



PlantBank will be an innovative plant research, education and conservation facility, preserving important plant species in our changing climate and environment. PlantBank will reach out to scientists worldwide and engage the community in science and environmental sustainability. It will be the permanent location for the NSW Seedbank, a secure repository for Australian species and our 'environmental insurance plan'.



*Hernandia bivalvis*. The spectacular and unusual fruit — lime fleshy, overlapping bracts which age to orange or red — make this an outstanding small tree for gardens especially in subtropical and temperate regions.

The common name, Grease Nut, refers to the edible seed which contains up to 65 per cent oil. The seeds were roasted and eaten by Aboriginal people.

PHOTO: SIMONE PIETA COTTRELL

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Mrs Macquaries Road  
Sydney NSW 2000

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## Letter to the Minister

The Hon. John Robertson, MLC  
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment  
Parliament House, Sydney 2000

Dear Minister

I have great pleasure in presenting the 2008–09 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

*The Cadi Jam Ora: First Encounters garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens explores Aboriginal people's understanding of plants and the environment. Seeds and fruits were included in the local diet, such as Kurrajong (Brachychiton populneus), Davidson's Plum (Davidsonia jerseyana), Illawarra Plum (Podocarpus elatus), Native Raspberry (Rubus rosifolius) and Kangaroo Apple (Solanum aviculare). The flowers of Heath Banksia or Wad-ang-gari (Banksia ericifolia) were soaked in water to produce a sweet high-energy drink.*







## Our Organisation

### Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

**The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (the 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.**

The Trust is responsible for the management and stewardship of the Royal Botanic Gardens; the Domain; Mount Annan Botanic Garden; Mount Tomah Botanic Garden; the National Herbarium of New South Wales and the New South Wales Seedbank.

The Trust also undertakes and provides scientific and horticultural research, together with advice and education on botany, horticulture and biodiversity.

The Trust is part of the New South Wales Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC). On 27 July 2009 the NSW Government formalised the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), effective from 1 July 2009. This report covers the activities of the Botanic Gardens Trust from 1 July 2008 through 30 June 2009, prior to these changes, and therefore refers only to the former Department of Environment and Climate Change where appropriate.

#### 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
- increase and disseminate knowledge about the plant life of Australia, and of New South Wales in particular
- 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 objectives, 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, we value:

- 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 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. Its location and undulation make it ideal for recreation and horticultural displays that contrast with remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland.

Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, in the beautiful Blue Mountains west of Sydney, is composed of 28 hectares of display gardens featuring one of the world's finest collections of cool-climate plants, 10 hectares of pristine warm temperate rainforest in a newly acquired 33-hectare heritage property 'The Jungle', and a 189-hectare conservation area. It is the natural gateway to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

*Mount Tomah Botanic Garden takes its name from the traditional Darug word meaning tree-fern. There are nine species of tree-fern in New South Wales, the majority from the genus Cyathea, chiefly found in moist gullies and rainforest. The genus name is taken from the Greek for 'little cup', referring to the structure that holds the spores.*







# Delivering our Services

The major priorities for the Trust include:

- advancing knowledge and understanding of plant biodiversity, horticulture and conservation
- delivering a wide range of targeted school and community education programs, including programs for regional and disadvantaged communities
- managing and developing the horticultural displays and living collection of plants at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Mount Annan Botanic Garden and Mount Tomah Botanic Garden
- maintaining and developing all sites, including the Domain, to accommodate multiple uses including recreation, relaxation, celebration, events, education and the promotion of conservation
- managing and developing viable commercial businesses and hosting externally operated commercial services to maximise and diversify the Trust's revenue base
- developing and promoting a range of infrastructure and research projects, for funding or co-funding by benefactors or sponsorship with reference to the bicentenary of the Trust in 2016.

*The very rare Elaeocarpus sedentarius is restricted to warm-temperate rainforest and Brush Box forest in the Whian Whian and Nullum forest areas of NSW and can be seen at Mount Annan Botanic Garden and Royal Botanic Gardens.*

## Results and Services

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 contributes to the conservation of natural and cultural values and works to ensure local communities and tourists are able to access and benefit from urban green spaces, by working towards the following results:

- Plant diversity and plant habitats are understood, protected and restored
- The community values plants and cultural heritage
- Participation and integration in community activities are increased.

**Key services provided by the Trust, which contribute to these results, include:**

- generating and preserving knowledge through botanical research and scientific collections
- communicating knowledge through:
  - education programs
  - plant identification services
  - plant disease diagnostic services
  - publications and online services
- providing horticultural displays and enriching cultural landscapes through the Trust's living collections, infrastructure, visitor services, historical sites and off-site horticultural services
- facilitating events and recreation.

## New South Wales State Plan

The NSW State Plan, *A new direction for NSW*, sets out the Government's key priorities for the 10-year period commencing in 2007. As a constituent

part of the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC), the Trust is responsible for contributing to the lead agency role of DECC in coordinating the delivery of the following relevant NSW State Plan priority:

**E4:** Better environmental outcomes for native vegetation, biodiversity, land, rivers and coastal waterways.

The Trust is also responsible for contributing to the role of DECC as a partner agency in delivering the following relevant State Plan priorities:

**E8:** More people using parks, sporting and recreational facilities and participating in the arts and cultural activity

**R4:** Increased participation and integration in community activities.

The Trust also contributes to a number of other priorities, including more people participating in education and training throughout their life (P4), improved health through reduced obesity, smoking, illicit drug use and risk drinking (S3) and increased customer satisfaction with Government services (S8).

## Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

The Trust is committed to contributing to the targets set in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC), which provides an innovative framework for plant conservation actions at global, regional, national and local levels. These include:

- understanding and documenting plant diversity
- conserving plant diversity
- using plant diversity sustainably
- promoting education and awareness about plant diversity.

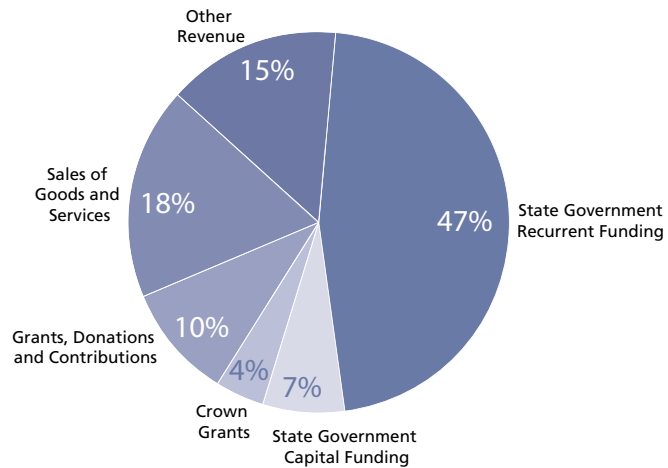
A summary of the Trust's activities against GSPC targets is provided in **Appendix B**.



## Performance Snapshot

### Revenue 2008–09

\$39.6 million



### Financial

	UNITS	2008–09	2007–08	2006–07	2005–06
<b>Government Contribution</b>					
Recurrent Funding	\$'000	<b>18,105</b>	17,781	17,379	17,034
Capital Funding	\$'000	<b>2,635</b>	3,695	5,476	3,053
Crown Grants	\$'000	<b>1,641</b>	1,308	1,272	1,972
Grants, Donations and Contributions <sup>1</sup>	\$'000	<b>3,861</b>	2,573	1,881	2,812
Sales of Goods and Services	\$'000	<b>7,312</b>	7,289	7,812	7,340
Other Revenue <sup>2</sup>	\$'000	<b>6,035</b>	5,116	1,773	1,160
<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$'000	<b>39,589</b>	37,762	35,593	33,371
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$'000	<b>(40,386)</b>	(38,577)	(34,184)	(32,785)
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	\$'000	<b>(832)</b>	(815)	1,409	586

Note: Financial information and data included in this section has not been subject to audit.

<sup>1</sup> Includes 15 per cent research grants in 2008–09.

<sup>2</sup> Other revenue includes insurance recoveries, investment revenue, cost recovery and infringements.



## Plant Biodiversity and Habitats Understood, Protected and Restored

Grant funded research projects	no.	<b>18</b> <sup>3</sup>	27	20	37
Species described or reassessed	no.	<b>31</b>	82	30	28
Peer-reviewed scientific publications, general articles, and presentations	no.	<b>189</b>	178	183	183
Scientific citation rate benchmarked against comparable researchers	ratio:1.0	<b>1.6</b>	1.5	1.9	1.9

## The Community Values Plants and Cultural Heritage

Participants in school and public education programs	no.	<b>65,786</b>	69,507	62,805	61,921
Total visits to Trust website	no.	<b>858,878</b>	862,629	638,092	678,102
Visitors to Trust estates satisfied with facilities, services and programs	%	<b>94</b>	91	90	96

## Increased Participation and Integration in Community Activities

### Visits to:<sup>4</sup>

Royal Botanic Gardens	no.	<b>3,456,129</b>	3,621,925	3,453,927	3,578,799
Mount Annan Botanic Garden	no.	<b>88,777</b>	100,410	94,873	90,705
Mount Tomah Botanic Garden	no.	<b>69,772</b>	69,990	78,285	78,757

### Attendees at public events:

Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain	no.	<b>514,004</b>	425,020	440,880	575,234
Mount Annan Botanic Garden	no.	<b>14,293</b>	18,525	17,500	16,897
Mount Tomah Botanic Garden	no.	<b>15,850</b>	12,856	11,500	11,504
People using the Domain for booked sports activities	no.	<b>89,755</b>	71,194	95,923	60,072

<sup>3</sup> The global economic downturn has reduced the number and value of research grants available.

<sup>4</sup> Analysis of visitation figures is included under 'Visitor services and facilities managed successfully' page 28.







## Chair and Executive Director's Report

**Plants have never been as important to our survival as they are in 2009. Not only do they provide the oxygen we breathe, the food we eat and much of our clothing and shelter, they absorb and store carbon to combat global warming. Plants continue to provide a myriad of essential 'support services' such as recycling nutrients and filtering water in our catchments. In our gardens, plants create places of tranquillity and beauty, havens from the busy world. The Botanic Gardens Trust's three botanic gardens and the Domain are places of inspiration, contemplation and critical scientific research: places that celebrate the importance of plants.**

*Many species of Syzygium are cultivated as ornamental trees; their flowers with masses of coloured stamens and often brightly coloured fruits and reddish new growth adding to their appeal. Coolamon (Syzygium moorei) grows in lowland subtropical rainforest and is now rare. The striking pink ramiflorous flowers (arising directly from the branches) may be seen from November to March.*

The Trust has an ambitious plan, building its 193 years of experience and expertise to further inspire the appreciation and conservation of plants. A fundraising campaign for this plan, to celebrate the bicentenary of the Botanic Gardens in 2016, will be launched in early 2010 and already there is strong financial support and encouraging community enthusiasm. The first sculptural centre-piece of the three children's gardens planned for Mount Tomah was funded by a private donor; the Friends of The Gardens supported a four-year plant collecting program for science and horticultural display and provided seeding money to match a State Government grant to prepare a business case for PlantBank (an international plant research centre to be built around an expanded seedbank at Mount Annan), and the State Government has committed to fully funding a new entrance at Mount Annan.

Some other projects have begun. Repair and reinstatement of statuary in the Royal Botanic Gardens was supported by the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation. HSBC Bank Australia became the Trust's Principal Conservation Partner, committing to support an Asia-Pacific capacity building program, rejuvenation of the Oriental Garden and conservation programs on all estates. And planning for major children's gardens at Sydney and Mount Annan, as well as a revitalised Tropical Centre linked by raised walkways to the Domain and nearby treetops, is well advanced.

While the year 2016 is clearly in our sights, this year saw continuing excellence in all our science, education, horticulture, conservation and events programs.

### Youth Community Greening

The ongoing value of the Trust's Community Greening program was highlighted this year with the launch of an offspring environmental education program, Youth Community Greening. This new program will help young

people from the most disadvantaged schools in the State experience the joys of gardening as they create gardens at schools and within community housing developments. The Trust is grateful to the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation and individual benefactors for providing four years funding towards this initiative.

### Environmental Improvements at Mount Annan Botanic Garden

The Trust this year signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding with Integral Energy and Landcom to remove some of the intruding power lines from Mount Annan Botanic Garden and move them to less visible locations, including partly on a Landcom easement south of the Garden. This new partnership with Integral Energy will also provide the Trust with funding to remove African Olive weed over the next five years, to be replaced by local woodland species.

### The Jungle

The acquisition of 'The Jungle' adjacent to Mount Tomah Botanic Garden was a milestone for the Trust, and for the conservation and care of our State's natural heritage. The generous gift of John and Libby Fairfax, supplemented by a contribution from the Environmental Trust, allowed the Trust to honour one of the State's early conservation efforts and to add this long sought piece of land to the estate of the Trust. The purchase was celebrated with the opening of the Lady Fairfax Walk through The Jungle, to be joined in coming years by an expansion of Mount Tomah's education program, a treetop walk and holiday accommodation in the Jungle Cottage.

State and Federal Government funding was confirmed for a World Heritage Exhibition Centre as an extension to the Mount Tomah Visitor Centre, and to complement the Trust's Jungle and Spur natural areas. The Centre will showcase and interpret this world heritage, and



the underpinning natural and cultural values of the Greater Blue Mountains. The exhibition space will provide a virtual experience of the canyons, rare plants, eucalypt diversity, expansive vistas, and unique Blue Mountains landscapes. The Centre is expected to open in 2010.

### Seeds in Space

Of great interest over the last twelve months has been the story of the first Australian seeds to travel in space.

With habitats under increasing threat, seedbanking on Earth, and perhaps one day in space, will be part of an integrated conservation program for species threatened by extinction due to global warming or environmental changes.

In May 2008, NASA astronaut Dr Gregory Chamitoff took the seeds of four Australian species with him on the Discovery Mission STS-124. The seeds spent six months circling the Earth before returning in late November. Back at the NSW Seedbank, germination tests confirmed that more than 2800 orbits of the Earth did not adversely affect the viability of the Golden Wattle, Flannel Flower or Waratah seeds. Germination tests are still underway on the seeds from the Wollemi Pine.

### Flying-foxes

Over the last two decades the flying-fox camp in the Palm Grove of the Royal Botanic Gardens has grown to a summer peak of 22,000 individuals, resulting in extensive damage to a landscape of great historical, scientific and cultural value. More than a dozen trees, and many more understorey species, have been lost already, and at least another 40 trees are at risk.

Approval to disturb flying-foxes for the purpose of relocation requires a licence under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act* and the *Commonwealth Environment Protection*

*and Biodiversity Conservation Act*.

The Trust was granted approval from the NSW Government but is awaiting a final decision from the Australian Government and is preparing a Public Environment Report in response to its decision to declare the relocation a 'controlled action'. Although further tree losses are expected, the Trust is hopeful it can restore much of the historic Palm Grove landscape if the relocation is approved for 2010.

### Maintaining Cultural Heritage

A bronze statue of Scottish poet Robert Burns in the Domain was fully restored in August as part of a program of conservation works made possible through the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation. Other statues being conserved are *Huntsman and Dogs*, *Mare and Foal*, *Levy Fountain* and *Governor Phillip Fountain and Statue*. *La Ballarina* was ready to reinstate at the end of the financial year.

The historic Woolloomooloo Sea Wall and associated paths and drains were restored, a \$850,000 project funded by the State Government. The Trust was also allocated funds in the 2009–10 budget to reconstruct the road and pathway network within the Domain over the next three years.

