpaceae \$29,490 (3rd year of 3-year \$90,000 grant) — extended beyond 30 June 2006 to 31 Oct 2006.

Dr Cathy Offord — Storage of NSW rare and threatened NSW orchid species and their associated mycorrhizae \$30,000 (3rd year of a 3-year \$90,000 grant) (extended beyond 30 June 2006).

Horticulture Australia Limited

Dr Edward Liew and Andrew Watson, NSW DPI — *Fusarium* wilt of Snow Peas in Australia \$46,780 (2nd year of a 4-year \$140,340 grant).

Dr Edward Liew and Prof. David Guest, University of Sydney — Biology and Management of nut rot of chestnut \$15,000 (1st year of a 3-year \$45,000 grant).

Matrix Plus Consulting

Dr Maurizio Rossetto — Genetic Studies on *Erythroxylum* \$25,300.

Pacific Biological Foundation

Dr Barry Conn — Interactive identification keys to the common trees of PNG \$15,000 (3rd year of 3-year \$45,000 grant) – extended beyond 30 June 2006.

Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation

Dr Cathy Offord – ‘Seeds for the Future’ — rainforest seeds conservation project \$130,000 (1st year of a 3-year \$390,000 grant).

Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority (SMCMA) and DECC (Science and Policy Division), Parks and Wildlife Division, Environmental Protection and Regulation Division

Dr Edward Liew, Dr Brett Summerell, Dr Cathy Offord, Dr Amelia Martyn, Bob Makinson, Dr Rose Daniel, Dr Tony Auld (SPD), Dr Keith McDougall (EPRD) and Dr David Keith (PWD) — Survey and Management of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* within the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority \$100,000.

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Millennium Seed Bank (UK)

Peter Cuneo and Dr Cathy Offord — Seed Quest NSW partnership to supply 250 NSW seed collections per year. \$278,000 (4th year of 6-year \$831,000 grant).

Funding to Partner Organisations**Alfred P. Sloan Foundation**

Dr Brett Summerell with The New York Botanic Garden for ‘Tree-BOL’, a ‘Barcode of Life (BOL) Project — \$4,000 to New York Botanic Garden.

Australian Research Council — Research Networks

Macquarie University (administrative body) with Dr Brett Summerell, Dr Tim Entwisle, Dr Darren Crayn, Dr Peter Weston, Dr Maurizio Rossetto] and 40 other partners – Australian-New Zealand Research Network for

vegetation function (3rd year of sharing in \$2,500,000 over 5 years).

Friends of The Gardens**Research Grants**

Herbarium Internship Program \$14,000.

Travel Grants to Trust staff

Karen Wilson — attendance at the Monocots 4 International Conference in Copenhagen and associated visits to other institutions \$4,000.

Louisa Murray and Katherine Downs — Challenges of Herbarium curation and fieldwork in the Tropics, Papua New Guinea \$7,500.

Grants

Royal Botanic Gardens Library compactus \$70,000.

Margaret Flockton Award \$10,000.

Scholarships to Trust staff

Gillian Towler — Attend Australian Systematic Botany Society (ASBS) Annual Symposium and Botanical Latin Workshop, Darwin, Northern Territory \$2,300.

Dr Edward Liew — Attend the 9th International Congress of Plant Pathology — Torino, Italy and the 10th International *Fusarium* Workshop — Sardinia, Italy \$3,000.

Appendix E**Publications****Science**

Telopea (a journal of systematic research) and *Cunninghamia* (a journal of plant ecology for eastern Australia), each published twice a year, are available by subscription, or on exchange to other organisations.

General

Botanic Gardens of Sydney Guidebook (2005) Over 100 pages of information for visitors to the three botanic gardens and Domain. Available from Trust Gardens shops.

Some earlier publications may be available on request.

Appendix F

Overseas Travel

Name & Position	Countries / Cities visited	Purpose of Visit	Duration	Total Cost	Cost to Trust	Source of Other Funds
Dr Alan Millar, Principal Research Scientist	Oviedo, Spain	To attend the European Phycological Congress	12 July – 2 Aug 2007	\$4,700	Nil	Allen Press, USA, UGent, Belgium Museum, France
Dr Elizabeth Brown, Systematic Botanist	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Borneo	To attend World Conference of Bryology and field trip to Mount Kinabalu	22 July – 3 Aug 2007	\$3,500	Nil	Various sources, including Hermon Slade Foundation
Dr Edward Liew, Plant Pathologist/ Mycologist	Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia	To conduct workshops and field visits at Sam Ratulangi University	28 July – 9 Aug 2007	\$1,800	Nil	Australian Centre for Agricultural Research
Mr Gareth Hambridge, Horticulturist	Indonesia and Malaysia	To visit botanic gardens, national parks and attend conference	1 – 23 Aug 2007	\$4,500	Nil	Friends of The Gardens scholarship
Dr Tim Entwisle, Executive Director	Hamilton, New Zealand	To participate in 3 rd Australasian Congress of Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand	11 – 14 Oct 2007	\$2,000	\$1,500	Friends of The Gardens
Ms Pauline Markwell, Director Royal Botanic Garden Foundation	Hamilton, New Zealand	To participate in 3 rd Australasian Congress of Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand	11 – 14 Oct 2007	\$1,800	\$1,237	Friends of The Gardens
Mr Jason Brown, Manager Royal Botanic Gardens	Hamilton, New Zealand	To participate in 3 rd Australasian Congress of Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand	11 – 14 Oct 2007	\$1,800	\$1,237	Friends of The Gardens
Mr Troy Mason, Supervisor Botanic Horticulture	Hamilton, New Zealand	To participate in 3 rd Australasian Congress of Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand	11 – 14 Oct 2007	\$1,800	\$1,237	Friends of The Gardens
Mr Dawson Ougham, Senior Horticulturalist	Hamilton, New Zealand	To participate in 3 rd Australasian Congress of Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand	11 – 14 Oct 2007	\$1,800	\$1,237	Friends of The Gardens

Name & Position	Countries / Cities visited	Purpose of Visit	Duration	Total Cost	Cost to Trust	Source of Other Funds
Ms Rebecca Moutia, Marketing & Events Coordinator	Hamilton, New Zealand	To participate in 3 rd Australasian Congress of Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand	11 – 14 Oct 2007	\$1,800	\$1,237	Friends of The Gardens
Mr Peter Cuneo, Manager Natural Heritage	Hamilton, New Zealand	To participate in 3 rd Australasian Congress of Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand	11 – 14 Oct 2007	\$1,800	\$1,237	Friends of The Gardens
Ms Jan Allen, Garden Information Officer	Hamilton, New Zealand	To participate in 3 rd Australasian Congress of Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand	11 – 14 Oct 2007	\$1,800	\$1,237	Friends of The Gardens
Ms Lorraine Johnson, Senior Ranger	Hamilton, New Zealand	To participate in 3 rd Australasian Congress of Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand	11 – 14 Oct 2007	\$1,800	\$1,237	Friends of The Gardens
Ms Leonie Hansen, Education Officer	Hamilton, New Zealand	To participate in 3 rd Australasian Congress of Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand	11 – 14 Oct 2007	\$2,000	Nil	Friends of The Gardens
Dr Darren Crayn, Research Scientist	Taipei, Taiwan	To participate and present at 2 nd International DNA Barcoding Conference	16 – 22 Sept 2007	\$2,300	\$2,300	Nil
Ms Karen Wilson, Manager Plant Diversity	Auckland, New Zealand	To visit Auckland Museum Herbarium and participate in Species 2000 Team and Taxonomy Group meetings	5 – 9 Nov 2007	\$1,927	\$1,258	Department of Environment and Water Resources and personal contribution
Dr Barry Conn, Principal Research Scientist	Papua, New Zealand	To conduct field studies of trees of the Western Province and Eastern Highlands Province	5 Oct – 15 Oct and 3 Dec – 20 Dec 2007	\$9,700	Nil	The Australian & Pacific Biological Foundation
Ms Leonie Stanberg, Technical Officer	Panama City, Panama	To participate and present in the 8 th International Conference on Cycad Biology	12 – 18 Jan 2008	\$4,300	Nil	Personal contribution