### Hidden Collections

To achieve the outstanding results and services outlined in this report, our staff, volunteers, associates and Friends have, as always, made an exceptional contribution. This year we saw another side to some of them. The annual staff show featured 45 'Hidden Collections', including Royal Botanic Gardens memorabilia, pop-up books, nautilus and ammonites, shaving mugs and razors, waratahs and more. The exhibition was later showcased on the ABC TV *Collectors* program after show host, Andy Muirhead, opened the exhibition.

Staff interest in collecting isn't surprising given that they are surrounded by



TOP The acquisition of 'The Jungle' at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden allows the Trust to honour one of the State's early conservation efforts.

ABOVE NASA astronaut Dr Gregory Chamitoff, Executive Director Dr Tim Entwisle and Seed Technology Officer Leahwyn Seed inspect seedlings from the Seeds in Space germination tests.





collections each day. We have nearly 200,000 plants in our three botanic gardens and the Domain, representing 20,000 different kinds of plants from all other the world. The Herbarium has over 1.2 million preserved collections, there are over five million seeds in our Seedbank at Mount Annan Botanic Garden and our library preserves a rich assortment of books, archives and artworks. These collections are the basis for much of the scientific effort of the Trust — this year including innovative research in DNA sequencing and barcoding — as well as enriching the experience of all visitors.

The built and natural infrastructure, these historical collections, and our expert and experienced staff and volunteers will be the foundation of our bicentennial program leading up to 2016. Plants, and gardens, will continue to support life in Australia. The Botanic Gardens Trust will cultivate the plants and knowledge needed to survive in this beautiful but fragile country in the twenty-first century.

Greg Martin  
Chair, Royal Botanic Gardens and  
Domain Trust

Dr Tim Entwisle  
Executive Director



PAULINE MARKWELL

TOP Some of the 1.2 million preserved collections housed in the Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

ABOVE Heritage statuary restoration and conservation is a flagship fundraising project for the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation.









# Environmental Statement

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

## **In the last year we have:**

- Kept potable water consumption in the Domain and Royal Botanic Gardens around half of our 2000 level
- Used 100 per cent dam water for irrigation at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden
- Reduced water use by 15 per cent at Mount Annan Botanic Garden
- Installed more rainwater tanks at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden so that all potable water at this Garden is now from rainwater tanks
- Used more than 90 per cent of mulch and other organic matter from recycled green waste at our three botanic gardens
- Recycled over 25 tonnes of general waste (e.g. bottles, cans, paper and cardboard). Sydney events clients and service/goods providers are also required to demonstrate leading environmentally sustainable practices and incorporate and promote recycling and other initiatives into their operations
- All major public events and commercial operators at the Sydney estates using 100 per cent accredited GreenPower
- Maintained or reduced use of toxic chemicals for pest control, and continued to trial and use non toxic alternatives such as biological controls. A hot water steam weeder is now used on the Sydney estates for weed control
- Sourced garden materials from sustainable sources — and not used peat moss and arsenic-chrome treated timber
- Selected plant species that are less susceptible to pests and diseases and do not require high pesticide treatments

- Continued to implement the National Botanic Gardens Weed Policy, including the assessment of all new plant collections and potential weed species. This year 131 assessments were completed in Sydney and a further 313 at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden
- Used environmentally sustainable design principles for all new buildings, depots and nurseries.

## **Leading up to our Bicentenary in 2016, we will:**

- Develop garden themes that promote sustainable gardening practices and promote important environmental and climate change messages
- 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
- Use 100 per cent non-potable water for irrigating the Domain and Royal Botanic Gardens. This year consistent progress was made towards harvesting stormwater for use on the Sydney estates
- Continue to install rainwater tanks in the Domain and Royal Botanic Gardens and Mount Annan Botanic Garden and increase water recycling on all estates
- Review Trust retail products and packaging to minimise our environmental footprint and to promote environmental responsibility
- Set new challenging targets for all energy use. The Trust continues to audit its energy use and investigate options for 'green generators'.

*The NSW Seedbank at Mount Annan Botanic Garden stores seed collected from plants throughout Australia, with a focus on NSW native and threatened species. Collections for the Seedbank also support a range of research projects, from plant breeding and horticultural development to specific conservation projects. One current research focus is the Rainforest Seed Project, which will investigate the seed characteristics and storage physiology of Australian rainforest species.*







# Achievements

## Understanding, protecting and restoring plant biodiversity and habitats

### Conservation collections well-managed and accessible

#### Plant collecting

The Friends of The Gardens committed to funding a three-year plant diversity program for the living and preserved collections, and for scientific research. This year over 400 species of rainforest trees were collected in northern New South Wales for the Herbarium and the Trust's DNA tissue banks. These will form the basis for studies assessing changes in vegetation communities in response to past environmental changes, so that we can better predict the impacts of current climate change on today's rainforests. Further locations in New South Wales, interstate and in neighbouring countries in the Asia-Pacific region have been identified to collect plants for displays in the Gardens, as well as contributing to the Herbarium and the NSW Seedbank.

#### Lord Howe Island seeds

Until recently there was one NSW botanical subdivision missing from our seedbank collection: Lord Howe Island. With over 200 plant species, including 45 per cent endemics, Lord Howe Island is home to an important part of the State's flora. In early May, 47 collections were made, with more than half being endemics. These species will be stored in both the NSW Seedbank and the UK Millennium Seedbank. The Lord Howe Island flora also includes many fleshy-fruited rainforest species, and seed of 15 species were collected for assessment of desiccation tolerance in the Rainforest Seed Project.

#### Splitting *Banksia*

A re-arrangement of the Proteaceae section of the Herbarium allowed for changes in the taxonomy of *Banksia* and *Dryandra* that have occurred over the past year. Researchers in Western Australia and the USA, using a range of data sets (particularly molecular data), have shown that species in the genus *Dryandra* should all be included in *Banksia* and consequently all *Dryandra* species should be reclassified and renamed as *Banksia* species. While this change has been accepted by the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria, it has not been universally accepted by all *Dryandra* and *Banksia* enthusiasts. The Herbarium rearrangement will assist in acceptance of the scientifically more informative classification, and in promoting its acceptance in research and education programs.

#### New palms

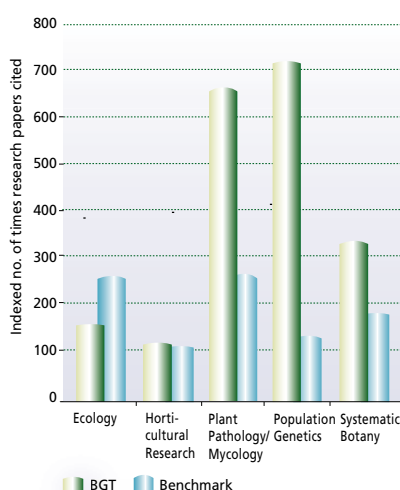
The Sydney Palm Grove has been extensively damaged in recent years by thousands of flying-foxes roosting in the heritage trees, but subject to approval the flying-foxes should be relocated in 2010. The Trust has entered into an agreement with the Palm and Cycad Society of Australia to provide the Trust with specialist plant advice and sources of rare palm species for the restoration of the Grove (flying-fox issue reported elsewhere in this annual report).

#### PlantNET

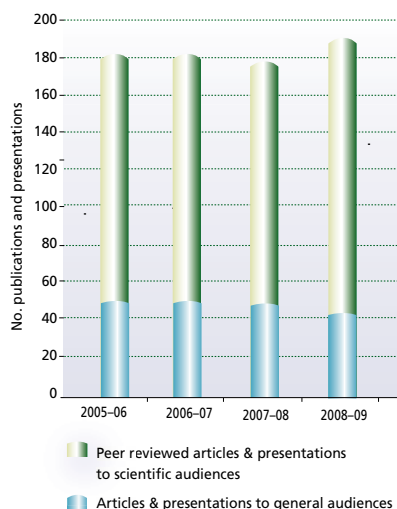
Work on the Trust's on-line plant information service, PlantNET, was boosted by additional funding and two temporary positions, which allowed for a comprehensive update of taxonomic and distribution data as well as a review of the site's functionality to improve accessibility.

*The bright red fruit or drupe and sculpted seed of the Sweet Quandong (Santalum acuminatum), a small tree or shrub distributed through woodlands of western New South Wales. The fruit is said to have commercial value for growing in arid areas.*

Citation indices



Publications and presentations



## PlantBank

In response to threats such as accelerated global warming and loss of biodiversity, the Trust is creating PlantBank, a research and education facility at Mount Annan Botanic Garden. PlantBank will be a world leader in conservation research and education on the remarkable plant species found in Australia. At the heart of this initiative will be the NSW Seedbank, which currently holds the largest collection of Australian native seed in Australia and is amongst the foremost native seedbanks in the world. This valuable collection, estimated at more than \$18M to recollect, holds almost 10,000 collections from across Australia, including 37 per cent of NSW seed-bearing plants and over 30 per cent of NSW threatened plant species.

With the financial support of the Friends of The Gardens and NSW Treasury, a complete business case, functional brief and concept designs for the proposed centre have been prepared and a funding strategy is in place.

PlantBank will significantly accelerate scientific knowledge, particularly in relation to the challenges brought about by environmental change. It will also be a stimulating public and student education facility. The new green-rated building will itself be a teaching facility and will also house an open interactive space and a small conference facility.

## Accurate and timely scientific information disseminated to government, professionals and the community

### Atlas of Living Australia

Science and Public Programs Director Dr Brett Summerell was appointed to represent the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria on the Management Committee for the Atlas

of Living Australia project. The Atlas is a Commonwealth funded project that will catalogue all biodiversity information, such as that in PlantNET and Australia's Virtual Herbarium, to create an integrated map of data as a useful tool for research, policy and education.

## NSW vegetation classification and assessment database

Senior Plant Ecologist Dr John Benson has been working on the NSW Vegetation Classification and Assessment database for over 10 years. A third paper on this project has been published, describing 135 plant communities in the NSW south-western slopes bioregion, one of the most degraded bioregions in Australia. The database classifies the vegetation of NSW into plant communities based on the best existing data and extensive field checking. This is used for environmental assessment and ecosystem management, and is being incorporated into decision support tools under NSW regulations.

## Plants may not adapt

In the largest study of its kind, Senior Principal Research Scientist Dr Peter Weston and co-workers found that most plant species don't have the capacity to adapt to the dramatic changes predicted for the world's vegetation. The study suggests that as habitats shrink, many plant species will have trouble adapting and surviving, resulting in extinctions and loss of biodiversity. The study included over 11,000 plants species across six continental landmasses: Africa, Madagascar, Australia-New Guinea, New Caledonia, New Zealand and South America — equivalent to an estimated 15 per cent of the total plant life of these regions. The study was published in the prestigious science journal *Nature*.





Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) — *Blakely's Red Gum* (*E. blakelyi*) tall woodland, on flats near Forbes on the NSW South Western Slopes. This woodland type is part of the NSW and Commonwealth-listed 'Box-Gum Grassy Woodland' Endangered Ecological Community. The next version of the NSWVCA covers nine million hectares of the North Western Slopes and west New England regions, describing a further 200 plant communities.

Fostering and delivering scientific innovation in plant sciences



## Fostering and delivering scientific innovation in plant sciences

### DNA barcode network

Trust scientists contributed to a major funding proposal submitted to the Australian Government for DNA Barcoding of all forms of biota in the Australian environment. Work is continuing with scientists at University of Adelaide, James Cook University and Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne to develop proposals for funding from the Australian Research Council for plants that will form the Australian component of 'TreeBOL', an initiative to DNA barcode all of the trees in the world, led by New York Botanical Garden.

The metaphorical barcode — a short sequence of DNA unique to each species — will make the day-to-day work of identifying and studying new species a whole lot easier and could initiate the creation of a handheld 'scanner' that could be used to quickly identify species.

### Orchid conservation research

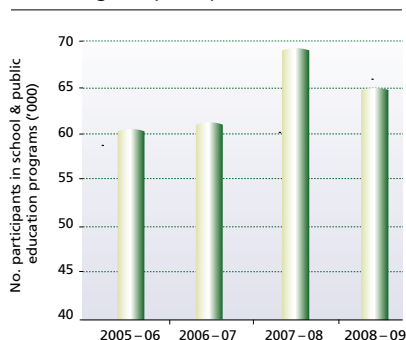
A large number of NSW terrestrial orchids are currently threatened and some species require *ex situ* conservation to aid their recovery. As a fungal association is needed for these orchids to germinate, *ex situ* conservation also requires the conservation of the fungal partners. Research at Mount Annan Botanic Garden, funded by the Hermon Slade Foundation, the Slade Orchid Fund and the Millennium Seedbank Project, has developed a procedure for obtaining seed and fungal symbionts that has been successfully used to germinate five threatened orchids (*Diuris arenaria*, *D. flavescens*, *D. tricolor*, *Pterostylis gibbosa* and *P. saxicola*) and several more common species.

In addition to this work, a technique that enables the storage of the orchid seed and fungi together in small beads of sodium alginate (a seaweed extract) has also been tested. Experiments have shown that these beads may be stored for at least two years without affecting the ability of either the seed or fungus to germinate. The technique has been successfully tested on four threatened species — *Pterostylis saxicola*, *Diuris arenaria*, *D. flavescens* and *D. tricolor* — and the seedlings have been grown-on for possible use in future recovery programs.



*Six mirrored letters spelling out Darwin's name nestle amongst the foliage and trunks of the Myrtales garden bed, which was designed to celebrate the Trust's scientific research on the evolution of plants. The interpretive sculpture was launched on the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth.*

**Public Programs participation**



## Promoting the importance of plants in natural and cultural landscapes

### High quality school education and public programs delivered on and off site

#### School programs

The Trust's school education program is well known and respected in all State and private schools in New South Wales. Several new lessons were added to the program this year, including 'Sense-ability' and 'Threatened Habitats: Rainforests' and two new maths-related lessons created for Year 8 and Year 10 students at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden. A new lesson using sounds of the alphabet, called 'B is Botanic and G is for Garden', was also introduced for kindergarten classes.

Year 11 'Australian Biota' lessons continued, in partnership with Taronga Zoo and the Australian Museum. Students from the Central West region of New South Wales took part in sessions held at Western Plains Zoo. This unique workshop is popular with teachers, as experts cover a whole topic in one day.

The Trust sponsored The Premier's Year 11 Karl Cramp Debating Challenge, hosting the finals series and devising a list of environmental issues for student debate.

The recently acquired 'Jungle' annexe of Mount Tomah Botanic Garden proved to be an ideal location for rainforest classes, while the school program at Mount Annan Botanic Garden included senior science tours of the Seedbank and an annual visit by students from Koshigaya, a sister city of Campbelltown City Council, who participated in Australian cultural training at the Garden.

#### Beyond the walls

An educational collaboration with the Art Gallery of New South Wales resulted in a series of events to complement their

blockbuster exhibition 'Monet and the Impressionists'. Some 300 students took part in 'Viewing the Gardens through Monet's Eyes' lessons at the Royal Botanic Gardens, while a 'Monet and the Gardens' teachers' enrichment day was well attended. Over 400 children took part in the 'Monet for Kids' Art-in-the-Gardens school holiday program, and Dr Tim Entwisle presented a talk on water lilies and other botanical links to Monet's paintings as part of the 'Art After Hours' series.