Name & Position	Countries / Cities visited	Purpose of Visit	Duration	Total Cost	Cost to Trust	Source of Other Funds
Dr John Benson, Senior Ecologist	London, United Kingdom	To attend meeting of IUCN Ecosystem Management Commission sub-group on threat criteria for ecosystems	25 – 31 Mar 2008	\$3,000	Nil	Grant funds
Ms Karen Wilson, Manager Plant Diversity	Beijing, China	To visit Chinese National Herbarium and participate in Species 2000 Team and Taxonomy Group meetings	27 Mar – 4 Apr 2008	\$2,900	\$1,400	Flora of China and personal contribution
Dr Brett Summerell, Director Science and Public Programs	New York, USA	To participate in TREEBOL meeting at New York Botanical Garden	29 Apr – 4 May 2008	\$5,000 approx.	Nil	Grant from Sloan Foundation to New York Botanical Garden
Ms Katherine Downs, Curator	Lae, Papua New Guinea	To conduct curation and training at Lae Herbarium	21 – 29 June 2008	\$4,750	\$2,250	Friends of The Gardens
Ms Louisa Murray, Manager Collections	Lae, Papua New Guinea	To conduct curation and training at Lae Herbarium	21 – 29 June 2008	\$4,750	\$2,250	Friends of the Gardens
Dr Brett Summerell, Director Science and Public Programs	Penang, Malaysia	To teach and participate in International Fusarium Training workshop	21 – 29 June 2008	\$4,500	Nil	Universiti Sains Malaysia
Dr Tim Entwisle, Executive Director	Seoul, South Korea	To participate in East Asia Botanic Gardens Network conference	7 – 14 June 2008	\$6,800	Nil	Australia-Korea Foundation
Dr Barry Conn, Principal Research Scientist	Lae and Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea	To participate in Phase 4 of Guide to Trees of Papua New Guinea Project	12 May – 22 June 2008	\$8,500	Nil	Australia & Pacific Biological Foundation
Dr Elizabeth Brown, Systematic Bryologist	Fiji	To survey bryophytes	9 – 18 April 2008	\$3,500	Nil	National Geographic Society grant to Field Museum, Chicago
Dr Barry Conn, Principal Research Scientist	Georgetown, Guyana	To attend first meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group of FORENET	14 – 27 June 2008	\$10,800	Nil	ACO-EU/CIFOR
Dr Cathy Offord, Senior Research Scientist	Vancouver, Canada	To present at Wollemi Pine Symposium	25 – 31 July 2008	\$5,550	\$500	Botanical Society of America

Appendix G

Statutory and Other Information

Human Resource Information

The Botanic Gardens Trust is part of the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW. Ethnic Affairs Priorities (EAPS) and trends in the representation of EEO groups are reported in the annual report of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC). Separate EEO data for the Trust will be provided next year. Number of chief and senior executive officers, staff numbers, and work locations are reported below.

Two Ways Together

The Trust supports the NSW Government's 10-year Aboriginal Affairs Plan, Two Ways Together, which focuses on overcoming Indigenous disadvantage and enhancing community appreciation of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Representation of Aboriginal people increased this year with two permanent identified (Aboriginal) positions created and filled at Mount Annan and Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens. These are apprentice/trainee horticulturalist positions and are in addition to the existing identified apprentice position at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

The Trust also employs one full-time permanent Aboriginal education officer and five casual Aboriginal education assistants to deliver school and public programs which interpret the Aboriginal cultural heritage of the Trust's estates. Details of these programs appear elsewhere in this report.

Cultural renewal and connection to country for local Aboriginal people was facilitated with the opening, by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, of the Stolen Generations Memorial at Mount Annan Botanic Garden. Aboriginal trainees from the Gandangarra Local Aboriginal Land Council Community Development and Employment Program were integral to the Memorial's

Trust Staffing

	EFT 30 June 2008	EFT 30 June 2007	EFT 30 June 2006	EFT 30 June 2005	EFT 30 June 2004
Horticulturists/rangers	132	136	135	143	147
Senior Officers	4	5	3	2	2
Snr Executive Service+	2	2	2	2	3
Other*	128	113	105	112	102
Total	266	256	245	259	254

* Other includes building and mechanical trades staff, clerical staff, casual teachers, education officers, herbarium assistants, librarian, sales and information staff, scientific officers and technical officers.

+ There were no female Senior Executive Service (SES) Officers employed by the Trust during the period 2004–08.

Officers by Location

The numbers reported are equivalent fulltime (EFT) employees.

Location	EFT 30 June 2008	EFT 30 June 2007	EFT 30 June 2006	EFT 30 June 2005
Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain	178	170	153	171
Mount Tomah Botanic Garden	34	33	39	30
Mount Annan Botanic Garden	54	53	53	58
Total	266	256	245	259

construction and Badger Bates, a well-known Aboriginal artist, created the sandstone sculptural centrepiece.

The Trust has decreed that Sorry Day is to be a free entry day for all visitors to Mount Annan Botanic Garden. On 26 May, an Open Day celebration was held in the Stolen Generations Memorial Garden for approximately 200 people.

The Woggan-ma-gule Morning Ceremony performed at Farm Cove on Survival/Australia Day (26 January) attracted hundreds of visitors. The Royal Botanic Gardens was also the venue for the Department of Environment and Climate Change's NAIDOC week cultural celebrations.

Occupational Health and Safety

The Trust is committed to providing a safe workplace for all staff and visitors. The total number of medically treated injuries was high for the early part of the year, followed by a steep decrease in injuries over the last quarter of the year which correlated with the roll-out of the Safety Check Book system.

The number of Lost Time Injuries decreased significantly from last year, and the total days lost to injury continue to be at record lows for the organisation. Occupational Health and Safety, and injury management statistics for the Trust are reported in the annual report of the Department.

To meet the NSW Public Sector OHS and Injury Management milestones,

the following targets have been set for 2008–09:

- Lost time injury frequency rate less than 25
- Number of days lost to Injury less than 75
- Number of claims less than 5.7
- Average cost of claims remaining well below the DECC goal of \$19,236.

The GardenSafe strategy outlines the Trust's safety system, and this year risk minimisation continued to focus on:

- Safe Work Methods Statements — forms which are completed when a risk is identified: 22 prepared and 100 reviewed.
- Toolbox Talks — one-on-one safety discussions based on the risks identified in Safe Work Methods Statements conducted prior to staff undertaking any major task: 3,100 completed throughout the year.
- Safety Check Book — individual safety checks carried out before tasks: 10,200 were completed over the roll-out at the Sydney site — soon to be rolled out to Mount Annan and Mount Tomah sites.
- OHS Self Assessment tool — a self-audit mechanism for members of the Executive: completed for all executive and again, this year, all scoring at or above 95 per cent.
- Improved safety checklists and risk assessment tools.
- Support for preventative measures such as warm-up routines and general fitness training, and contributing to a DECC-wide review of body stress injuries.
- Monthly Safety Advisory Group meetings of senior management and OHS site committee chairs reviewing all aspects of GardenSafe and the Trust's Safety Improvement Plan. A major focus this year continued to be body stress injuries. The Trust is

working with other divisions within DECC to analyse and respond to this ongoing problem.

- A new Worksafe Online (piloted by DECC) at Mount Annan Botanic Garden, designed to improve response time and reporting of injuries to WorkCover and management.

Trustees Disclosure

The Chairperson of the Trust, Mr Greg Martin, is Chief Executive Officer of Challenger Infrastructure, part of the Challenger Group which also includes Challenger Diversified Property Group (CDPG), who became lessees of the Domain Car Park in May 2008. Due to this connection, Mr Martin did not participate in any discussion or decision-making within

the Trust or the Challenger Group in relation to the leasing process once CDPG submitted their Expression of Interest. This method of addressing Mr Martin's conflict of interest was agreed to by an independent probity advisor who oversaw the tender and lease negotiation process. Written confirmation has been received from Challenger Group that Mr Martin did not participate in any aspect of the process within their organisation.

Another Trustee, Mr Tom Pinzone, is a director and shareholder of GHD. Mr Pinzone became aware after 30 June 2008 that GHD performed work to the value of approximately \$30,000 at Mount Annan Botanic Garden during the 2008 financial year. Mr Pinzone had no involvement in or knowledge of the work at the time it was performed.

Account Payment Performance

Payment performance for each quarter

Quarter	Current (\$)	Less than 30 days overdue (\$)	Between 30 and 60 days overdue (\$)	Between 60 and 90 days overdue (\$)	More than 90 days overdue (\$)
September	200,000	167,000	33,000	—	—
December	880,000	879,000	1,000	—	—
March	494,000	442,000	50,000	2,000	—
June	1,117,000	1,015,000	53,000	49,000	—

Accounts paid on time within each quarter

Quarter	Target %	Actual %	\$ Paid on Time	\$ Total Amount Paid
September	85%	92%	4,729,000	4,924,000
December	85%	95%	5,991,000	6,086,000
March	85%	91%	4,970,000	5,344,000
June	85%	91%	5,470,000	6,347,000

Botanical Information Service					
Inquiry Statistics	03–04	04–05	05–06	06–07	07–08
Inquiries in person	299	303	86	339	298
Inquiries by mail	1683	2008	1270	1114	1141
Inquiries by telephone	289	558	776	870	678
Inquiries by internet	686	936	761	990	1309
Requests for e-data	50	36	16	11	26
Specimens identified	5919	4906	4765	4878	4370
Revenue	\$24,158*	\$25,065*	\$22,086*	\$30,674*	\$20,400*

*(ex GST)

Provision of Information Services

Inquiries for Plant Identification

Eighty-eight per cent of inquiries were answered within seven days (18 per cent above target). Plant Disease Diagnostic Unit (PDDU) levels exceeded 268. Most diagnoses were for detection of soil-borne pathogens, particularly those species causing *Phytophthora* root rot. PlantNET, including the NSW Flora Online website, is the Trust's online plant information service. Launched in 2004–05, patronage continues to grow.

Gardens Shops and Visitor Centres

The Trust operates four combined visitor centre/shops at Mount Annan and Mount Tomah Gardens, the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Sydney Tropical Centre. These services provide information about Trust services and facilities, and sell a comprehensive range of botanical and horticultural books, souvenirs and gifts.

Consultants

Consultancies equal to or more than \$30,000

There was one consultancy totalling (unaudited) \$179,176: Department of Commerce Woolloomooloo Seawall Project.

Consultancies less than \$30,000

There were nine consultancies less than \$30,000, totalling (unaudited) \$133,830.

Corporate Credit Card Use

Use of corporate credit cards was in accordance with Treasury Directions.

Freedom of Information

The Trust is committed to the principle of transparency of decision making and public access to its documents. Key documents are available to the public through the Trust's website. There were no FOI requests in full or part this year.

Consumer Response

Over eight million people visit the Trust's three Botanic Gardens and Domain each year. Just over 50 visitors raised issues. The most frequently raised concerns were about the number of commercial events held in the Domain and the behaviour and impact of large groups of joggers.

Feedback was also received about rubbish at Woolloomooloo steps, homeless people taking up residence in the Domain Car Park, noise from music events, requests for motorcycle parking, and support for the Trust's flying-fox relocation.

The Trust responded to the concerns about commercial events by committing to review the impact of such events, in consultation with the Board of Trustees of the Botanic Gardens Trust. The response from the Trust pointed out that events raise revenue to fund essential research done by the Trust's scientists.

Complaints from visitors about large groups of joggers acting aggressively and taking up pathways were handled by Trust rangers who were asked to monitor the behaviour and, when necessary, caution large groups of joggers if they acted aggressively or took over pathways. Rangers advised joggers to be polite and courteous to visitors to the Gardens and allow them adequate space to enjoy their visit.

Feedback was also received from visitors about inscriptions on some plaques fading. The Trust is reviewing ways to restore the plaques in a way that meets historical and heritage requirements.

Visitor feedback about the noise of music events was passed on to event organisers to ensure they were aware of the impact of their events.

Complaints about rubbish left at Woolloomooloo steps and other areas were addressed immediately by organising for the rubbish to be removed.

Homeless people at the Domain Car Park and in other areas of the Domain were advised by rangers that they should seek shelter elsewhere e.g. crisis accommodation.

A request for additional motorcycle parking was addressed by outlining where the existing spaces were: four spaces in front of the Art Gallery and three spaces at the top of Fleet Steps. The Trust also committed to review options.

The Trust responded to letters of support for its flying-fox relocation plans by explaining why the process of relocating the flying-foxes is a lengthy one — and thanking individuals for their support. ■

Financial Statements

Independent Auditor's Report

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament

I have audited the accompanying financial report of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (the Trust), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2008, the operating statement, statement of recognised income and expense, cash flow statement, program statement — expenses and revenues and a summary of compliance with financial directives for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report:

- presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2008, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations)
- is in accordance with section 41B of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2005

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

The Trustee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Trustees of the Trust are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the PF&A. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the Trust's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 Trust's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Trustees, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

My opinion does not provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Trust,
- that it has carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically,
- about the effectiveness of its internal controls, or
- on the assumptions used in formulating the budget figures disclosed in the financial report.

Independence

In conducting this audit, the Audit Office of New South Wales has complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The PF&A Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General, and
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of the public sector agencies but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.



Ron Hegarty, FCPA

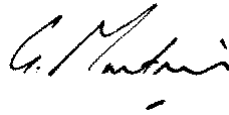
Director, Financial Audit Services
10 October 2008
SYDNEY

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

Statement by Members of the Trust

Pursuant to Section 41C(1C) of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, I state that:

- a) the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act, 1983*, the Financial Reporting Code for Budget Dependent General Government Sector Agencies, the *Public Finance and Audit Regulations 2005* (as applicable) and The Treasurer's Directions;
- b) the statements exhibit a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust; and
- c) there are no circumstances that would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.