#### Darwin's birthday

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth in February 2009, the Trust joined with the Australian Museum to host a lively dinner debate entitled 'Dining with Darwin', where a panel of experts discussed adaptation, extinction and climate change. The event was covered by *The Daily Telegraph* with a two-page spread featuring articles by the participants. Further celebrations included installing a spectacular interpretive sculpture in the Myrtales Bed of Royal Botanic Gardens. The launch was celebrated with cupcakes (decorated with the letters of Darwin's name) by over 200 staff, volunteers, Friends and members of the public, and received media coverage in Australia, Germany and the UK. The artwork features the musings of our own scientists on evolution and science, alongside those of their more famous counterparts, etched into mirrored letters spelling out DARWIN.

#### Young minds

The International Year of the Potato was celebrated with a holiday program at the Royal Botanic Gardens 'Spuds4Kids Harvest'. Other holiday themes included 'Woccan-ma-gule Weaving', focussing on Aboriginal culture, including music and weaving at the Royal Botanic Gardens, 'Charlie D and the Great Seed Mystery' and 'Easter Totally Eggscellent Craft' at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden.





A new activity for children launched at the Royal Botanic Gardens was well patronised. 'Dandy Lions: Wild Things in the Gardens', provided gardening and craft activities, storytelling, play and music for children aged up to five-years-old.

The Trust established an educational alliance with the Early Childhood Environmental Education Network (ECEEN), which strives to promote and support education for sustainability in early childhood communities. The link is timely as it complements the new 'Dandy Lions' community program and lessons related to the early childhood curriculum.

#### Community education

Mount Annan Botanic Garden's community programs included twilight 'Wallaby Wander' tours, historic canal presentations to local interest groups, and evening presentations about Aboriginal culture, the environment and local history. Education staff conducted a socialisation program for Beverley Park SPP for children with serious disabilities, and provided plant donations and advice to the Liverpool Autism Advisory Service and Thomas Reddall High School autism support group.

Public programs for adults included Sogetsu Ikebana displays and workshops, a series of botanical illustration classes, and a Sydney Writers' Festival evening with Roger McDonald discussing his topical novel *Mr Darwin's Shooter*.

In collaboration with DECC Sustainability Programs Division, International Compost Awareness Week was celebrated in May at the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Big Ideas Garden at Mount Annan Botanic Garden. Volunteer Guides led sustainability walks for participants from Waverley and Willoughby Councils, DECC employees and the general public.

Sydney's Volunteer Guides extended their 'Talk and Walk' Series to include Saturday presentations. The first walk, 'Bravo for Bromeliads', was successful

in attracting 30 paying participants. Other themed walks presented by the Volunteer Guides at the Royal Botanic Gardens included 'Fabaceae', 'Bamboos', 'Native Fruits and Nuts', 'Hibiscus and Hollyhocks', 'Camellias' and 'Allan Cunningham: Explorer and Collector'.

#### Partnership education programs in the urban and regional environment

##### Greening the community

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 and Youth Community Greening programs reached a combined total of over 9,000 participants in community gardening projects and disadvantaged schools. Several new social housing communal gardening projects were initiated and a number of new schools were introduced to the Youth Community Greening program.

The launching of Youth Community Greening, an offspring of Community Greening, helped more young people experience the joys of gardening as they created environmentally sound gardens at NSW schools and within community housing developments. The Trust is grateful to individual benefactors and the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation for providing four years funding for this initiative. Within its first year of operation the number of schools involved in communal gardening projects doubled, indicating the real need for such a program. Students involved in the program come from the most disadvantaged schools in the State — where a high percentage of the student population lives in social housing. Youth Community Greening also identifies youth previously involved in Community Greening gardening projects and gives them additional training and learning opportunities.

A Community Greening DVD was launched to promote these outreach

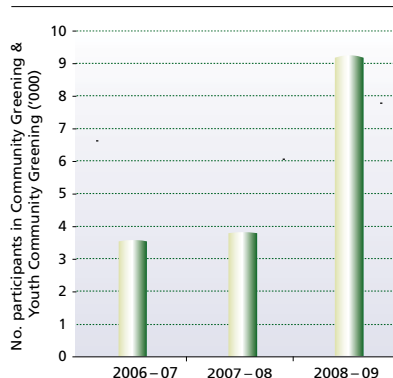


STEPHEN PAUL

TOP 'Dandy Lions: Wild Things in the Gardens' is a new program for under-fives at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

ABOVE A promotional Community Greening DVD features four communal garden projects and is hosted by celebrity chef Ed Halmagyi.

Community Greening participation





*Unsustainable numbers of flying-foxes have resulted in the loss of more than a dozen heritage trees in the Royal Botanic Gardens.*

programs and to motivate tenants and youth to participate in establishing new communal gardening projects. The DVD features gardeners from four different garden projects as well as TV celebrity chef Ed Halmagyi, who volunteered to be the host and voiceover. Community Greening and Youth Community Greening gardens will also feature in a 10-part program filmed for SBS Television, showcasing the community, personal and environmental benefits of gardening.

The Community Greening program expanded to include gardening projects in the Hunter and Illawarra regions and the Central Coast. Through the Housing NSW Landscape Traineeship program, new produce garden plots were developed at the Holroyd Community Garden, an extension of the Ambrose Community Nursery at Rosemeadow, and a previously discontinued project in Woolloomooloo was resurrected. A presentation on Community Greening to participants at the Environmental Volunteering Forum resulted in enquiries from several councils and local government organisations regarding involvement.

### Sustainable living

The Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living held an Spring Open Day in September, attracting nearly 900 visitors interested in organic gardening, eco-homes and green products. Youth Community Greening staff conducted activities for children and the Centre's Board members, staff and volunteers led tours of the site and provided information.

### Gardening skills

Eden Education, the Trust's outreach partnership program at Eden Gardens and Garden Centre, provided a range of program topics including caring for lawns, rainwater harvesting, landscape design, modern Australian native garden design, and soft stone sculpture. Gardening skills courses were expanded to include the first Gardening Skills III

course, which included a three-hour session at the Royal Botanic Gardens. Eden Gardens is expanding its business and similar education initiatives are being developed in new premises acquired in Brisbane and Mount Eliza in Victoria.

## Protecting our heritage

### Excellence in horticulture and maintenance of built assets and landscapes

#### Flying-foxes

Grey-headed Flying-foxes began settling in the Palm Grove of the Royal Botanic Gardens in 1989, nearly 70 years after they had last been seen at the site. Over the last two decades the camp has grown in size from a few hundred to a peak of 22,000, resulting in extensive damage to a landscape of great historical, scientific and cultural value. At least a dozen trees have already been lost and another 40 are at risk of severe damage or death. Palms and understorey plants have also been damaged or killed.

In an effort to reduce damage to heritage trees, the Trust has been using non-destructive measures to deter the flying-foxes from roosting in specific trees. This year the Trust applied for a licence to disturb the colony for the purpose of relocation, as required under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act* and the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. The proposal was assessed by the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) as being unlikely to significantly affect threatened species and issued the Trust with a Section 95 (2) certificate with conditions. The Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts (DEWHA), however, determined that the relocation will have an impact on a threatened species and provided guidelines for the development of a Public Environment Report, which the Trust is now preparing.





*Peter Cuneo, Manager, Natural Heritage at Mount Annan Botanic Garden, stands within an African Olive forest. Staff and volunteers at Mount Annan have been working to control this invasive weed which threatens the long-term viability of remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland.*

If approval is granted, the relocation must take place during May to July to minimise the impact on the flying-fox breeding cycle. The Trust is using the additional time for further research and monitoring of camps in the Sydney area. Although further tree losses are expected, the Trust is hopeful it can restore much of the Palm Grove landscape if the relocation is approved for 2010.

### Sea walls

The historic Woolloomooloo Seawall was originally built in the late 1870s to provide pedestrian access to the foreshore. Constructed using blocks of local sandstone, the seawall has been repaired several times over the past 125 years as it has deteriorated through exposure to wave action and weathering, while the adjacent path showed signs of subsidence.

A stretch of approximately 400 metres of the seawall and path from Mrs Macquaries Chair south to Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool were rebuilt using a faux sandstone aggregate. Surface drainage and the stormwater system were also improved to help prevent future damage.

The three islands in the Main Pond in the Royal Botanic Gardens were restored and replanted. An additional course of sandstone was constructed and existing walls repaired. The extra wall height will help prevent damage to the islands from anticipated rising sea levels and tidal activity. Improved drainage and soil replacement has allowed for a Victorian era plant palate to be developed, replacing the heritage palm collection that had been destroyed by nesting ibis. This \$150,000 project was mostly funded through external donations.

### Secure water supply

Mount Annan Botanic Garden received a four-star rating in Sydney Water's Every Drop Counts business program, the highest rating for water management yet awarded to a

government organisation. The award recognises Mount Annan's use of innovative technologies.

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain are two of Sydney's iconic gardens and parklands with significant plant collections displayed in a 19th century designed landscape. The water supply to maintain these two estates is drawn from Sydney's drinking water supply. The Trust recognises the need to develop a non-potable water supply to keep these wonderful living assets alive and growing into the future and will continue to seek alternative water supplies through either harvesting stormwater or recycling waste water. Both sources of alternative water are being investigated and will require significant funding to complete feasibility studies, design and documentation, business cases and construction works.

### Weed control

In south-western Sydney, invasive weeds, particularly African Olive, are threatening the long-term viability of fragmented and endangered bushland. At Mount Annan Botanic Garden, community bush regeneration volunteers have been working with Trust staff over the past 10 years to control weeds in valuable remnants of the endangered plant community, Cumberland Plain Woodland.

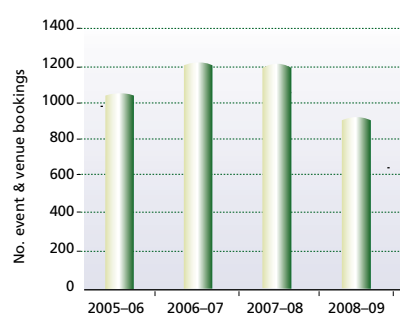
This program has resulted already in the regeneration of 37 hectares of native woodland, providing habitat for a variety of fauna including swamp wallabies and wallaroos. These areas of woodlands are now some of the finest regional examples of Cumberland Plain Woodland, and are an integral part of the visitor experience at Mount Annan Botanic Garden.

The efforts of bush regeneration volunteers will be boosted over the next five years with the Trust signing a landmark Memorandum of Understanding with Integral Energy and Landcom to relocate power poles

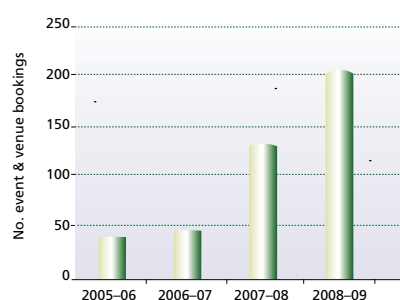


Executive Director Dr Tim Entwisle, John B. Fairfax AO, Governor of New South Wales Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, Minister for Climate Change and the Environment the Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MP and Libby Fairfax at the opening of the Lady (Nancy) Fairfax Walk at the Jungle at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden.

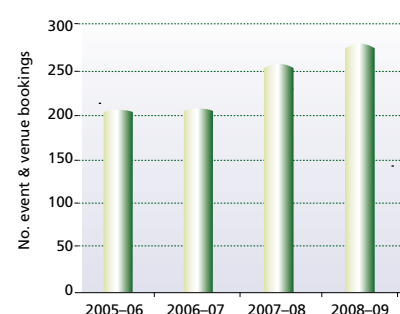
Events at Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain



Events at Mount Annan Botanic Garden



Events at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden



in Mount Annan Botanic Garden and provide funding for the African Olive control program. The project will also contribute to the Trust's research program on African Olive control, and include techniques to re-establish endangered plant communities such as Western Sydney Dry Rainforest and Cumberland Plain Woodland.

### Connecting gardens

The Connections Garden is being developed on the site of the old Terrace Garden at Mount Annan, a 4.5-hectare hillside reshaped into a series of terraces displaying the evolution of Australian native plants. This Garden will be a roofless museum made up of rooms and corridors, vistas and open spaces that will entice visitors to discover and explore the interconnectedness of humans and the natural world. It is intended to give visitors the chance to 'connect' with plants.

Stage one, the Water Garden, was completed in 2005. Last year work was completed on stage two above the 'Room with a View' installation, interpreting the drying of Australia in recent geological times. This year, the water course has been extended and plant evolution timing interpreted to scale. The new rare and endangered garden bed has been made possible through the generous support of Dorothy and Alex Robertson.

### What's the big idea

The Bottlebrush Garden at Mount Annan has been redesigned to be more relevant to home gardeners. 'What's the Big Idea' will display Australian plants that are available through garden centres and explain sustainability principles such as mulching and composting, worm farming, fertilising, and how to use recycled or sustainable materials. Part of the Big Idea Garden includes a water-wise garden that demonstrates water efficiency in the home garden using water tanks, drip irrigation and an array of beautiful

water-wise native plants commonly available in local nurseries.

In keeping with its resource-saving theme, this project is being completed on a minimal budget, using recycled products. Financial support for development of this garden has been provided by HSBC through their 'Towards Sustainable Horticulture' program, with additional support from Ramm Botanicals and Neutrog Fertiliser.

### Wildlife

A wildlife survey established the number and distribution of reptile species at Mount Annan Botanic Garden and also recorded sightings of Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*). Feral animal numbers, particularly of rabbits and hares, have also been rapidly growing. After intensive training and OHS planning, spring night culls reduced the total feral population by approximately 170.

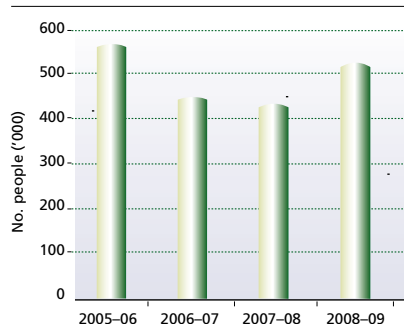
Mount Tomah Botanic Garden is home to Red Bellied Black Snakes, Eastern Tiger Snakes, Brown Snakes and Diamond Pythons, some of which have become acclimatised to the presence of visitors to the Garden. Staff completed a WIRES snake handling refresher course and have relocated a number of snakes into the conservation area.

### The Jungle

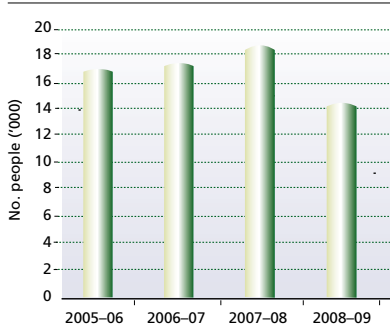
The Governor, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, accompanied by the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, the Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MP, opened the Lady (Nancy) Fairfax Walk at The Jungle on 23 March, the 80th Anniversary of the original opening. The path system links the botanic garden to the 1929 track system through the rainforest in the newly acquired property, and features interpretive signs describing the property's history, as well as the flora and fauna of the rainforest.



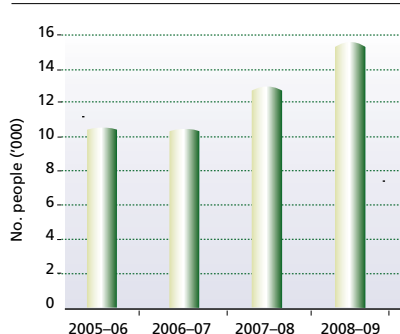
Attendance at public events at Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain



Attendance at public events at Mount Annan Botanic Garden



Attendance at public events at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden



## World heritage

State and Federal Government funding was confirmed for a World Heritage Exhibition Centre at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden. The centre will showcase and interpret this world heritage, and the underpinning natural and cultural values of the Greater Blue Mountains. New landscaping will feature iconic plants of the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, such as the Wollemi Pine, and will link the Garden's living collection to the interpretation inside. The Centre is expected to open in 2010.

## Sustainable turf in the mountains

Mount Tomah Botanic Garden is working toward growing a more sustainable, yet high quality turf. Over 2,400 square metres of turf was replaced with a Tall Fescue and Kentucky Blue Grass blend, which monitoring has revealed uses 30 per cent less water than the old turf. This new blend is also tougher wearing and drought tolerant, will be more resistant to Red Thread fungal disease and will better suppress creeping oxalis and other weeds, so reducing maintenance labour and costs.

## Mapping trees

The Friends of The Gardens funded stage two of a tree mapping project at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden. Some 300 specimens of *Eucalyptus fastigata* (Brown Barrel) were surveyed and their locations mapped. An arboricultural assessment of the health, size and characteristics of each tree was used to calculate the safe useful life expectancy of each tree; the information used to manage risk to visitors and staff. Over 4,000 trees on the estate have now been mapped and added to the Trust's Collections Management System. The information will also be included in the 'Trees on the Web' tool, currently under development.

## Work with Aboriginal communities to commemorate the significance of our botanic estates

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. More than 6,000 participants joined Aboriginal heritage tours and Indigenous themed lessons on Trust estates this year. This included over 1,000 visitors joining paid guided tours in the Royal Botanic Gardens, exploring the rich Aboriginal heritage of the site and experiencing traditional music, dance and artefacts, as well as being given the opportunity to taste bush foods.

Trust Aboriginal education officers conducted tours of the Royal Botanic Gardens, focussing on Indigenous heritage of the site, for staff participating in Department-wide Aboriginal cultural awareness training. Most Trust staff participated in this training during the year.

To acknowledge the Indigenous (Dharawal) inhabitants of the area that includes Mount Annan Botanic Garden, Dharawal names are being identified for key Cumberland Plain Woodland species to be included on labels and walking trails information at the Garden.

Thanks to the generous support of Ms Elizabeth Mooney and CBD Rotary, a local artist from La Perouse Aboriginal community has been engaged to create a sculpture from the dead remains of a specimen of *Eucalyptus tereticornis* — the 'supermarket tree' — in the Royal Botanic Gardens. Mr Glen Timberly will carve a depiction of local ancestral people into the tree.



HSBC

*Executive Director Dr Tim Entwisle addresses HSBC Australia staff, acknowledging the company's support as the Trust's principal conservation partner, which was announced on World Environment Day.*

### New conservation partnership

On World Environment Day, HSBC Australia announced a three-year commitment as the Trust's principal conservation partner — its largest ever environmental initiative in Australia. To celebrate the occasion, Executive Director Dr Tim Entwisle teamed up with Stuart Davis, Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Australia to address staff at the Bank's head office in Sydney. At the same time, branded seed pots were distributed nationally in HSBC offices to promote the partnership and to encourage staff to get planting.

This partnership will provide valuable funding towards the Trust's 'Protecting Plants for the Future' conservation program, contributing to the NSW Seedbank's partnership with the UK Millennium Seedbank, supporting the Asia-Pacific Capacity Building Program (see **Appendix C**), and aiding Trust initiatives to demonstrate sustainable horticulture. HSBC Australia's commitment to the Botanic Gardens Trust forms part of its global strategy to tackle climate change, investing in the Trust's environmental projects to benefit future generations.

schedule. The Pope's official motorcade forced the closure of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Art Gallery Road, the Domain, Hospital Road and surrounds. Mrs Macquaries Point was one of the best vantage points for families to view the Pope's flotilla on the Harbour, as the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain were accessible only to pilgrims.

The Domain became a stage during the Stations of the Cross re-enactment, which was also watched on large screens at live sites in the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain.

### Australia Day

Approximately 1,000 people attended the Woggan-ma-gule Morning Ceremony in the Royal Botanic Gardens, marking the official start of Australia Day festivities. Around 50 Aboriginal dancers and performers, including many children from different Aboriginal language groups, commemorated the occasion. This is the 5th year of the ceremony, which continues to grow in attendance and significance.

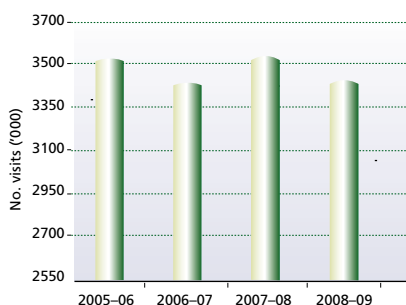
### Art in the Gardens

Artist-in-Residence Associate Professor Emma Robertson, from the University of New South Wales, ended her 2008 residency at the Royal Botanic Gardens with an exhibition entitled 'Ascendant and Descendant' in the Herbarium's Red Box Gallery.

Friends of the Botanic Gardens sponsored the 2009 Margaret Flockton Award for botanical Illustration with the generous support of the Maple-Brown Family. Now in its sixth year, the competition attracted a record number of entries with 27 artists submitting 40 works. This year's award went to South African botanical illustrator and field botanist Sandra Burrows and her illustration of *Asparagus elephantinus*.

The first Florilegium exhibition was launched in September by Jill Hickson and comprised 15 exceptional paintings.

Visitation at Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain



## Sustainably managing our botanic gardens and parklands for visitors

### Events, exhibitions and functions managed successfully

#### World Youth Day

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain played a crucial role in the staging of World Youth Day in July 2008, which attracted 223,000 registered pilgrims, including 110,000 from 170 nations, making it the largest event ever hosted in Australia.

Pope Benedict's cruise on Sydney Harbour and motorcade through the city was probably the biggest and most complex event of the World Youth Day





*Artist-in-Residence for 2008, Associate Professor Emma Robertson from the University of New South Wales, explored endangered plant species and their seeds during her residency at the Royal Botanic Gardens.*

All works are of plants growing in the three estates and are donated to the Trust by the artists, including the copyright, so that the images can be used as seen fit by the Trust.

### Sustainability

Open Air Cinema used 100 per cent accredited GreenPower during its most successful season yet. Summer events in the Phillip precinct have now used 100 per cent GreenPower for two seasons.

### Mount Annan Botanic Garden

AnnanRoma is Mount Annan Botanic Garden's premier annual event. Now in its third year, this food and wine event is a little different in that its primary aim is to promote restaurants from the Macarthur region. This year crowds exceeded 2,000 people and with growing support from the local food producers, this is sure to continue to grow in notoriety and success.

A first for Mount Annan Botanic Garden this year was 'Aussies under the Stars', a celebration of Australian cinema. Over 1,800 people enjoyed a summer's night in January watching 'The Man from Snowy River'. The event's success has guaranteed it a place in Mount Annan's annual event calendar.

Carols in the Garden at Mount Annan Botanic Garden, sponsored by Landcom, has become a regional calendar entry for Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly local government areas. This annual event showcases local talent and this year attracted approximately 6,500 visitors.

Mount Annan Botanic Garden also hosted the annual Campbelltown City Challenge Walk in March. Run by the local council, the event attracted approximately 2,500 people who either competed in a 12 kilometre walking race, or took a more leisurely stroll around the south circuit of the Garden.

### Mount Tomah Botanic Garden

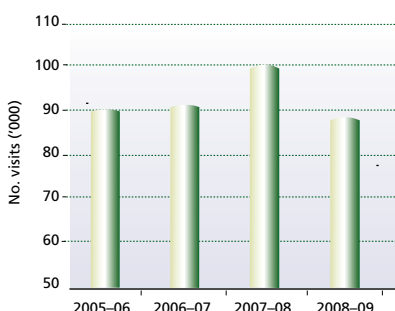
Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, in partnership with the Zig Zag Railway, secured funding from Tourism NSW to develop a new children's event called Wizard's Weekends, building on the success of the Zig Zag Railway's Wizard's Express Days. Children made wizard's hats and wands in a 'magic' workshop before taking a Wizard's Quest through the Garden. Five days were earmarked throughout the autumn, winter and spring months with bookings exceeding expectations.

Two photographic exhibitions were staged this year. 'Hard Rain' showcased mankind's collision with nature, encouraging visitors to think about the impact we have on our planet. This exhibition was brought out from the UK collectively by a number of Australian botanic gardens and featured at Mount Annan Botanic Garden last year. '25 Years of World Heritage in Australia' exhibition captured the rich and diverse natural and cultural attributes of our listed sites and is particularly pertinent with the building this year of the World Heritage Centre at the Garden.

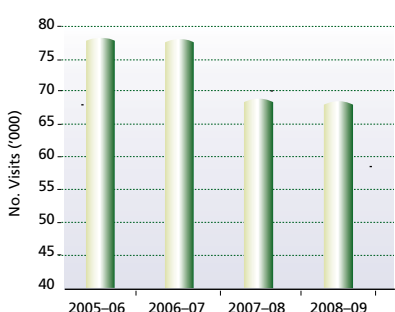
Mount Tomah Botanic Garden took part in the Winter Magic Festival at Katoomba in June, which celebrates the winter solstice with a street fair and parade. Visitors to the stall received information about the Garden, the Wollemi Pine and various facilities, functions and events held at the Garden. The Mountain Magic Showcase showed the beauty of the Garden in winter, with a display of local artist's ethereal works in the visitor centre.

The Wild about Waratahs Festival culminated in the awarding of winner's prize packs for guessing the number of blooms on the largest 'Shady Lady' within the Garden. This new initiative added interest to a very popular annual event, helping to further celebrate the State's floral emblem and encouraging its protection in the wild.

Visitation at Mount Annan Botanic Garden



Visitation at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden





*The proximity of the Domain to Sydney's central business district makes it a convenient location for lunchtime team sports, which are becoming increasingly popular as more people realise the physical and mental health benefits of exercise.*

The Plants with Bite Carnivorous Plant Fair, held in conjunction with the Australasian Carnivorous Plant Society, aims to raise awareness of the need to protect and conserve the natural habitats of endangered plants, swamps and wetlands. This year's fair included expert talks, plant displays and sales and guided tours of Mount Tomah's Bog Garden. Mount Tomah's Autumn Harvest Food and Wine Fair in May had glorious autumn weather.

### Visitor facilities and services managed successfully

Annual visitation to all estates was down this year. In Sydney, venue bookings were slightly below expectation. Initially affected by the uncertainty of World Youth Day impacts, the trend continued with the effects of the global economic downturn. Expenses were curtailed to meet budget targets.

An analysis of visitation trends at Mount Annan and Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens has shown a pattern of declining visitation during the peak seasons of spring and autumn. Strategies being put into place to combat this negative trend include increasing and changing high impact seasonal plant displays, and developing alternative experiences and themes within the gardens that will help attract more repeat visitation.

### Sport and recreation

There has been an overall increase in the number of casual sports bookings in the Domain, which may be attributed to growing social awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. This trend is significant as it reflects the Trust's contributing role in delivering the NSW State Plan priority of 'More people using parks, sporting and recreational facilities and participating in the arts and cultural activity'.

Several large sports events also took place in the Domain this year, including the Nissan/BRW Corporate Triathlon (7,000 entrants and spectators) and the SMH Half Marathon (8,500 entrants).

The Mothers' Day Classic — Australia's biggest community fundraising event for breast cancer — attracted 9,000 attendees, while the MS Walk and Fun Run had a record number of participants and teams (2,500 attendees) and raised over \$710,000 to help people living with multiple sclerosis.

### Cycling

Campbelltown City Council, on behalf of Landcom and the Trust, applied to the Federal Government for funding of a commuter cycleway leg which would run through Mount Annan Botanic Garden. This will link to the University of Western Sydney and beyond to Macarthur Station. Longer term cycling paths are proposed to link back to the existing Camden Cycleway. Landcom will provide funding for half of the project. The original concept design by Clouston Associates will be revisited as the basis for a detailed design.

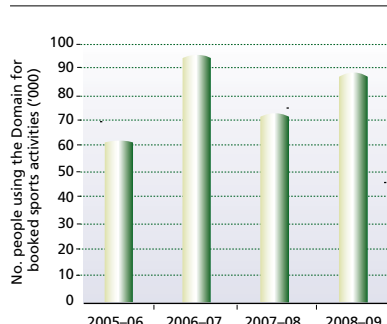
### Award winning building

The coveted Royal Institute of Architecture (NSW) Sulman Award for Public Architecture, awarded to Kennedy and Associates for their Bowden Centre design at Mount Annan Botanic Garden, was unveiled by Geoff Corrigan, Member for Camden in September. The Bowden Centre was also awarded the Award for Sustainable Architecture, one of only two buildings that made a significant contribution to environmental innovation in architecture.

### Entrance changes

To address safety issues raised by TMF and following advice from Jamieson Foley traffic management consultants, the entrance from Mount Annan Drive into Mount Annan Botanic Garden now has a clearly marked pedestrian and cycle lane on both sides with each linked to separate pedestrian gates and paths.

Domain Sports







*The Bowden Centre at Mount Annan Botanic Garden was presented the 2008 Sulman Award for Public Architecture, recognising its innovative re-use of an existing demountable structure as the basis for a multi-function permanent facility. According to the judges 'this building sits so calmly in its setting that it has a sense of inevitability'. The centre is primarily an education facility, but is increasingly popular as a venue for family celebrations.*

Mount Annan Botanic Garden ran a trial one-day-a-week free early morning opening over the 24 weeks of daylight savings to encourage healthy exercise. The trial was successful, and free early morning opening will run again from 1 December 2009 to 26 February 2010 to balance benefits with the cost.

### Weddings in the mountains

Increased focus on building weddings and function bookings through attending wedding expos, developing a web presence and providing individual attention to each booking, resulted in a much higher enquiry rate and an increase in bookings and associated revenue at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden.

### New children's garden

The Guulya Garri Dilya (Laughing Children's Garden) project to provide children's spaces in Mount Tomah Botanic Garden was launched by the Minister for Climate Change through the Breen Sculpture Competition. Generously supported by Tom Breen, Managing Director of Breen Holdings

Pty Ltd, the competition for the first garden attracted 64 entries and was won by Glen Manning and Kathy Daly with their entry *Pod Pod*. The winner received a \$20,000 award, and further funds will be provided for fabricating the sculpture and for installation and landscaping.

The Garden will be created around the sculpture, providing a space for children to explore nature. The name not only instils a sense of anticipation of fun times and laughter in children, but has also been chosen for its link to the traditional owners of Mount Tomah, the Darug. In their language Guulya Garri Dilya means laughing children.

Funded by the estate of the late Josephine Swane, a detailed design was completed for an Adventure Playground at Mount Annan Botanic Garden. An application for Federal funding support to build the garden has been submitted.

A concept masterplan has also been drafted for a Sydney Children's Garden, which is proposed for the Royal Botanic Gardens.









## Community Support

**The Trust acknowledges the thousands of hours volunteers contribute each year to the work of the Trust. This year, 244 Trust volunteers and 450 Friends volunteers contributed 42,500 hours in a diverse range of programs, equivalent to well over \$850,000 value in kind.**

The Growing Friends contributed an outstanding 10,800 hours, with the Sydney Gardens extending its program to six day-teams. The Friends' exhibition, catering and works team were instrumental in the success of the 'Botanica' and 'Artisans' exhibitions and the information booth, while office volunteers and speakers bureau continue to play vital roles in their support of the Friends and the Trust.