Mr Greg Martin
Chairperson
Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust



Dr Katrina Fairley-Grenot
Trustee
Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

Date 08/10/08

Operating Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

	Notes 2008	Actual 2008 \$'000	Budget 2007 \$'000	Actual \$'000
Expenses excluding losses				
Operating expenses:				
Other operating expenses	2(a)	33,845	28,793	29,920
Depreciation	2(b)	4,390	4,200	4,166
Grants and subsidies	2(c)	54	70	85
Finance costs	2(d)	4	6	7
Total Expenses excluding losses		38,293	33,069	34,178
Less:				
Retained Revenue				
Sale of goods and services	3(a)	7,289	7,436	6,632
Investment revenue	3(b)	1,825	200	1,423
Retained taxes, fees and fines	3(c)	674	200	171
Grants and contributions	3(d)	2,573	3,362	1,881
Other revenue	3(e)	2,617	350	1,359
Total Retained Revenue		14,978	11,548	11,466
Gain/ (loss) on disposal of non-current assets	4	(284)	40	(6)
Net Cost of Services	20	23,599	21,481	22,718
Government Contributions:				
Recurrent appropriation	5	17,781	17,781	17,379
Capital appropriation	5	3,695	3,695	5,476
Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities	6	1,308	0	1,272
Total Government Contributions		22,784	21,476	24,127
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(815)	(5)	1,409

[The accompanying notes form part of these statements]

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

Statement of Recognised Income and Expense
for the Year Ended 30 June 2008

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Budget 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSES RECOGNISED DIRECTLY IN EQUITY		0	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	16	(815)	(5)	1,409
TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSES RECOGNISED FOR THE YEAR		(815)	(5)	1,409
Accumulated Funds		(815)	(5)	1,409
Reserves		0	0	0
		(815)	(5)	1,409

[The accompanying notes form part of these statements]

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Budget 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	8	5,687	3,148	3,177
Receivables	9	521	430	430
Inventories	10	315	349	349
Total Current Assets		6,523	3,927	3,956
Non-Current Assets				
Property, plant and equipment				
- Land and building		204,668	205,742	204,715
- Plant and equipment		3,690	2,722	3,255
- Infrastructure systems		37,396	37,796	38,295
- Collection assets		26,177	26,177	26,177
Total Non-Current Assets	11	271,931	272,437	272,442
Total Assets		278,454	276,364	276,398
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Payables	13	4,306	1,426	26
Borrowings	14	30	30	29
Provisions	15	1,762	1,743	1,743
Total Current Liabilities		6,098	3,199	3,198
Non Current Liabilities				
Borrowings	14	24	24	54
Provisions	15	19	18	18
Total Non Current Liabilities		43	42	72
Total Liabilities		6,141	3,241	3,270
Net Assets		272,313	273,123	273,128
EQUITY				
Reserves		122,880	122,997	122,997
Accumulated funds		149,433	150,126	150,131
Total Equity	16	272,313	273,123	273,128

[The accompanying notes form part of these statements]

Cash Flow Statement for the Year ended 30 June 2008

	Notes	Actual 2008 \$'000	Budget 2008 \$'000	Actual 2007 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Payments				
Employee related		0	0	0
Grants and subsidies		(54)	(70)	(85)
Finance costs		(4)	(6)	(7)
Other (inc Personnel Services)		(29,919)	(26,810)	(27,947)
Total Payments		(29,977)	(26,886)	(28,039)
Receipts				
Sale of goods and services		7,118	7,436	8,088
Retained taxes, fees and fines		674	200	171
Interest received		1,825	200	243
Other		5,586	1,729	3,570
Total Receipts		15,203	9,565	12,072
Cash Flows from Government				
Recurrent appropriation		17,781	17,781	17,379
Capital appropriation		3,695	3,695	5,476
Cash reimbursements from the Crown Entity		0	0	0
Net Cash Flow From Government		21,476	21,476	22,855
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	20	6,702	4,155	6,888
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Proceeds of sale of land and buildings, plant and equipment and infrastructure systems		5	40	13
Purchases of land and buildings, plant and equipment		(4,168)	(4,195)	(6,180)
NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(4,163)	(4,155)	(6,167)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Proceeds from borrowings and advances		0	0	0
Repayment of borrowings and advances		(29)	(29)	(55)
NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(29)	(29)	(55)
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH		2,510	(29)	666
Opening cash and cash equivalents		3,177	3,177	2,511
CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	8	5,687	3,148	3,177

[The accompanying notes form part of these statements]

Program Statement — Expenses and Revenues for the Year ended 30 June 2008

	Program 1 *		Program 2 *		Not Attributable **		Total	
	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Expenses and Revenues								
Expenses excluding losses								
Operating expenses:								
- Other Operating expenses	8,601	6,973	25,244	22,947	0	0	33,845	29,920
Depreciation and amortisation	1,116	973	3,274	3,193	0	0	4,390	4,166
Grants and subsidies	13	29	41	56	0	0	54	85
Finance Costs	1	1	3	6	0	0	4	7
Total Expenses excluding losses	9,730	7,976	28,563	26,202	0	0	38,293	34,178
Retained Revenue								
Sale of goods and services	333	333	6,956	7,479	0	0	7,289	7,812
Investment income	32	153	1,793	90	0	0	1,825	243
Retained taxes, fees and fines	0	0	674	171	0	0	674	171
Grants and contributions	1,558	1,182	1,015	699	0	0	2,573	1,881
Other revenue	21	38	2,596	1,321	0	0	2,617	1,359
Total Retained Revenue	1,944	1,706	13,034	9,760	0	0	14,978	11,466
Gain / (Loss) on disposal of non current assets	(36)	0	(248)	0	0	0	(284)	(6)
Other gains / (losses)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Cost of Services	7,823	6,270	15,776	16,442	0	0	23,599	22,718
Government Contributions**	0	0	0	0	22,784	24,127	22,784	24,127
NET EXPENDITURE / (REVENUE) FOR THE YEAR	7,823	6,270	15,776	16,442	(22,784)	(24,127)	815	(1,409)

* Programs/activities are described in Note 7.

** Appropriations are made on an agency basis and not to individual programs. Consequently, Government Contributions are included in the 'Not Attributable' column.

The Trust restructured its four Programs to two Programs in 2008

Summary of Compliance with Financial Directives

	2008				2007			
	Recurrent Appropriation \$'000	Expenditure / Net Claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Capital Appropriation \$'000	Expenditure / Net Claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Recurrent Appropriation \$'000	Expenditure / Net Claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000	Capital Appropriation \$'000	Expenditure / Net Claim on Consolidated Fund \$'000
ORIGINAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION / EXPENDITURE — Appropriation Act	17,781	17,781	3,695	3,695	17,379	17,379	5,540	5,476
	17,781	17,781	3,695	3,695	17,379	17,379	5,540	5,476
OTHER APPROPRIATION / EXPENDITURE Treasurer's Advance s28 Appropriation Act	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Appropriations / Expenditure / Net Claim on Consolidated Fund (includes transfer payments)	17,781	17,781	3,695	3,695	17,379	17,379	5,540	5,476
Amount drawn down against Appropriation		17,781		3,695		17,379		5,476
Liability to Consolidated Fund		0		0		0		0

Notes to the Summary of Compliance with Financial Directives

The Summary of Compliance is based on the assumption that Consolidated Fund moneys are spent first (except where otherwise identified or prescribed).
The Liability to Consolidated Fund is calculated as the difference between "Amount drawn down against Appropriation" and "Total Expenditure/Net Claim on Consolidated Fund".

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2008

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Reporting Entity

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (the Trust), as a reporting entity, comprises all the entities under its control and is responsible for two programs as outlined in Note 7.

The Trust is a NSW government Trust. The Trust is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective). The reporting entity is consolidated as part of the NSW Total State Sector Accounts.

This financial report for the year ended 30 June 2008 has been authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 08 October 2008.

(b) Basis of Preparation

The Trust's financial statements are a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with:

- * applicable Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian Accounting Interpretations);
- * the requirements of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and Regulation;
- * the Financial Reporting Directions published in the Financial Reporting Code for Budget Dependent General Government Sector Agencies or issued by the Treasurer.

Property, plant and equipment, investment property, assets (or disposal groups) held for sale and financial assets at 'fair value through profit or loss' and available for sale are measured at fair value. Other financial report items are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

Judgements, key assumptions and estimations management has made are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial report. All amounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand dollars and are expressed in Australian currency.

(c) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements and notes comply with Australian Accounting Standards, which include Australian Accounting Interpretations.

(d) Administered Activities

The Trust does not administer or control any activities on behalf of the Crown Entity.

The accrual basis of accounting and applicable accounting standards have been adopted.