Volunteer guides across the three sites recorded approximately 8,500 hours of service, not including their many hours of personal research and training, interpreting the living collection and promoting the Trust's mission 'to inspire the appreciation and conservation of plants'. In addition to leading free and booked guided walks and providing information at the visitor centres, the guides introduced a new 'Talk and Walk' series in the Royal Botanic Gardens.

The bush regeneration volunteers at Mount Annan continued work on their important objective to remove African Olive, Chilean Needle Grass and other priority environmental weeds. This year they celebrated their 8th anniversary and Mount Annan Botanic Garden funded some volunteers to attend a bush care program.

The Herbarium volunteers mounted over 15,000 plant specimens, including a large number of historical specimens collected by Robert Brown, George Caley and Allan Cunningham. The Library volunteers were involved in many projects, including indexing the photographic collection, conducting an oral history project, and managing the Florilegium Society and exhibition.

The Begonia Garden volunteers undertook a stocktake of the collection and assisted in hosting visits by international Begonia societies. The Begonia Garden was also featured on ABC's 'Gardening Australia'. The nursery-based specialist program was extended to include palm volunteers. Members of the Palm and Cycad Society of Australia will assist the Trust in

producing maps of the Palm Grove and updating names of palms.

The volunteer program committee, consisting of representatives from all volunteer program areas, continued developing policies and procedures for volunteerism. All volunteer programs now pay greater attention to safe work practices to keep volunteers and staff working with them safe. The committee also contributed to the development of a whole of DECC volunteer policy and hosted a trial two-day training course for interested DECC volunteer supervisors and staff.

Approximately 170 people attended the Executive Director's thankyou event for volunteers at the Pavilion on the Park restaurant in December, to coincide with International Volunteers Day.

Thirty one volunteers were recognised for their outstanding service to the Trust:

### **25 years**

Friends of The Gardens: Sunday Brent  
Volunteer Guide: John Mathews

### **20 years**

Friends of The Gardens: Jann Meikle and John Meikle  
Volunteer Guide: Eric Darley

### **15 years**

Friends of The Gardens: Ecila Simpson, Mary Threlfall  
Herbarium: Margaret Carrigg, Julie Taylor, Betty Thurley

### **10 Years**

Begonia Garden Volunteer: Lee Sanders  
Friends of The Gardens: Margaret Chambers, Heather Davidson, Maureen Foord, Margaret Hanks, John Hinson (13 years), Ruth Foster, Lynne King Joan Lovibond, Robin McIntyre, Margaret and Patrick Mills Enid Ross, Jennifer Wilson, Margaret Young

Friends Volunteer and Volunteer Guide: (10 years service to both programs)  
Beryl Ferguson

Herbarium Volunteers: Michael Isbell, Ann Wilcher

*Burrawang (Macrozamia communis) seeds are extremely poisonous but, because they contain starch, are also highly nutritious and were an important food source for the Cadigal, Dharawal and Darug. The seeds were pounded and soaked in water for up to two weeks to remove the toxin. The pulp was dried and ground to make flour, then made into flat rounds of bread or 'johnny cakes', that were cooked over hot embers.*

*Flowers such as wattles and grevilleas provided nectar that was either sucked directly from the flower or soaked in water to make a sweet drink. Other edible fruits included the Blue Flax Lily (Dianella caerulea) and Lilly Pilly or Brush Cherry (Syzygium paniculatum).*

## Friends of The Gardens

Friends of The Gardens committee elected/appointed in November 2008: Raoul de Ferranti (President), Ann Rasmussen (Vice President), Juvie Ormonde (Secretary and Public Officer), Hugh Springford (Treasurer), Liz Dent (Volunteer co-ordinator), Wendy Atmore, Peter Ayres, Russell Beardmore, Eleanor Cornish, Alex Halliday, Kim Hines, Debbie McDonald, Jocelyn McGirr, Elizabeth McNaughton, Caro Webster and ex-officio Annie Sutherland (Executive Officer), Tim Entwisle (Executive Director BGT), Mark Savio (BGT staff) and Tim Jackson (BGT Trustee).

Friends continued to provide significant financial and practical support to the Trust. The seasonal magazine *The Gardens* includes additional pages prepared by and for the Botanic Gardens Trust and provided information about Friends' events and articles of interest, as well as details of tours and benefits available to members. A monthly e-newsletter to members provided late-breaking news of the Trust and Friends, events, as well as special offers.

Trust staff continued to support the Friends in a variety of ways with wonderful assistance given to the Growing Friends by horticulture staff, Cottages 5 and 6 being made available for use by Friends, inclusion in the IT network and support in the use of venues. Many Trust staff brought friends and relatives to enjoy the New Year's Eve fireworks from the Mare and Foal Lawn in the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Overseas tours took place to Highgrove and Gardens in England, Canberra, Japan and the Larapinta Trail in central Australia. The numbers of tours undertaken each year are being rationalised and are being promoted by other Friends' groups around Australia.

The program of walks and talks continued at Mount Annan Botanic Garden and in the Royal Botanic

Gardens where two major exhibitions: 'Botanica — From the Desert to the Sea' and 'Artisans in the Gardens' were also held. Growing Friends continues to expand.

This year the Friends raised over \$586,000, reflecting the current economic constraints. After expenses, the net surplus was approximately \$220,000, a decrease from last year. In addition, the Friends' Trust Fund received donations of over \$210,000.

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

Annual Scholarship 2006	\$8,000
Annual Scholarship 2007	\$10,000
Margaret Flockton Award 2008/Florilegium	\$409
Margaret Flockton Award 2009	\$9,103
Contribution to direct costs	\$45,000
Donation to three nurseries	\$6,000
Connections Garden, Mount Annan	\$100,000
Library, microfiche reader	\$3,406
Seedbank, Mount Annan	\$2,000
Signage, Domain and Royal Botanic Gardens	\$18,325
Trees in the Gardens website	\$14,760
Student Internships, Science, 2009	\$14,000
Tree Management, Mount Tomah	\$11,454
Solar pump, Royal Botanic Gardens Twin Ponds	\$20,000
Central Precinct wayfinding signage, Mount Annan	\$15,000
PlantBank project, 2016 Bicentenary	\$47,100
Plant diversity program, 2016 Bicentenary	\$4,857

DNA free laboratory	\$8,000
Garden lighting, Lion Gate Lodge	\$3,869
Sundry	\$4,105
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$345,388</b>

Total committed to projects in progress **\$352,709**

Donations of books and magazines were made to Community Greening, following the second-hand book sale. Plants propagated by Growing Friends were donated to the Trust for a variety of uses: Community Greening, Community Education, Mount Annan Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, Royal Botanic Gardens and for sale in the Gardens' shops.

## Friends' Volunteers

The Friends is dependent on contributions from volunteers. Volunteers not only give their time, but also bring many talents and skills to the organisation and enable the Friends to undertake a wide variety of activities. Many volunteers serve on committees or sub-committees which oversee the many interests of the Friends and many more coordinate and work at various events.

Volunteers represent Friends of The Gardens at outside events and support Trust events. They also promote membership of the Friends and give presentations to other organisations.

Friends' volunteers (380 positions) serve in the following areas: administration in the Friends' office, information booth at Woolloomooloo Gate, 'Artisans' exhibition, 'Botanica' exhibition, New Year's Eve in the Royal Botanic Gardens, speakers bureau, book sales, art classes, wildlife monitoring, tree watering and at all three estates on activities and events sub-committees, catering for events, as well as promoting membership.

The Growing Friends at all three Gardens continued propagating and selling plants. Sales were held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Mount Annan





DONNA OSLAND

*Volunteers recognised for outstanding service included (L to R) Julie Taylor, Mary Threlfall, Betty Thurley, Eric Darley, Margaret Carrigg, Sunday Brent, Ecila Simpson, Margaret Hanks, Enid Ross, Ruth Foster, Margaret Young, John Mathews and Beryl Ferguson, with Executive Director, Dr Tim Entwisle.*

Botanic Garden and again at the Collectors Plant Fair at Bilpin. This group has continued to provide substantial revenue to the Friends. In the Royal Botanic Gardens, sales held on Saturdays once each month (in addition to the daily weekday sales) which were trialled last year, continued with increasing success. The sales area in the Royal Botanic Gardens was improved and now presents as a professional nursery.

### Friends' volunteers

Friends' volunteers continued to support a wide range of activities during the year, contributing significantly to their success: catering for the many Friends' events, staffing the information booth, supporting exhibitions, events and sales, assisting in the Friends' office and working on committees. Many volunteers worked in more than one area.

Two additional key areas of volunteering were watering assistance (as needed) and the Growing Friends' propagation and selling of plants. The Friends acknowledges the collaboration with Botanic Gardens Trust staff in these two areas of volunteering. The Growing Friends' group, which has teams at each of the Gardens, has particularly benefited from the support of Trust staff.

### Active volunteers

Ms Christine Allen, Mr David Allen, Ms Judith Anderson, Mrs Roslyn Andrews, Ms Ruth Armstrong, Mrs Anne Arnott, Mrs Rae Assender, Mrs Wendy Atmore, Dr Peter Ayres, Mrs Marilyn Baggio, Mrs Victoria Bannon, Mrs Jan Beardmore, Mr Russell Beardmore, Mrs Katherine Bell, Mrs Jenifer Best, Mr Victor Betteridge, Mrs Prunella Booth, Mrs Julie Boreham, Mr Noel Boreham, Mrs Heather Branch, Mrs Caroline Bray, Miss Sunday Brent, Mrs Helen Brockhoff, Ms Wendy Brodhurst, Mr Chris Browne, Mr Rodney Browne, Mr Jean-Louis Buhagiar, Ms Lynne Cairncross, Mrs Libby Cameron, Ms Marianne Cannon, Mrs Alison Carr, Mr Robert Carruthers,

Miss Tricia Cavenagh, Mrs Kate Chambers, Mrs Margaret Chambers, Mrs Margot Child, Ms Dawne Clark, Mrs Diana Coates, Ms Leora Cohen, Mrs Susan Cohen, Mrs Kath Collins, Mrs Gillian Cook, Ms Annie Cooney, Mrs Eleanor Cornish, Ms Wendy Cottee, Mrs Susan Cowan, Ms Julie Cremer, Mr Barry Cresswell, Mrs Heather Crompton, Mr Brian Darlington, Mrs Catherine Darmo, Mrs Heather Davidson, Mrs Catherine Davies, Mr Michael Davies, Mrs Bev Davis, Mrs Carolyn Davis, Mrs Elizabeth Davis OAM, Mrs Georgina de Burgh, Mr Raoul de Ferranti, Ms Susanne de Ferranti, Mr Des Dent, Ms Elizabeth Dent, Miss Pat Duncan, Mrs Chris Elliott, Mrs Jan Etteridge, Mr Bruce Fergus, Mrs Beryl Ferguson, Mrs Annie Fergusson, Mrs Janet Fish, Mrs Suzanne Fitzhardinge, Mrs Margaret Fitzpatrick, Mrs Deirdre Fleeting, Ms Maureen Foord, Mrs Barbara Forward, Mrs Lesley Foster, Mrs Ruth Foster, Mrs Ruth Fowler, Ms Elizabeth Garbacz, Mrs Diana Garder, Mr Wayne Gardner, Mrs Julia Gardoll, Mrs Heather Goodwin, Mrs Polly Gow, Mr Philip Gray, Mrs Carolyn Green, Mrs Carol Griesser, Mrs Dallas Griffin, Mrs Jan Grimison, Ms Leanne Grimstone, Mrs Anne Grose, Mr Michael Guffond, Ms Robin Guthrie, Mr Alex Halliday, Mrs Jo Hambrett, Mr John Hancock, Mrs Margaret Hanks, Mr Philip Hannaford, Mrs Sandra Hannaford, Ms Lynne Harlow, Mr Peter Harrigan, Mrs Joanna Harrop, Ms Anne Hawker, Mrs Patricia Hay, Mr Barrie Heidenreich, Mrs Helen Hemphill, Mrs Eleanor Herriott, Mr Alan Hind, Mrs Liz Hind, Ms Kim Hines, Mr John Hinson, Mrs Rosemary Hodgkinson, Mr Geoffrey Hook, Mrs Lesley Hook, Mrs Libby Horrobin, Mrs Joan Humphreys, Mrs Suzanne Isherwood, Mrs Tim Jackson, Mrs Jeanie Jagelman, Mrs Nicky Joffe, Mrs Jillian Johnson, Mrs Winsome Johnstone, Mrs Ann Keats, Mrs Helen Keene, Mrs Marisa Kemp, Mrs Rosemary Kenney-Herbert, Mrs Mary Kersey, Mrs Susan Khouri,

Ms Annie Kiefer, Mrs Gabrielle King, Mrs Lynne King, Dr Diana Kingston, Mrs Robyn Kirby, Mrs Suzanne Knowles, Mr Mel Kovacs, Mr Greg Lamont, Mrs Barbara Lane, Ms Sybil Laws, Mrs Gayl Leake, Mrs Robin Leonard, Mrs Barbara Lewis, Mrs Lorraine Long, Ms Bettina Ludowici, Mrs Robyn Macintosh, Mrs Judith MacIntyre, Mrs Margaret Mahony, Miss Rae Mashford, Ms Deryl Mason, Mr Mark Massey, Mrs Robyn Matthews, Mrs Elizabeth McCabe, Ms Ann McCauley, Mrs Jenifer McDermott, Ms Debbie McDonald, Mrs Janette McDonald, Dr Stan McDonald, Ms Jocelyn McGirr, Mrs Ann McIntyre, Mrs Robin McIntyre, Mrs Judith McKernan, Ms Sue McLay, Mrs Janet McMahon, Mrs Elizabeth McNaughton, Ms Madeleine McPherson, Mrs Susan Meares, Mrs Jann Meikle, Mr John Meikle, Mrs Ingrid Meyer, Mrs Beth Michie, Mr John Middleton, Mrs Rosemary Millar, Mrs Margaret Mills, Mr Patrick Mills, Mrs Pam Milthorpe, Mrs Judith Mitchell, Ms Robyn Mitchinson, Mrs Barbara Moffatt, Mrs Dianne Moore, Mrs Kerin Moorehead, Mrs Manja Morey, Mrs Elizabeth Morgan, Mrs Jan Morgan, Mr Sean Mullen, Mrs Anne Neild, Mrs Diane Newsom, Mr John O'Neill, Ms Juvenalia Ormonde, Ms Trish O'Rourke, Mr Mark Paul, Mrs Susan Paxton, Mrs Wendy Perkins, Mrs Rosemarie Pettit, Mrs Elisabeth Pidd, Mrs Margery Postlethwaite, Mrs Sandy Pratten, Mrs Jill Prior, Mrs Liz Purchas, Mrs Joyce Ramsay, Ms Ann Rasmussen, Mr Jorge Rasmussen, Mrs Peta Rattray, Mr Geoffrey Richards, Mrs Suzanne Richards, Mrs Gillian Richmond, Dr Alexander Robertson, Mrs Dorothy Robertson, Mr Bruce Robertson OAM, Mrs Beverley Roden, Ms Shelley Roden-Smith, Mrs Jane Rodgers, Mrs Helen Rogers, Ms Lorna Rose, Mr Douglas Roser, Mrs Karen Roser, Mrs Enid Ross, Ms Kathlyn Rowlands, Mrs Joyce Roy, Professor Paul Roy, Mrs Carmen Sablatnig, Mrs Nancy Saffioti, Mrs Elva