(e) Income Recognition

Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration or contribution received or receivable. Additional comments regarding the accounting policies for the recognition of income are discussed below.

(i) Parliamentary appropriations and contributions

Parliamentary appropriations and contributions from other bodies (including grants and donations) are generally recognised as income when the Trust obtains control over the assets comprising the appropriations / contributions. Control over appropriations and contributions is normally obtained upon the receipt of cash.

Unspent appropriations are recognised as liabilities rather than revenue, as the authority to spend the money lapses and the unspent amount must be repaid to the Consolidated Fund.

(ii) Sale of Goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised as revenue when the Trust transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods.

(iii) Rendering of Services

Revenue is recognised when the service is provided or by reference to the stage of completion (based on labour hours incurred to date).

(iv) Investment Income

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement. Rental revenue is recognised in accordance with AASB 117 Leases on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2008

(f) Employee Benefits and Other Liabilities

(i) Salaries and Wages, Annual Leave, Sick Leave and On-Costs

Liabilities for salaries and wages (including non-monetary benefits), annual leave and paid sick leave that fall due wholly within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised and measured in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date at undiscounted amounts based on the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. These amounts are payable to Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW.

Long-term annual leave that is not expected to be taken within twelve months is measured at present value in accordance with AASB 119 Employee Benefits. Market yields on government bonds are used to discount long-term annual leave.

Unused non-vesting sick leave does not give rise to a liability as it is not considered probable that sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future.

The outstanding amounts for payroll tax, workers' compensation insurance premiums and fringe benefits tax, which are consequential to employment, are recognised as liabilities and expenses where the employee benefits to which they relate have been recognised.

(ii) Long Service Leave and Superannuation

Long service leave is measured at present value in accordance with AASB 119 Employee Benefits. This is based on the application of certain factors (specified in NSWTC 07/04) to employees with five or more years of service, using current rates of pay. These factors were determined based on an actuarial review to approximate present value.

The superannuation expense for the financial year is determined by using the formulae specified in the Treasurer's Directions. The expense for certain superannuation schemes (i.e. Basic Benefit and First State Super) is calculated as a percentage of the employees' salary. For other superannuation schemes (i.e. State Superannuation Scheme and State Authorities Superannuation Scheme), the expense is calculated as a multiple of the employees' superannuation contributions.

(iii) Other Provisions

Other provisions exist when the entity has a present legal, or constructive obligation as a result of a past event; it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

(g) Borrowing Costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as expenses in the period in which they are incurred, in accordance with Treasury's mandate to general government sector agencies.

(h) Insurance

The Trust's insurance activities are conducted through the NSW Treasury Managed Fund Scheme of self insurance for Government agencies. The expense (premium) is determined by the Fund Manager based on past claim experience.

(i) Accounting for the Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where:

- the amount of GST incurred by the Trust as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense.
- receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

Cash flows are included in the cash flow statement on a gross basis. However, the GST components of cash flows arising from investment and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office are classified as operating cash flows.

(j) Acquisition of Assets

The cost method of accounting is used for the initial recording of all acquisitions of assets controlled by the Trust. Cost is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid or the fair value of the other consideration given to acquire the asset at the time of its acquisition or construction or, where applicable, the amount attributed to that asset when initially recognised in accordance with the requirements of other Australian Accounting Standards.

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2008

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition.

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Where payment for an item is deferred beyond normal credit terms, its cost is the cash price equivalent, i.e. the deferred payment amount is effectively discounted at an asset-specific rate.

Asset additions are held in Work in Progress pending reclassification to other asset categories.

(k) Capitalisation Thresholds

Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets costing \$5,000 and above individually (or forming part of a network costing more than \$5,000) are capitalised.

(l) Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment

Physical non-current assets are valued in accordance with the "Guidelines for the Valuation of Physical Non-Current Assets at Fair Value" (TPP 07-1). This policy adopts fair value in accordance with AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment and AASB 140 Investment Property.

Property, plant and equipment is measured on an existing use basis, where there are no feasible alternative uses in the existing natural, legal, financial and socio-political environment. However, in the limited circumstances where there are feasible alternative uses, assets are valued at their highest and best use.

Fair value of property, plant and equipment is determined based on the best available market evidence, including current market selling prices for the same or similar assets. Where there is no available market evidence, the asset's fair value is measured at its market buying price, the best indicator of which is depreciated replacement cost.

The Trust revalues each class of property, plant and equipment at least every five years or with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of each asset in the class does not differ materially from its fair value at reporting date. The Trust's non current assets including the Collection Assets were revalued in 2006.

Non-specialised assets with short useful lives are measured at depreciated historical cost, as a surrogate for fair value

When revaluing non-current assets by reference to current prices for assets newer than those being valued (adjusted to reflect the present condition of the assets), the gross amount and the related accumulated depreciation are separately restated.

For other assets, any balance of accumulated depreciation at the revaluation date in respect of those assets are credited to the asset accounts to which they relate. The net asset accounts are then increased or decreased by the revaluation increments or decrements.

Revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve, except that, to the extent that an increment reverses a revaluation decrement in respect of that asset previously recognised as an expense in the surplus/deficit, the increment is recognised immediately as revenue in the surplus/deficit.

Revaluation decrements are recognised immediately as expenses in the surplus/deficit, except that, to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve in respect to the same class of assets, the decrements are debited directly to the asset revaluation reserve.

As a not-for-profit entity, revaluation increments and decrements are offset against one another within a class of non-current asset, but not otherwise.

Where an asset that has previously been revalued is disposed of, any balance remaining in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of that asset is transferred to accumulated funds.

Land, buildings, plant and equipment, and infrastructure were valued in 2006 by Preston Rowe Paterson Pty Ltd. The collection assets were valued in 2006 by RHAS Pty Ltd through the NSW Trust of Commerce Government Architect's Office.

(m) Assets Not Able to be Reliably Measured

The Trust holds certain assets that have not been recognised in the balance sheet because The Trust is unable to measure reliably the value for the assets. The Herbarium collection, which forms part of the Collection Assets has a nil balance recorded in the Trust's asset register. Consideration of the changing scientific value of the specimens over time, the unique collection event (in time and space) associated with each specimen, and the irreversible changes to the original habitat of most collection localities results in the Herbarium collection not being capable of reliable valuation.

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2008

(n) Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

As a not-for-profit entity, the Trust is effectively exempted from AASB 136 Impairment of Assets and impairment testing. This is because AASB 136 modifies the recoverable amount test to the higher of fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost. This means that, for an asset already measured at fair value, impairment can only arise if selling costs are material. Selling costs are regarded as immaterial.

(o) Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment

Except for a limited number of heritage assets, depreciation is provided for on a straight line basis for all depreciable assets so as to write off the depreciable amount of each asset as it is consumed over its useful life to the Trust.

All material separately identifiable components of assets are depreciated over their shorter useful lives.

Land is not a depreciable asset. Certain heritage assets have an extremely long useful life, including original artworks and collections and heritage buildings. Depreciation for these items cannot be reliably measured because the useful life and the net amount to be recovered at the end of the useful life cannot be reliably measured. In these cases, depreciation is not recognised. The decision not to recognise depreciation for these assets is reviewed annually.

Depreciable assets are depreciated from the date of acquisition.

Depreciation Rates	% Rate
Building	1.3% to 25%
Infrastructure	1% to 10%
Plant and equipment	10% to 25%

Collection Assets have not been depreciated.

(p) Major Inspection Costs

The labour cost of performing major inspections for faults is recognised in the carrying amount of an asset as a replacement of a part, if the recognition criteria are satisfied.

(q) Restoration Costs

The estimated cost of dismantling and removing an asset and restoring the site is included in the cost of an asset, to the extent it is recognised as a liability.

(r) Maintenance

The costs of day-to-day servicing costs or maintenance are charged as expenses as incurred, except where they relate to the replacement of a component of an asset, in which case the costs are capitalised and depreciated.

(s) Leased Assets

A distinction is made between finance leases which effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the leased assets, and operating leases under which the lessor effectively retains all such risks and benefits.

The leasing transactions of the Trust are restricted to operating leases of office equipment, and motor vehicles. Operating lease payments are charged to the Operating Statement in the periods in which they are incurred.

(t) Loans and Receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. These financial assets are recognised initially at fair value, usually based on the transaction cost or face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an allowance for any impairment of receivables. Any changes are accounted for in the operating statement when impaired, derecognised or through the amortisation process.

Short-term receivables with no stated interest rate are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2008

(u) Payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Trust and other amounts including interest. Payables are recognised initially at fair value, usually based on the transaction cost or face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Short-term payables with no stated interest rate are measured at the original invoice amount where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

(v) Budgeted Amounts

The budgeted amounts are drawn from the budgets as formulated at the beginning of the financial year and with any adjustments for the effects of additional appropriations, s21A, s24 and / or s26 of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1983.

The budgeted amounts in the Operating Statement and the Cash Flow Statement are generally based on the amounts disclosed in the NSW Budget Papers (as adjusted above). However, in the Balance sheet, the amounts vary from the Budget Papers, as the opening balances of the budgeted amounts are based on carried forward actual amounts i.e. per the audited financial statements (rather than carried forward estimates).

(w) Inventories

Inventories held for distribution are stated at cost, adjusted when applicable, for any loss of service potential. A loss of service potential is identified and measured based on the existence of a current replacement cost that is lower than the carrying amount. Inventories (other than those held for distribution) are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is calculated using the weighted average cost. The cost of inventories acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration is the current replacement cost as at the date of acquisition. Current replacement cost is the cost the Trust would incur to acquire the asset. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

(x) Comparative Information

Except when an Australian Accounting Standard permits or requires otherwise, comparative information is disclosed in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements.

(y) Impairment of Financial Assets

All financial assets, except those measured at fair value through profit and loss, are subject to an annual review for impairment. An allowance for impairment is established when there is objective evidence that the entity will not be able to collect all amounts due.

For financial assets carried at amortised cost, the amount of the allowance is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. The amount of the impairment loss is recognised in the operating statement.

When an available for sale financial asset is impaired, the amount of the cumulative loss is removed from equity and recognised in the operating statement, based on the difference between the acquisition cost (net of any principal repayment and amortisation) and current fair value, less any impairment loss previously recognised in the operating statement.

Any reversals of impairment losses are reversed through the operating statement, where there is objective evidence, except reversals of impairment losses on an investment in an equity instrument classified as "available for sale" must be made through the reserve. Reversals of impairment losses of financial assets carried at amortised cost cannot result in a carrying amount that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had there not been an impairment loss.

(z) New Australian Accounting Standards issued but not effective

The following new accounting Standards have not been applied and are not yet effective:

AASB 101	Presentation of Financial statements
AASB 123	Borrowing Costs
AASB 1004	Contributions

The Trusts considers that the application of the standards when effective will not have a material impact on the financial statements.

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the Year ended 30 June 2008

2. EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Other operating expenses		
Personnel Services	21,025	19,524
Audit Remuneration	112	79
Bad Debts	45	10
Operating Leases	260	273
Insurance	287	169
Advertising	148	107
Consultants	313	264
Legal fees	239	125
Purchase of Plant and equipment under \$5,000	356	274
Plant and equipment hire	206	156
Cost of Goods Sold	813	841
Stores and Provisions	918	957
Maintenance	2,445	2,930
Energy	356	349
Contractors	912	474
Telephone and Communication	243	270
Cleaning and Waste collection	886	875
Books, printing and publications	241	232
Travel	199	169
Motor Vehicle	242	208
Rates	166	240
Security	569	489
Other	2,864	905
	33,845	29,920

Personnel Service expenses are acquired from the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW and the cost comprises:

Salaries and Wages	17,068	15,732
Superannuation Entitlements	1,492	1,353
Long Service Leave	906	880
Workers Compensation Insurance	435	380
Payroll and Fringe Benefits Tax	1,124	1,179
	21,025	19,524

As a result of the *Public Sector Employment Legislation Amendment Act 2006* and Treasury Circular TC06-13 Employee related expenses are included in Personnel Services in Other operating expenses see note 2 (a).

Maintenance Reconciliation:

Maintenance expense, as above	2,445	2,930
Maintenance related personnel services included in Note 2(a)	919	1,248
Total maintenance expenses included in Note 2(a)	3,364	4,178

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the Year ended 30 June 2008

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
(b) Depreciation expense		
Buildings	1,923	1,821
Infrastructure	1,615	1,568
Plant and Equipment	852	777
	<u>4,390</u>	<u>4,166</u>

(c) Grants and Subsidies		
NSW Public Sector Agencies	54	83
Federal Government Agencies	0	0
Other	0	2
	<u>54</u>	<u>83</u>

(d) Finance Costs		
Interest Paid on Treasury loan	4	7
	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>

3. REVENUES

(a) Sales of goods and services		
Gross sales through the shops	1,838	1,962
Publications	4	9
Fees received	4,998	4,173
Admissions	446	486
Other	3	2
	<u>7,289</u>	<u>6,632</u>

Rental Income has been reclassified as Rents in Investment revenue in 2008

(b) Investment revenue		
Interest	259	243
Rents	1,566	1,180
	<u>1,825</u>	<u>1,423</u>

(c) Retained taxes, fees and fines		
Parking infringement	674	171
	<u>674</u>	<u>171</u>

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the Year ended 30 June 2008

(d) Grants and contributions	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Grants and Donations	1,666	1,245
Research Grants	907	636
	2,573	1,881

Research grants are applied to those areas of scientific endeavour sponsored by the grantor.

(e) Other Revenue		
Insurance recoveries	122	997
Cost recoveries and other non user charges	2,462	362
Bad Debts Recovered	33	0
	2,617	1,359

4. GAIN / (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL

Proceeds from the sale of assets	5	13
Written down value of assets disposed	(289)	(19)
	(284)	(6)

5. APPROPRIATIONS

Recurrent appropriations

Recurrent draw-downs from NSW Treasury (per Summary of Compliance)	17,781	17,379
Less: Liability to Consolidated Fund (per Summary of Compliance)	0	0
	17,781	17,379

Comprising:

Recurrent appropriations (per Operating Statement)	17,781	17,379
	17,781	17,379

Capital appropriations

Total capital draw-downs from NSW Treasury (per Summary of Compliance)	3,695	5,476
Less: Liability to Consolidated Fund (per Summary of Compliance)	0	0
	3,695	5,476

Comprising:

Capital appropriations (per Operating Statement)	3,695	5,476
	3,695	5,476

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2008

6. ACCEPTANCE BY THE CROWN ENTITY OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND OTHER LIABILITIES

The following liabilities and / or expenses have been assumed by the Crown Entity:

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
Superannuation	389	389
Long service leave	890	858
Payroll tax	29	25
	1,308	1,272

7. PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES OF THE TRUST

Program 1 — Science and Public Programs

Objective: To investigate the systematics, ecology, horticulture and pathology of plants and related organisms and disseminate the results and to promote community awareness and knowledge of plants, plant conservation and the importance of plants in the nature work through on-site and off-site programs.

Program 2 — Botanic Gardens and Parks

Objective: To manage and develop garden sites to accommodate multiple uses including recreation, relaxation, celebrations, education, the promotion of conservation and the engagement of the community.