Salter, Mrs Joan Scott, Mrs Rosemary Sewell, Mrs Doris Shearman, Mr Graham Shields, Mrs Patricia Shields, Mrs Ute Short, Mrs Bettine Silver, Ms Ecila Simpson, Mrs Lesley Simpson, Mr Timothy Sjoquist, Mrs Judith Sleijpen, Mr Colin Snodgrass, Mrs Janet Snodgrass, Mrs Prue Socha, Mrs Mavis Sourry, Mr Bruce Spence, Mrs Patricia Spring, Mr Hugh Springford, Mrs Robyn Stafford, Mrs Margaret Stewart, Ms Diana Storer, Ms Lindy Stuart, Mrs Primrose Sully, Ms Eleanor Sydney-Jones, Mrs Elfriede Taylor, Dr Hugh Taylor, Mrs Ailsa Thompson, Mr Philip Thompson, Mrs Frieda Thornhill, Mr Peter Thornhill, Ms Stefani Thornthwaite, Mrs Mary Threlfall, Mrs Judith Tiley, Ms Jane Treloar, Mr John Tunbridge, Mrs Margaret Turner, Dr Anne Underwood, Dr Peter Valder, Mrs Anne van Roekel, Mr Arnold Vink, Ms Lynn Vlismas, Ms Joan Walsh, Ms Susan Wannan, Mrs Maureen Ward, Ms Robyn Ward, Mr Antony Waterworth, Mrs Angela Webb, Mrs Caroline Webster, Mrs Sally Wheatley, Ms Roslyn Wheeler, Ms Sue Whitham, Mrs Jann Wiener, Ms Joan Wilcox, Mrs Elizabeth Wills, Mrs Jennifer Wilson, Mr Neil Wilson, Mrs Jean Winton, Mrs Margaret Young, Ms Susan Young, Mrs Vivien Young

### Friends Waratah Members

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

### Gold Waratahs, who gave \$1000 or more

Mrs Zeny & Mr Bruce Edwards, Mr John Egan, Mr John Flint & Mrs Nora Hinchin, Mr Graham & Mrs Virginia Froebel, Mr Raffael & Mrs Margaret Garofano, Mr Neville H Grace, Dr Max & Mrs Tess Hooper, Mrs Judith MacIntyre, Mrs Susan Maple-Brown, Maple-Brown Family Charitable Foundation, Mrs Judith & Mr John McKernan, Mr Doug & Mrs Greta Moran, Mr Geoff & Mrs Rachel O'Connor, Dr Alex & Mrs Dorothy Robertson, Mrs Susan

Rothwell, Mr Bill & Mrs Maureen Ryan, Mr Mark & Mrs Ruth Sampson, Miss Alison Stephen, Mrs Jean Wilson

### Silver Waratahs, who gave \$500 or more

Mrs Geraldine & Mr Christopher Arnott, Dr Charles S Barnes, Ms Shane Bedford & Ms Linda Hunt, Mr Warren & Mrs Nancy Boyd, Mr Donald & Mrs Sally Bradford, Mrs Elizabeth Davis OAM, Ms Anne De Salis, Dr Roderick & Mrs Gillian Deane, Mrs Annie & Mr Jim Fergusson, Mr Bruce Flood & Ms Kathy Olsen, Mrs Nancy Fox & Mr Bruce Arnold, Mr David Fuller, Mr Warren Green, Dr Catherine Guy, Ms Anne Hawker, Mrs Annie Hughes, Dr Michael & Mrs Penny Hunter, Mr Gordon & Mrs Jeanette King, Miss Nina Loder, Dr Kathryn Lovric & Dr Roger Allan, Mrs Mary Rose & Dr Colin McDonald, Dr David & Mrs Barbara Millons, Mrs Caroline Minogue, Dr Kenneth & Mrs Helen Neale, Ms Jill Paterson, Mr David & Mrs Patricia Pulsford, Mrs Patricia Reid, Dr Mary & Dr Nancy Rickard, Mrs Janis Salisbury, Mrs Ruth Staples, Ms Eleanor Sydney-Jones, Mr ER & Mrs ME Vellacott, Ms Robyn & Mr Terry Winton, Mrs Jill Wran

### Bronze Waratahs, who gave \$250 or more

Mrs Beryl Adamson, Mr Geoffrey Ainsworth & Ms Laura Olsson, Mrs Antoinette Albert, Mrs Nancy Anderson, Mrs Judith Andrews, Ms Gillian Appleton, Mrs Chris Armour, Australian Institute of Horticulture Inc., Mr Henry & Mrs Peta Badgery, Mr Stephen & Mrs Alexandra Barratt, Lady Beattie, Dr Barbara Briggs, Mr Edmund Burgess & Ms Renette Townsend, Mrs Andrea Bye, Mr Geoffrey & Mrs Sarah Cains, Miss Beverley Cameron, Mrs Adrienne Campbell, Dr Donald & Mrs Margot Child, Mr Paul & Mrs Dianne Cini, Mr Robert & Mrs Janet Constable, Dr Ian & Mrs Diana Daly, Ms Susanne de Ferranti, Prof Geoffrey & Mrs Jan

Driscoll, Dr Julie Fitness, Mr Ian Fraser, Dr Richard & Mrs Shona Gallagher, Mr Andrew & Mrs Narelle Gatenby, Mr Allan Gilden, Mrs Dallas & Mr Brian Griffin, Mr Jim & Mrs Ruth Hallmark, Mrs Jo Hambrett, Mrs Hope Hanks, Mr Owen Haviland & Ms Susan Hope, Ms Janita & Mr Philip Hercus, Mrs Pamela Hindes, Mr William Hodgson, Mr John & Mrs Mary Holt, Mrs Sheila & Mr Philip Jacobson, Mrs Christina Kennedy, Mrs Christine Kenworthy, Dr Holly Kerr Forsyth, Mrs Susan & Mr Gilles Kryger, Prof Michael & Mrs Sarah Lawrence, Ms Julie Lee, Ms Robin Low, Dr David & Mrs Judith Maynard, Mr Jock & Mrs Sandra McDonald, Mrs Susan & Mr Richard Miles, Mrs Caroline Minogue, Mr Andrew Mitchell & Mr Brendan Hartnett, Ms Helen Murray, Mr David & Mrs Cheryl Nelson, Mr Robert & Mr Derek Paisley, Mrs Sandra Robberds, Mr Bruce Robertson OAM & Mrs Gladys Robertson, Mrs Beverley Robson, Mrs Beverley Roden, Mrs Louise & Mr Donald Rowston, Dr Diana & Dr Peter Sainsbury, Mr John Southwell OAM, Mrs Ruth Staples, Miss Suzanne Stebbings, Miss Kathryn Stoddart, Ms Marion and Mr James Taylor, Dr Mary Taylor, Mrs Aline & Mr Peter Ter Horst, Mr Graham & Mrs Beverley Thompson, Mr Simon Turner, Mrs Francis Walsh, Dr John & Mrs Beverley Warneford, Mrs Heather Williams, Ms Jane Williams & Mr Peter Moll, Mr John & Mrs Irene Willimott, Mrs Elizabeth Wills, Mrs J.O. & Dr W.H. Wolfenden

### Trust Volunteers

Contributions by Trust volunteers — such as mounting of preserved specimens in the Herbarium, 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 2008–09.



**Guides: Royal Botanic Gardens**

Adrienne Alexander, Elizabeth Anderson, Maria Arimon, Phillip Armstrong, Mike Barrett, Janet Bennett, Rosemary Blakeney, Heather Branch, Caroline Bray, Lisle Brown, Joan Bryant, Noelene Burns, Joy Cabbage, David Chandler, Lesley Clarke, Judith Collins, Julie Collins, Allan Correy, Lynne Cusack, Eric Darley, Gillian Davies, Elizabeth Davis OAM, Sharon De Souza, Flora Deverall, Gillian Dodd, Barbara Dunne, Noel Elliot, Helen Ephraums, Beryl Ferguson, Jan Gibson, Rosemary Gleeson, Helen Gray, Thelma Griffiths, Susanne Giuffre, Jill Hankinson, Anne Heasman, Helen Hemphill, Jean Hobbs, Dorothy Holland, Daphne Howie, Glenn Johnson, Johanna Jones, Marion Lean, Graeme Lees, Gabrielle Loneragan, Ann Martin, John Mathews, Jeannette Manyweathers, Toni McDowell, Lyn McGrath, Judith Maynard, Lynda Newnam, Jim Nicol, Susan North Ash, Bob O'Brien, Erol Omar, John Page, Jill Paterson, Jenny Pattison, Dianne Peters, Roger Pittaway, Marian Plaude, Sandy Pratten, Wendy Pratten, Helen Rann, Rosemary Roberts, Yvonne Roberts, Sally Rutherford, Ginny Sadubin, Brian Sewell, Margaret Ann Smith, Mavis Sourry, Morris Stocker, Carol Style, Kate Symons, Mary Threlfall, Hilary Vallance, Arnold Vink, Berenice Walker, Fay Warren, Helen Williams

**Begonia Garden: Royal Botanic Gardens**

Wendy Atmore, Margaret Chedra, Gordon Chivers, Bruce Fergus, Michael Guffon, Lee Sanders, Peter Sharp

**Fauna Monitoring: Royal Botanic Gardens**

Doug Allen, Miri Dick, Catriona Duncan, Jenni Grant, Michael Illy, Fred Payne, Tim Pearson, Christopher Rodrigues, Kai Tando, Anne Underwood, Claire Wellington

**Science: Herbarium**

Beverley Allen, Kathleen Allen, Lydia Bell, Margaret Bell, Pamela Bell, Chris Belshaw, Carol Bentley, Rosemary Blakeney, Wayne Brailey, Harry Brian,

Ellen Brien, Louise Broadhead, Kathryn Brown, Dawn Bunce, David Buncel, Lynette Burns, Mary Cail, Diane Calder, Margaret Carrigg, Margot Child, Anne Collins, Anthony Curry, Barbara Darmanin, Jane D'Olier, David Drage, Helen Flinn, Gladys Foster, Jane Helsham, Rachel Hill, Alick Hobbes, Jim Hoffmann, Beverley Honey, Mike Isbell, Susan Jalaluddin, Trevor Kruger, Fred Langshaw, Gwenda Levy, Lorraine McCarthy, Malcolm McDonald, Ena Middleton, Jenna Nielsen, Barbara Page, Sally Paton, John Pearce, Aileen Phipps, Dorothy Pye, Beth Radford, Ann Rahaley, Daniel Robinson, Theresa Sergeant, Evelyn Shervington, Graham Shields, Carol Sinclair, Lois Stewart, Julie Taylor, Elisabeth Thilo, Betty Thurley, Ruth Toop, Shelagh Trengove, Valerie Trigg, Rosemary Varley, Denise Walker, Ann Wilcher, Jean Williams

**Growing Friends: Mount Annan**

Robert Carruthers, Kath Collins, Brian Darlington, Therese Darmo, Carol Griesser, Kim Hines, Marisa Kemp, Lesley Hook, Robyn McIntyre, Ingrid Meyer, Anne Underwood, Jean Winton

**Bush Regeneration: Mount Annan**

Richard Austin, Joel Daniels, Robyn Davies, Ron Davies, Alicia Draper, David Eden, John Harrison, Lesley Hook, Leonie Kelly, Bronwyn Kery, Mira Paounova, Hannah Shuttleworth, Eileen Shuttleworth, Duncan Stewart, Kris Stolzenhein, Rodney Ward, Doreen Ward

**Horticultural Research: Mount Annan**

Carol Griesser, Robert Curruthers, Kim Hines, Gwenda Levy

**Guides: Mount Annan**

Peter Andrews, Denis Astill, Jim Colvin, Robin Davies, Phyllis Jupe, John Shanks, Margaret Shanks

**Guides: Mount Tomah**

Ros Allatt, Tina Boyd, Trevor Boe, Annette Bryant, Dawne Dunlop, Christine Hennessy, Elizabeth Howard, Lesley Hulbert, Isabel Johnston, Jim

Mark, Philip Merriman, Airdrie Martin, Kathleen Oakes, Leif Rosengaard, Ailsa Thompson, Tony Tree, Jackie Wall, Heather Weir, Marion Westmacott

**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 initiatives determined by the Trust that could not be funded other ways.

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 Ronald Griffin, Ms Lesley Kernaghan, Ms Gretel Packer, Mr Hugh Springford and Mr John Taberner. During the year, Mrs Caro Webster, representing Friends of The Gardens, stood down and was replaced by Mr Hugh Springford. The Trust Chair, Mr Greg Martin, is President of the Foundation. Mr Jamie Durie is an Ambassador.

Councillors Griffin (Chair), Austin and Conley also constitute the Audit, Finance and Investment Committee (AFIC). Miss Jennifer Crivelli of Ord Minnett attends the AFIC committee meetings, providing advice on the market and Foundation investments.

In 2008–09, the Foundation received the following gifts from individual donations, grant giving foundations and corporate philanthropy for specific projects:

**Children's Garden at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden:**

Tom Breen and family gave the first of two gifts for the interactive sculpture for children in the Laughing Children's Garden.

**Youth Community Greening**, an environmental education program for youth in need, was supported by the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation, Roslyn Packer AO and a private benefactor. 2009 was the second of a four-year gift period.

**Rainforest Seed Conservation Program**, a scientific research program to save and conserve rainforest plants, was supported by Allianz Australia, Tony Maxwell and Robyn Godlee. This is the second of a three-year gift period.

**Restoration of the Allan Cunningham Memorial** in the Royal Botanic Gardens and a web-based photographic project at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden were supported by Geoffrey and Rachel O'Connor.

**Restoration of Heritage Statuary in the Royal Botanic Gardens:** gifts were received from Jennifer Crivelli, Julie Drew, John Gale, the late Mr Michael Grace AM, Clive Austin and Ian Conley for the restoration of *La Ballarina*. With a gift from James O. Fairfax AO, five major bronze statues in the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain had conservation treatment.

**Library Treasures:** donations were received from Tim and Janine Studdert, The Hon. Mahla Pearlman AO, Ian McLachlan, John and Philippa Graham, Roslyn Maguire, Conrad and Alice Oppen, Moore Family, Mary Rose McDonald, Madeleine Adams, Prof. Ross Steele AM and Prof. Noel and Adrienne Dan and anonymous (1) for the conservation of the Rare Book Collection.

**2016 Bicentenary Campaign:** gifts towards the Bicentenary Campaign projects were received from Greg and Myra Bell and the Playoust Family Foundation.

**Habitat Restoration** at Mount Annan Botanic Garden, through the removal of African Olive trees, was supported by Integral Energy.

The Foundation would also like to thank donors who supported Trust work through tree and bench dedications in the three botanic gardens.

Numerous uncommitted gifts were made through the Fellowship Program of the Foundation. In 2009, the Foundation welcomed new donors who are recognised on the Trust and Foundation Honour Board.

#### Foundation Donors

##### Charles Darwin Fellows (\$500,000 or more)

John B. Fairfax AO

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

Allianz Australia Ltd  
Bruce Arnott  
Tom Breen & Rachael Kohn  
James O. Fairfax AO  
Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation  
Tony Maxwell & Robyn Godlee  
Ian & Helen McLachlan  
Geoffrey & Rachel O'Connor  
Gretel L. Packer  
Roslyn Packer AO  
Mary Whitton

##### Joseph Maiden Fellows (\$25,000–\$100,000)

Greg & Myra Bell  
Dick Honan & Honan Family  
Lee-Anne Reid  
Playoust Family Foundation  
Modified Accessible Taxis Joint Venture

##### Allan Cunningham Fellows (\$5,000–\$25,000)

Clive & Patricia Austin  
Judith Beswick  
Roxanne Clayton  
Ian Conley  
Jenny Crivelli  
Noel & Adrienne Dan  
Elizabeth Davis OAM  
Tim Entwisle  
John B. Gale OBE  
Peter Garling SC & Jane Garling  
Sue Gazal  
Janet George  
Julie Drew & Michael Grace AM

David & Kathryn Groves  
Mabel Hayes  
Kitamura Family  
Ella Lee  
Peng Ly  
Pauline A. Markwell  
Moore Family  
Conrad & Alice Oppen  
Faye Parker  
Sam & Helen Sheffer  
Prue Socha  
John Taberner  
Joan Taylor  
Brad Towers  
Charles Wong  
Elisabeth Wong  
Julie Wong

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

Madeleine Adams  
William R. Arnott  
Diana Borinski  
Vitus Chu  
Gillian Davies  
Andrew & Penny Davis  
John & Philippa Graham  
Catherine Guy  
David Heinzen  
Bryan Holiday  
Christine Jones  
Roslyn Maguire  
Nancy Malfanti  
Jane McCarthy  
Colin & Mary-Rose McDonald  
Alistair McLean  
Angus Murray  
Owens Family  
Mahla Pearlman AO  
Howard Pierce  
Chris Quinn  
Janene Rox  
Abhish Saha  
Ross Steele AM  
Nigel Stokes  
Tim & Janine Studdert  
Anna Tait  
Sue Wilson  
Malcolm Wilson



### Corporate Sponsorships

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

During the year, HSBC Bank Australia became the Trust's Principal Conservation Partner, committing to fund an Asia-Pacific Capacity Building Action Plan, rejuvenation of the Oriental Garden and conservation initiatives on all estates through 'Towards Sustainable Horticulture'.

The Trust's partnership with Freehills continued to make an important contribution through professional and financial support and Bloomberg provided important funding for conservation initiatives including the NSW Seedbank.

Partnerships with Landcom, M5 South West Motorway and Pernod Ricard Australia also continued to provide important support for conservation and education projects.

The Trust would like to thank all Foundation benefactors, sponsors and supporters, who have given in this financial year, listed below.

### Principal Conservation Sponsor

HSBC Bank Australia

### Major Sponsors

Bloomberg  
Freehills  
Housing NSW  
Landcom  
Pernod Ricard Pacific  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

### Corporate Supporters

Eden Gardens & Garden Centre  
GWS Machinery  
Interlink — M5 South West Motorway  
Korn/Ferry International  
Neutrog Fertilisers  
Oasis Horticulture  
Proteaflora Australia  
Ron Evans Painting  
Treloar Roses  
Valley Electrical  
Welch's Highway Smash



TOP A wooden box used by botanist Allan Cunningham during his 1816–1818 expedition; one of the many treasures of our library collection.

ABOVE Benches have become an important part of the fabric of our Gardens. Each tells an individual story; some mark a special time that people shared in the Garden, while others remember loved ones who had a passion for the Garden and for the environment.







# Corporate Governance



**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 its Board of Trustees, 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 its statutory requirements.**

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

In 2008–09, the staff were part of the Department of Environment and Climate Change, but the assets and programs remained the responsibility of the Trust.

## 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 2008–09, Trustees conducted their activities with reference to the Premier's Conduct Guidelines for Members of NSW Government Boards and Committees (see **Appendix J**).

## Legislative Changes

In 2008–09 there were no changes to the *Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust Act 1980*.

## Trust Meeting Attendance

The Director, Development and Planning 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 <sup>1</sup>	3
Prof. Lesley Hughes <sup>2</sup>	1
Ms Tim Jackson	5
Mr Greg Martin	6
Mr Tom Pinzone	6
Ms Vanessa Priest <sup>3</sup>	1
Mr Michael Samaras	6
Prof. Susan Serjeantson <sup>4</sup>	3
Mr Nigel Swinn	4

<sup>1</sup> Term expired 10 November 2008

<sup>2</sup> Appointed 2 February 2009

<sup>3</sup> Appointed 2 February 2009

<sup>4</sup> Term expired 21 December 2008

## 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.

*Cut immature fruit or capsule of Robertson's Tuckeroo (Rhysoetochia robertsonii), a northern Queensland rainforest species grown at Mount Annan Botanic Garden.*



Greg Martin



Tom Pinzone



Lesley Hughes



Vanessa Priest



Tim Jackson



Michael Samaras



Nigel Swinn

## Trustees

### Mr GREG MARTIN

BEC, LLB

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

Greg is non executive Chairman of Jackgreen Limited, Gas Valpo S.A. (Chile) and Everest Financial Group. He is also a non executive Director of Energy Developments Limited and the Australian Energy Operator Limited. Greg is also the former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of The Australian Gas Light Company (AGL) and Chief Executive, Infrastructure for Challenger Financial Services Group.

### Prof. LESLEY HUGHES

B.Sc. (Hons), PhD

(Appointed 2 February 2009; present term expires 1 February 2013)

Lesley is internationally (and locally) recognised for her research on the impact of climate change on biodiversity, and more broadly on evolutionary ecology. She is currently the co-convenor of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Network operating under the auspices of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, and Head of Department of Biological Sciences at Macquarie University. Professor Hughes is an active member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore in 2007. Lesley chairs the Scientific Committee of the Trust.

### Ms TIM JACKSON

Cert.Hort.UK, MAIH

(Reappointed 29 May 2009; present term expires 28 May 2012)

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 TOM PINZONE

BEng (UNSW) FIEAust, MICE, 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 Business Leader Transportation for Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey (GHD) and was a Director of GHD from 2002 to 2008. 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. Tom chairs the Trust's Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee.

### Ms VANESSA PRIEST

Dip.Teach, B.Com, M.Tax.Law, C.A.

(Appointed 2 February 2009; present term expires 1 February 2013)

Vanessa is a Taxation Consultant with WHK Horwarth, and has 15 years experience in chartered accounting, all of it in taxation advising and consulting. She is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia, the Taxation Institute of Australia and has a Masters of Taxation Law. Ms Priest's client base includes large family trusts and various deductible gift recipients, and she has a particular interest in the



tax issues associated with not-for-profit organisations. She is a regular presenter for various institutes and media outlets.

### Mr MICHAEL SAMARAS

BA (Hons) MBA

(Reappointed 26 June 2006; present term expires 26 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.

### Mr NIGEL SWINN

(Appointed 11 November 2005; present term expires 25 July 2012)

Nigel Swinn has worked as a brand builder for over 20 years — originally growing a successful brand consultancy in New Zealand called Designworks before 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

### Botanic Gardens Committee

Ms Tim Jackson (Chairperson), Dr Tim Entwisle, Ms Judy Fakes, Mr Anton James, Mr Simon Leake, Professor Peter Martin, Ms Caz McCallum, Ms Colleen Morris, Mr Michael Samaras, Mr Mark Savio, Mr Rob Smith, Mr Bernard Proctor (Secretary)

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; Public Art Policy; Living Collections Policy; landscape and living collections proposals; 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.

### Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee

Mr Tom Pinzone (Chairperson), Dr Kate Fairley-Grenot (until 10 November 2008; Chairperson until 8 October 2008), Mr Greg Martin, Ms Vanessa Priest (from 2 February 2009)

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.

### Scientific Committee

Professor Lesley Hughes (Chairperson from 2 February 2009), Prof. Sue Serjeantson (Chairperson until 20 December 2008), Dr Jeremy Bruhl, Dr Tim Entwisle, Dr Dan Faith, Dr Murray Henwood, Dr Klaus Koop, Dr Brett Summerell, Dr Jane Tarran (until 27 April 2009)

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 and a number of recommendations to the Trust by conducting a major review of the science programs, assessing the relevance and excellence of the research areas and how information is provided to the community.



Tim Entwisle



Mark Savio



Brett Summerell



Caz McCallum



Mark Anders



Rob Smith

## 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, the design and editorial services and for the community education program.

### MARK ANDERS

BBus (Accounting), CPA

Acting Director, Development and Planning

Responsible for the organisation's financial resource management and business services, including leasing and Royal Botanic 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.

## 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 Trust'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.

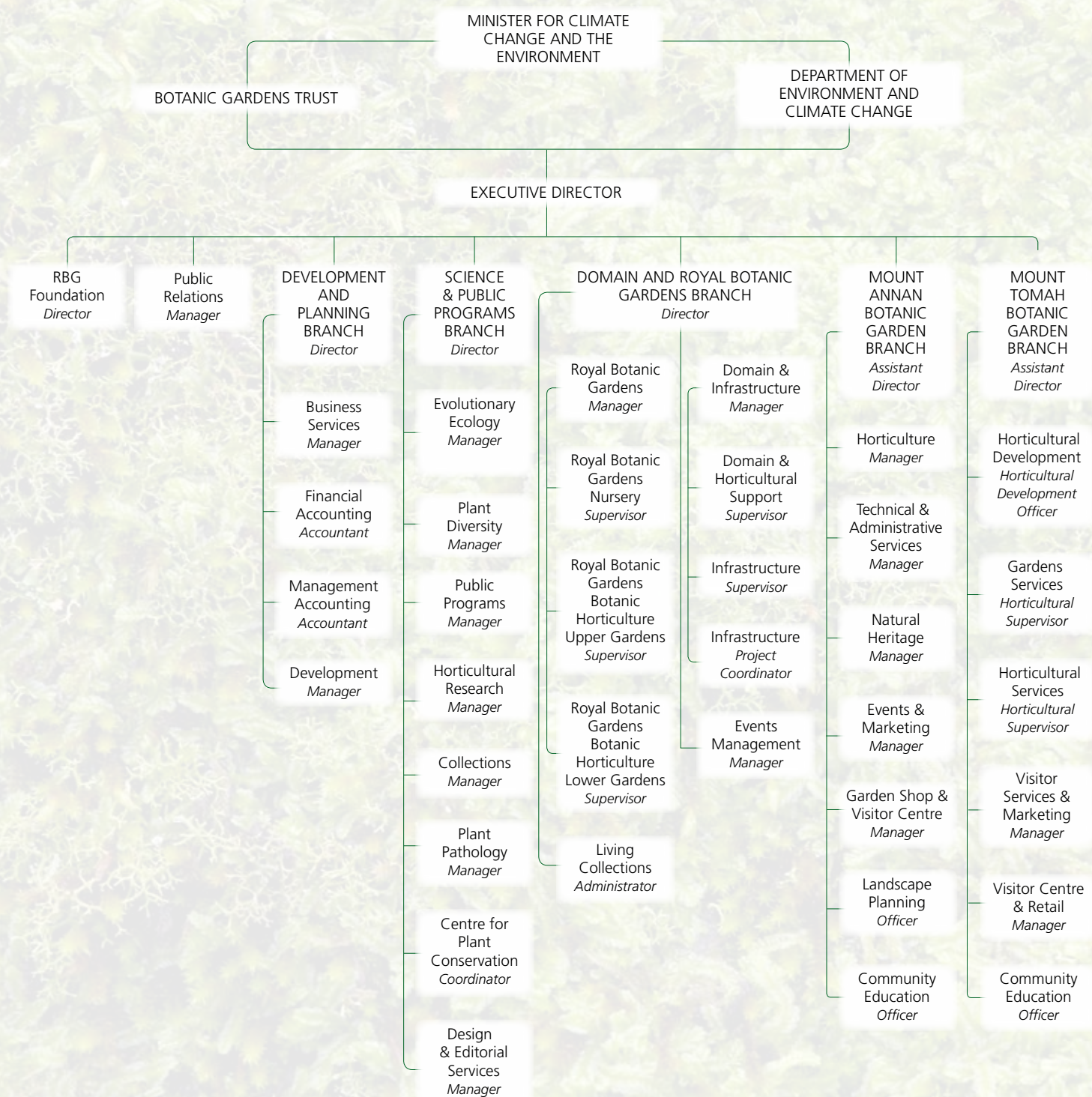
Significant improvements in risk management and internal control effected during the year, as well as those planned for the future, are included in this report.

Greg Martin  
Chair, Royal Botanic Gardens  
and Domain Trust

Dr Tim Entwisle  
Executive Director



# Organisation structure



Positions as at June 2009

# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Environmental Management Report

#### Water Usage

##### Royal Botanic Gardens

The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain 'Every Drop Counts' water efficiency rating showed a 21 per cent reduction in potable water use. Although below average rainfall for November through to March resulted in a 16 per cent increase in total water usage compared to last year, there has been a total reduction of 37 per cent since benchmarking in 2000–01.

Additional water savings initiatives included careful planting, mulching, watering only high-use lawns, and installing rainwater tanks at some display gardens.

##### Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Energetics (for Sydney Water) awarded Mount Annan Botanic Garden a four-star rating for water use; the first NSW government agency to achieve this level.

Last year, monitoring meters identified that one third of annual irrigation water flow was lost through leaks and pipe breaks. A pipeline replacement program resulted in 62 per cent water saving in 2007–08.

##### Mount Tomah Botanic Garden

Mount Tomah uses 100 per cent 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.

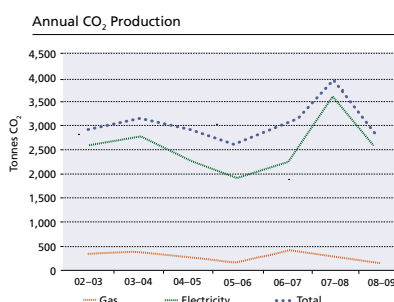
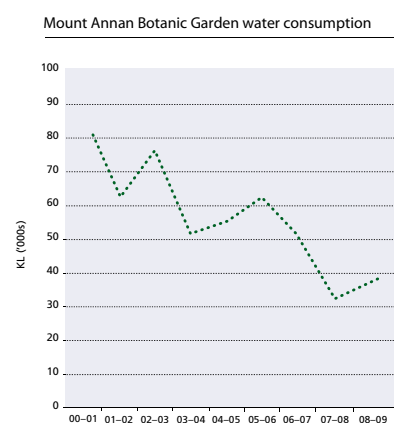
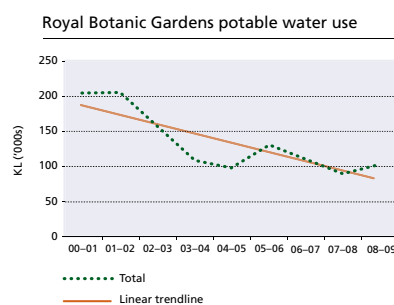
#### Energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

The Trust completed the DECC Sustainability Management Diagnostic in March and received a two-star rating (2.9 of 5.0) — the highest result any organisation has received to date. An action plan and data analysis section will be completed by the Trust next year.

The Trust reduced its total electricity consumption by 29 per cent, despite

increased numbers of events, especially at Mount Annan and Mount Tomah. The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain also reduced its gas consumption by 43 per cent. The Trust continues to use six per cent GreenPower across the organisation and all events in the Domain's Phillip Precinct now use 100 per cent GreenPower.

Overall, the Trust has reduced its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 30 per cent since 2007–08, and by six per cent since benchmarking in 2002–03.



## Appendix B

### Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

#### A summary of Trust activity in 2008–09 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 (CBD).

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*.

With the GSPC in its current form set to expire in 2010, parties to the CBD will be considering the adoption of a second iteration of the Strategy. Trust staff have contributed to a stakeholder appraisal of the first 10 years of the GSPC, and helped prepare briefing materials for the Australian representative to the GSPC Liaison Group meeting in Dublin (26–28 May 2009).

The GSPC themes and global targets for the year 2010, and relevant Trust activities in the year 2008–09, 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.