The Trust restructured its four Programs to two Programs in 2008

8. CURRENT ASSETS — CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENT

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash at Bank	1,052	315
Petty Cash	11	11
At call deposits	4,624	2,851
	5,687	3,177

For the purposes of the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents include cash at bank, cash on hand, and at call deposits.

Cash and cash equivalent assets recognised in the Balance Sheet are reconciled at the end of the financial year to the Cash Flow Statement as follows:

Cash and cash equivalents (per Balance Sheet)	5,687	3,177
Closing cash and cash equivalents (per Cash Flow Statement)	5,687	3,177

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the
Year ended 30 June 2008

9. CURRENT ASSETS — RECEIVABLES

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Debtors	496	325
GST Receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	71	135
Prepayments	58	56
Accrued Income	0	0
	<u>625</u>	<u>516</u>
Less: Allowance for impairment	(104)	(86)
	<u>521</u>	<u>430</u>
Movement in the allowance for impairment		
Balance as at 1 July	86	121
Amounts written off during the year	(3)	(45)
Amounts recovered during the year	(23)	0
Increase/(decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss	<u>44</u>	<u>10</u>
Balance at 30 June	<u>104</u>	<u>86</u>

10. CURRENT ASSETS - INVENTORIES

Held for distribution	315	349
	<u>315</u>	<u>349</u>

11. NON-CURRENT ASSETS — PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Land and Building \$'000	Plant and Equipment \$'000	Infra- structure \$'000	Collection Assets \$'000	Total \$'000
At 1 July 2007— fair value					
Gross carrying amount	206,536	4,039	39,904	26,177	276,656
Accumulated Depreciation and impairment	<u>(1,821)</u>	<u>(784)</u>	<u>(1,609)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(4,214)</u>
Net Carrying Amount	<u>204,715</u>	<u>3,255</u>	<u>38,295</u>	<u>26,177</u>	<u>272,442</u>
At 30 June 2008 — fair value					
Gross carrying amount	208,384	5,322	40,620	26,177	280,503
Accumulated Depreciation and impairment	<u>(3,716)</u>	<u>(1,632)</u>	<u>(3,224)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(8,572)</u>
Net Carrying Amount	<u>204,668</u>	<u>3,690</u>	<u>37,396</u>	<u>26,177</u>	<u>271,931</u>

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the
Year ended 30 June 2008

Reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of each class of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current reporting period is set out below.

	Land and Building \$'000	Plant and Equipment \$'000	Infra -structure \$'000	Collection Assets \$'000	Total \$'000
Year ended 30 June 2008					
Carrying amount at start of year	204,715	3,255	38,295	26,177	272,442
Additions	3,125	327	716		4,168
Disposals	(278)	(11)			(289)
Reclassification	(971)	971			0
Depreciation expense	(1,923)	(852)	(1,615)	0	(4,390)
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>204,668</u>	<u>3,690</u>	<u>37,396</u>	<u>26,177</u>	<u>271,931</u>
	Land and Building \$'000	Plant and Equipment \$'000	Infra -structure \$'000	Collection Assets \$'000	Total \$'000
At 1 July 2006 — fair value					
Gross carrying amount	202,038	3,547	38,736	26,177	270,498
Accumulated Depreciation and impairment	0	(11)	(40)	0	(51)
Net Carrying Amount	<u>202,038</u>	<u>3,536</u>	<u>38,696</u>	<u>26,177</u>	<u>270,447</u>
At 30 June 2007 — fair value					
Gross carrying amount	206,536	4,039	39,904	26,177	276,656
Accumulated Depreciation and impairment	(1,821)	(784)	(1,609)	0	(4,214)
Net Carrying Amount	<u>204,715</u>	<u>3,255</u>	<u>38,295</u>	<u>26,177</u>	<u>272,442</u>

Reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of each class of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the previous reporting period is set out below.

	Land and Building \$'000	Plant and Equipment \$'000	Infra -structure \$'000	Collection Assets \$'000	Total \$'000
Year ended 30 June 2007					
Carrying amount at start of year	202,038	3,536	38,696	26,177	270,447
Additions	4,499	514	1,167	0	6,180
Disposals	(1)	(18)	0	0	(19)
Depreciation expense	(1,821)	(777)	(1,568)	0	(4,166)
Carrying amount at end of year	<u>204,715</u>	<u>3,255</u>	<u>38,295</u>	<u>26,177</u>	<u>272,442</u>

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the
Year ended 30 June 2008

12. RESTRICTED ASSETS

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
Cosh Bequest	397	378
Swane Bequest	95	103
Webster Bequest	103	97
Rathborne Bequest	103	0
Research	527	560
	<u>1,225</u>	<u>1,138</u>

These contributions are held in investments and are applied in accordance with the conditions on each contribution. The Cosh Bequest is for the purpose of the National Herbarium of NSW. The Swane Bequest is for the purpose of botany, horticulture, research, education, expeditions, statues, fountains and buildings at Mount Annan Botanic Garden. The Webster Bequest is to be used for the National Herbarium of NSW. The Rathbourne Bequest is to be used on the relocation of the glasshouses into the Rathbourne Lodge grounds. Research grants are applied to those areas of scientific endeavour sponsored by the grantors.

13. CURRENT LIABILITIES — PAYABLES

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
Creditors	3,440	762
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs	167	324
Unearned revenue	699	340
	<u>4,306</u>	<u>1,426</u>

14. CURRENT / NON CURRENT LIABILITIES — BORROWINGS

Secured/Unsecured		
Treasury advances repayable	<u>54</u>	<u>83</u>

The Trust received a Crown advance of \$135,981 in 2005 under an Energy Performance Contract to install energy efficient products. This loan is repayable over a period of five years.

Details regarding the maturity analysis of the above borrowings, are disclosed in Note 21.

15. CURRENT / NON CURRENT LIABILITIES — PROVISIONS

Employee benefits and related on-costs

Recreation leave	1,319	1,322
Provision for Long Service Leave	207	195
Payroll Tax on employee benefits	255	244
	<u>1,781</u>	<u>1,761</u>

Aggregate employee benefits and on-costs

Provision - current	1,762	1,743
Provision - non current	19	18
	<u>1,781</u>	<u>1,761</u>

As a result of the Public Sector Employment Legislation Amendment Act 2006 the Provisions for Employee benefits and on-costs are payable to the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW.

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the
Year ended 30 June 2008

16. CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Accumulated Funds		Asset Revaluation		Total Equity	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	150,131	148,713	122,997	123,006	273,128	271,719
Changes in accounting policy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Correction of errors	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restated opening balance	150,131	148,713	122,997	123,006	273,128	271,719
Changes in equity-transactions with owners as owners	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	150,131	148,713	122,997	123,006	273,128	271,719
Changes in equity-other than transactions with owners as owners	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	(815)	1,409	0	0	(815)	1,409
Total	(815)	1,409	0	0	(815)	1,409
Transfers within equity						
Asset revaluation reserve balance transferred to accumulated funds on disposal of assets.	117	9	(117)	(9)	0	0
Balance at the end of the financial year	149,433	150,131	122,880	122,997	272,313	273,128

Asset Revaluation Reserve

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets. This accords with the agency's policy on the 'Revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment' and 'Investments', as discussed in Note 1.

17. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

(a) Capital Commitments

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
Aggregate capital expenditure for the acquisition of goods contracted for at balance date and not provided for:		
— Not later than one year	0	2,745
Total (including GST)	0	2,745

(b) Operating Lease Commitments

	2008	2007
	\$'000	\$'000
Future non-cancellable operating lease rentals not provided for and payable:		
— Not later than one year	179	114
— Later than one year, and not later than five years	178	71
— Later than five years	0	0
Total (including GST)	357	185

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2008

The total commitments above includes input tax credits of \$32,526 (2006-2007 \$266,000) that are expected to be recoverable from the ATO.

18. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

The Trust is not aware of any contingent liabilities and / or contingent assets associated with its operations.

19. BUDGET REVIEW

Net cost of services

The Net Cost of Services of \$23.6 million is \$2.1 million more than the budget of \$21.5 million. This is mainly due to Crown Entity revenue budget but not actuals of \$1.3 million being included in the Treasury Net Cost of Services, increased Personnel Services of \$0.5 million, and disposal of non-current assets of \$0.3 million.

Assets and liabilities

Total Assets is \$2.1 million higher than budget generally from increased cash balances. The increase in cash balances is offset by an increase in payables balances of \$2.9 million over budget.

Cash flows

Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities is \$2.5 million higher than budget. This is due to a general increase in other operating expenses of \$3.1 million and an increase in receipts of \$5.6 million

20. RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO NET COST OF SERVICES

	2008 \$'000	2007 \$'000
Net cash used on operating activities	6,702	6,888
Cash Flows from Government / Appropriations	(21,476)	(22,855)
Acceptance by the Crown Entity of employee benefits and other liabilities	(1,308)	(1,272)
Depreciation	(4,390)	(4,166)
Allowance for impairment	(18)	35
Decrease / (increase) in provisions	(20)	9
Increase / (decrease) in prepayments and other assets	109	(593)
Decrease / (increase) in creditors	(2,521)	(715)
Decrease / (increase) in income received in advance	(359)	(20)
Increase / (decrease) in inventory	(34)	(23)
Net gain / (loss) on sale of plant and equipment	(284)	(6)
Net cost of services	(23,599)	(22,718)

21. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Trust's principal financial instruments are outlined below. These financial instruments arise directly from the Trust's operations or are required to finance the Trust's operations. The Trust does not enter into or trade financial instruments, including derivative financial instruments, for speculative purposes.

The Trust's main risks arising from financial instruments are outlined below, together with the Trust's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk. Further quantitative and qualitative disclosures are included throughout this financial report.

The Board of Trustees has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of risk management and reviews and agrees policies for managing each of these risks. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Trust, to set risk limits and controls and to monitor risks. Compliance with policies is reviewed by the Finance and Audit Committee on a continuous basis.

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2008

(a) Financial instrument categories

Financial Assets	Note	Category	Carrying Amount 2008	Carrying Amount 2007
Class:				
Cash and cash equivalent	8	N/A	5,687	3,177
Receivables (1.)	9	Receivables (at amortised cost)	392	239
Financial Liabilities	Note	Category	Carrying Amount 2008	Carrying Amount 2008
Class:				
Payables (2.)	13	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	3,607	1,086
Borrowings	14	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	54	83

Notes

1. Excludes statutory receivables and prepayments (i.e. not within scope of AASB 7).
2. Excludes statutory payables and unearned revenue (i.e. not within scope of AASB 7).

(b) Credit Risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the Trust's debtors defaulting on their contractual obligations, resulting in a financial loss to the Trust. The maximum exposure to credit risk is generally represented by the carrying amount of the financial assets (net of any allowance for impairment).

Credit risk arises from the financial assets of the Trust, including cash, receivables, and authority deposits. No collateral is held by the Trust. The Trust has not granted any financial guarantees.

Credit risk associated with the Trust's financial assets, other than receivables, is managed through the selection of counterparties and establishment of minimum credit rating standards. Authority deposits held with NSW TCorp are guaranteed by the State.

Cash

Cash comprises cash on hand and bank balances with Westpac Banking Corporation and TCorp. Interest is earned on daily bank balances at the monthly average NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp) 11am unofficial cash rate, adjusted for a management fee to NSW Treasury.

Accounts Receivable — Trade Debtors

All trade debtors are recognised as amounts receivable at balance date. Collectibility of trade debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Procedures as established in the Treasurer's Directions are followed to recover outstanding amounts, including letters of demand. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off. An allowance for impairment is raised when there is objective evidence that the entity will not be able to collect all amounts due. This evidence includes past experience, and current and expected changes in economic conditions and debtor credit ratings. No interest is earned on trade debtors.

Authority Deposits

The Trust has placed funds on deposit with TCorp, which has been rated "AAA" by Standard and Poor's. These deposits are similar to money market or bank deposits and can be placed "at call" or for a fixed term. For fixed term deposits, the interest rate payable by TCorp is negotiated initially and is fixed for the term of the deposit, while the interest rate payable on at call deposits can vary. None of these assets are past due or impaired.

	2008 Carrying Amount \$000	2008 Net Fair Value \$000	2007 Carrying Amount \$000	2007 Net Fair Value \$000
At call	4,624	4,624	2,851	2,851
Less than one year	0	0	0	0
One to five years	0	0	0	0
Greater than five years	0	0	0	0
Total	4,624	4,624	2,851	2,851

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2008

The deposits at balance date were earning an average interest rate of 7.2%, while over the year the weighted average interest rate was 6.76%.

(c) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Trust will be unable to meet its payment obligations when they fall due. The Trust continuously manages risk through monitoring future cash flows and maturities planning to ensure adequate holding of high quality liquid assets. The objective is to maintain a balance between continuity of funding and flexibility through the use of overdrafts, loans and other advances.

During the current and prior years, there were no defaults or breaches on any loans payable. No assets have been pledged as collateral. The Trust's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

The liabilities are recognised for amounts due to be paid in the future for goods or services received, whether or not invoiced. Amounts owing to suppliers (which are unsecured) are settled in accordance with the policy set out in Treasurer's Direction 219.01. If trade terms are not specified, payment is made no later than the end of the month following the month in which an invoice or a statement is received. Treasurer's Direction 219.01 allows the Minister to award interest for late payment.

Maturity analysis and interest rate exposure of financial liabilities

	Weighted Average effective Int. Rate	Nominal Amount	Fixed Rate	< 1yr	1-5 yrs	>5yrs
2008 NSW Treasury advance	5.445%	54	5.445%	30	24	0
2007 NSW Treasury advance	5.445%	83	5.445%	29	54	0

The Trust received an advance of \$135,981 (2004-05) at a rate of 5.445% from the New South Wales Treasury. Interest was calculated based on the 10 year bond rate applicable at the drawdown date.

(d) Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Trust's exposures to market risk are primarily through interest rate risk on the Trust's deposits with TCorp. The Trust has no exposure to foreign currency risk and does not enter into commodity contracts.

The effect on profit and equity due to a reasonably possible change in risk variable is outlined in the information below, for interest rate risk and other price risk. A reasonably possible change in risk variable has been determined after taking into account the economic environment in which the Trust operates and the time frame for the assessment (i.e. until the end of the next annual reporting period). The sensitivity analysis is based on risk exposures in existence at the balance sheet date. The analysis is performed on the same basis for 2007. The analysis assumes that all other variables remain constant.

Interest Rate risk

Exposure to interest rate risk arises primarily through the Trust's interest bearing liabilities. This risk is minimised by undertaking mainly fixed rate borrowings, primarily with NSW TCorp. The Trust does not account for any fixed rate financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss or as available-for-sale. Therefore, for these financial instruments, a change in interest rates would not affect profit or loss or equity. A reasonably possible change of +/- 1% is used, consistent with current trends in interest rates. The basis will be reviewed annually and amended where there is a structural change in the level of interest rate volatility. The Trust's exposure to interest rate risk is set out below.

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the
Year ended 30 June 2008

Carrying Amount		\$000		\$000	
		-1%		+1%	
		Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
2008 Financial Assets					
Cash	4,624	(46)	(46)	46	46
2007 Financial Assets					
Cash	2,851	(29)	(29)	29	29

22. AFTER BALANCE DATE EVENTS

There are no events subsequent to balance date which affect the financial report.

(END OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS)

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