Work on the 'Guide to trees of Papua New Guinea' ([www.pngplants.org](http://www.pngplants.org)) project is underway as part of a collaborative research initiative with the Papua New Guinea National Herbarium. This year's activity has focussed on editing text for the more than 520 species treatments 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.

During the year a Trust staff member published the first directory of the extinction-risk listing processes of plant species and ecological communities that are used in Australia, allowing easy comparison of the nine different systems used for legislative listings in the different jurisdictions.

#### **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.

Seed technology work, detailed under Target 8 below, is contributing directly to the national repository of wild plant germplasm, and to a capability to use such material for species conservation and ecological restoration.

#### **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 descriptors of the ecological (vegetation) communities of nearly two-thirds of 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.

Trust staff are working with other DECCW units to achieve interoperability of ecological data-sets to improve the information base available to land- and conservation managers.

**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 data collection and analysis for the Western Slopes (much of the wheat-sheep belt) has been completed since. The current year has seen data collection and some parts of write-up completed for the increasingly complex ecological communities of the southern and northern tablelands, up to the Great Divide watershed.

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 the management of 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 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 was 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 and typology*, including the current and pre-European extents of the grasslands, has continued, with this year's focus being on analysis of soil samples and images. 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 paleoendemic 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 an 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 substantially complete a comprehensive technical manual, *Plant germplasm conservation in Australia*, to replace the ANPC's 1997 *Germplasm Conservation Guidelines*. The new publication, for launch in the second half of 2009, reflects the enormous increase over the last 12 years in research and practical experience in germplasm capture, storage, and use.

The NSW Seedbank has been a major focus of Trust 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, seedbanking and technology, and seed biology research over recent years. The NSW Seedbank is an active partner in the 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 is represented on the AuSCaR interim steering committee, which is developing strategic placement and a business program for the network.

The NSW Seedbank at 30 May 2009 held 9,255 accessions representing 4,392 species, of which 5,254 collections and 2,118 species are native to NSW. Of the 5,714 native species that naturally occur in NSW, the NSW Seedbank now has samples of just under 38 per cent. Of the 600 legislatively listed Threatened Plant species in NSW, the seedbank holds 29 per cent (373 seedlots of 176 species). Germination tests are carried out on dried seed of nearly all seedbanked species. 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 consolidated its 2007–08 work, refocussing on new key areas of relevance to environmental management at departmental, national and international levels, mainly in the area of germplasm (largely seed) conservation and utilisation. The 'Rainforest Seeds Project', launched in early 2008 with funding from Allianz and two private benefactors, is now well underway. The program involves collaborations with Griffith and Southern Cross Universities, the Millennium Seed Bank UK, and a network of community-based seed collectors in northern NSW and south-eastern Queensland. Screening protocols for incoming seed have been developed and applied, to determine their suitability for storage by conventional means; unsuitable (recalcitrant) seeds will be trialled for alternative storage regimes, including tissue culture and cryogenics. A number of papers were accepted for publication in the year,

on topics including rainforest species seed biology, and the development of robust techniques for simultaneous storage of terrestrial orchid seeds with their mycorrhizal fungi. For the second year, a three-day course in 'Plant Germplasm Conservation and Sustainable Development' was delivered to honours year and post-graduate students from the University of Sydney; enrolments in this course have increased from three to 17. Research staff contributed presentations to a number of conferences including the Ecological Society of Australia conference, and a keynote address to the Botanical Society of America. Three presentations involving Mount Annan research staff and deriving from rainforest seed research, were made in the UK at the 'Tree Seeds 2008: Trees, Seeds and a Changing Climate' (conference of the Seed Physiology Working Group of the International Union of Forestry Research Organisation). Poster presentations were made at the NSW Nature Conservation Council's 'Saving a sunburnt country' conference in November 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 Target 10), 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.

**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, hosts relevant public and specialist events, and has 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, and its covering is progressing eastwards.

See also page 21 and page 25.

**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 many presentations to both public and scientific or specialist audiences, and these often

have a conservation focus. This year, for example, the Centre for Plant Conservation developed and delivered a presentation on plant provenance, as a contentious issue in bush rehabilitation, to a regional audience.

The Trust's two scientific journals continue to document the taxonomic diversity of the State's plants (*Telopea*), and their ecology (*Cunninghamia*). The Botanical Information Service provides prompt and reliable identifications to public and professional inquirers, as does the Plant Disease Diagnostic Unit (PDDU). 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 Trust's *Ecology of Cumberland Plain Woodland Plants* web-pages continue to be among the most popular on its site. They make accessible, ecological data and knowledge for the western part of Greater Sydney (including for several endangered ecological communities and threatened species).

Community Education staff at all three botanic gardens delivered school and public programs to almost 66,000 visitors this financial year, including approximately 23,000 students in school lessons. Public programs included structured educational courses and activities with a plant or horticultural focus, on-site visitor interpretation, talks and guided tours. Interperation and sustainability themes were an element of a majority of these interactions

**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 occurs mainly through the Science units. Thirty-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* ran over summer, resulting in much extra work done for the Herbarium. Interns completed the program 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. As in previous years, some interns either have, or intend to, return to the Gardens as Honours or post-graduate students.

The Centre for Plant Conservation (CPC) coordinates several aspects of Trust work on biodiversity conservation, and is a focus of outreach and collaboration, especially with the Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc., within which the Trust has long played a major role. The CPC Coordinator also maintains close links with a number of other DECC units, with biodiversity conservation units in agencies in other jurisdictions, and with external conservation bodies such as the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators, and other organisations.

Professional development for science staff included attendance by some Mount Annan research staff at a plant phenomics course at ANU Canberra.

**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. 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**

The Trust hosted a visit by a delegation from the Korea National Arboretum in June, who toured Mount Annan Botanic Garden and the Royal Botanic Gardens to obtain information on plantings for their planned Australian plant collection. Both the Botanic Gardens Trust and Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne signed agreements with the Korea National Arboretum, supporting further collaboration in research, horticulture and conservation.

Executive Director Dr Tim Entwisle has been invited to participate in the strategic review of the South China Botanical Garden in Guangzhou in November 2009. This will also be an occasion to celebrate the 80th anniversary of this botanic garden.

Scientists from the Botanic Gardens Trust continue to visit 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. Dr Barry Conn conducted research trips to Singapore Botanic Gardens as well as Herbarium Bogoriense (Indonesia) in June. Dr Conn was awarded a Singapore Botanic Gardens Fellowship for his extensive work in the region and has maintained strong collaborative links with the Indonesian Botanic Gardens.

##### **Develop a Diploma in Asia-Pacific Botanic Gardens Management with Singapore Botanic Gardens, Botanic Gardens Conservation International and Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand**

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) and Singapore Botanic Gardens have agreed to run an International Certificate in Botanic Garden Management in the Asia-Pacific Region, to be hosted by Singapore Botanic Gardens from 5–20 March 2010. The reduced course length and change in title, as requested by BGCI, is in response to the changed financial position of the countries involved in the project and the potential of students to fund participation.

The Certificate is seen as a commitment to help build local and regional capacity and expertise in both the management of living plant collections and the conservation of biodiversity at a time of rapid global change. It is designed to support the Targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC—see **Appendix B** for further information

on the Trust's contribution to these targets). At this stage representatives from Taiwan, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Hong Kong and Singapore have expressed interest in the program.

##### **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)**

Principal Conservation Partner, HSBC Australia, will sponsor the Trust's contribution to delivery of the Asia-Pacific capacity building program. Funding provided by HSBC will support travel for two staff to teach the International Certificate in Botanic Gardens Management. This contribution, matched by Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, will allow BGANZ to support a number of full- or part-scholarships for students attending the certificate program in 2010.

##### **Prepare and implement procedures for overseas visitors generally**

Draft procedures are in place and will be finalised in late 2009.

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

Preliminary work has commenced and the program will be finalised in line with completion of the overseas visitor procedures in late 2009.

##### **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**

A complete business case and functional brief has been prepared for PlantBank —

the Centre for Plant Conservation and Research proposed for Mount Annan Botanic Garden. The business case recognises national and international conservation objectives, including those of seed bank partnerships and research initiatives under the Conventions of Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC). PlantBank will be positioned as a leader in education and scientific research in plant conservation in the Asia-Pacific.

## Appendix D

### Research Grants

#### Grant funding to the Trust

##### Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS)

Karen Wilson & Prof. Jeremy Bruhl (UNE) — Phylogeny, taxonomy and biology of *Schoenus*: A Cinderella of Australian Cyperaceae \$150,000 (2nd year of a 3-year \$300,000 grant).

Dr Darren Crayn, Dr Maurizio Rossetto, Dr Peter Weston, Dr John Conran (Uni 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 (2nd 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 (3rd year of a 2-year \$44,000 grant) (delayed start).

##### Australian Flora Foundation

Dr Peter Wilson and Dr Maurizio Rossetto — Reproductive biology of the Magenta Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium paniculatum*) \$11,600 (2nd year of a 2-year \$23,200 grant).

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

John Benson and Bob Makinson — NSW Native Vegetation Classification and Assessment \$200,000 (3rd year of a 3-year \$400,000 grant).

#### Friends of The Gardens

##### Research Grants

Botanic Gardens Trust National Herbarium of NSW Internship Program \$14,000.

Dr Maurizio Rossetto — ‘Bicentenary Plant Diversity Project’ — Collect representative Australian flora, curate relevant herbarium section and conduct research on the association between climate gradients and genetic diversity \$127,000 (1st year of a 4-year \$510,000 grant).

##### Scientific Travel Scholarships

Dr Surrey Jacobs — attendance at the Monocots 4—International Conference in Copenhagen 11–15 August \$6,200.

Karen Wilson — attendance at the Monocots 4—International Conference in Copenhagen 11–15 August and visits to other institutions \$4,000.

Barry Conn — appraisal of herbarium collections of the Singapore Botanic Gardens, Herbarium Bogoriense and Kebun Raya, Bogor Indonesia \$2,000.

John Benson — attendance at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008 \$3,000.

See **Appendix J** for other non-research travel scholarships.

##### Margaret Flockton Award and Exhibition

\$10,000

##### 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).

##### Matrix Plus Consulting (Rio Tinto Alcan)

Dr Maurizio Rossetto & Dr Marlien van der Merwe — To undertake a detailed population-genetic study of the Gove (NT) population of *Erythroxylum pusillum* (Erythroxylaceae) (\$71,000 one off payment).

##### Namoi Catchment Management Authority

Dr Chris Allen — Vegetation Communities of the Liverpool Plains \$50,000.



### Natural Resources Advisory Council of NSW

John Benson — preliminary compilation of literature on vegetation types on the NSW South Eastern highlands and Australian Alps Bioregions in preparation for assessment and classification of the vegetation in those bioregions for data entry in the NSWVCA database in 2010 \$60,000.

### Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation

Dr Cathy Offord and Dr Kim Hamilton — 'Rainforest Seed Project' — rainforest seeds research and conservation project \$130,000 (1st year of a 3-year \$390,000 grant). Project funded by donations from Allianz and two private benefactors, Tony Maxwell and Robyn Godlee.

### Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew–Millennium Seed Bank Project

Dr Cathy Offord and Peter Cuneo — Seed Quest NSW partnership to supply 250 NSW seed collections per year \$278,140 (5th year of 6-year \$1,564,114 grant).

### Funding to Partner Organisations

#### Australian Research Council–Discovery Grant

Dr Maurizio Rossetto and Dr Darren Crayn (with Dr A. Lowe, University of Adelaide) — Developing biogeographical know-how: improving species divergence and dispersal estimations to examine geological and climatic evolutionary drivers. \$35,695 to BGT (delayed start to final year of a 3-year \$282,000 grant).

#### Australian Research Council–Research Networks

Macquarie University (administrative body) with the Botanic Gardens Trust [B. Summerell, T. Entwisle, D. Crayn, P. Weston, M. Rossetto] and 40 other partners — Australian–New Zealand Research Network for vegetation function (4th year of sharing in \$2,500,000 over 5 years).

## 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.

### Academic Papers

Trust researchers are shown in **bold** type. Includes publications by staff, students and honorary research associates researchers:

**Archer, A.W.** & Elix, J.A. (2008) Two new species in the Australian Graphidaceae (lichenised Ascomycotina). *Australasian Lichenology* 63: 26–29.

**Archer, A.W.** & Elix, J.A. (2009) New species and new reports in the lichen genus *Pertusaria* (Ascomycota: Pertusariaceae) from Australasia. *Nova Hedwigia* 88: 1–10.

**Archer, A.W.**, Elix, J.A., Fischer, E., Killmann D. & Sérusiaux, E. (2009) The genus *Pertusaria* (Ascomycota) in Central Africa (Congo/Kivu, Rwanda and Burundi) and Western Kenya. *Nova Hedwigia* 88: 309–333.

**Archer, A.W.** (2009) Graphidaceae. *Flora of Australia* 57: 84–194.

Barkworth, M.E., Arriaga, M.O., Smith, J.F., **Jacobs, S.W.L.**, Valdés-Reyna, J. & Bushman, B.S. (2008) Molecules and morphology in South American Stipeae (Poaceae). *Systematic Botany* 33: 719–731.

**Benson, J.S.** (2008) New South Wales Vegetation Classification and Assessment: Part 2 Plant communities in the NSW South-western Slopes Bioregion and update of NSW Western Plains plant communities: Version 2 of the NSWVCA database. *Cunninghamia* 10(4): 599–673.

**Benson, J.S.** (2008) Classifying ecological communities and synthesizing data for natural resource management: some problems and potential solutions. Guest Editorial, *Ecological Management & Restoration* 9: 86–87.

Bentley, A.R., **Summerell, B.A.** & Burgess, L.W. (2008) Sexual compatibility in *Fusarium pseudograminearum* (*Gibberella coronicola*). *Mycological Research* 112: 1101–1106.

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**Chambers, T.C.** (2008) *Doodia hindii* (Blechnaceae) a new species from north eastern New South Wales, Australia. *Telopea* 12: 257–261.

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Der, J.P., **Thomson, J.A.**, Stratford, J.K. & Wolf, P.G. (2009) Global chloroplast phylogeny and biogeography of bracken (*Pteridium*; Dennstaedtiaceae). *American Journal of Botany* 96: 1041–1049.

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**Entwistle, T.J.**, Vis, M.L., Chaisson, W., Necchi O. Jr & Sherwood, A. (2009). Systematics of the Batrachospermales (Rhodophyta) — a synthesis. *Journal of Phycology* 45: 704–715.

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**Kodela, P.G.**, Weiller C.M. & Thompson, I.R. (2009) *Arrhenatherum*; *Phalaris*; *Pentapogon*; *Alopecurus*, *Flora*

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## Appendix F

### Two Ways Together

The Trust supports *Two Ways Together*, the NSW Government's 10-year Aboriginal Affairs Plan (2003–2012), which focuses on overcoming Indigenous disadvantage and enhancing community appreciation of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Employment of self-identified Aboriginal people by the Trust currently consists of three Aboriginal horticulturalist apprentices employed — one at each of Royal Botanic Gardens, Mount Annan and Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens. There is one full-time permanent Aboriginal education officer and five casual Aboriginal education assistants who deliver school and public programs interpreting the Aboriginal cultural heritage at the Trust's estates. Over the last year, they conducted 280 lessons/tours for 7,600 participants as well as themed school holiday activities such as 'Woccan-ma-gule Weaving'.

Cultural renewal and connection to country for local Aboriginal people has been a strong feature of Trust education programs this year. For example, more than 50 Aboriginal students who are enrolled in Indigenous Land Management and Tourism certificate courses at Sydney TAFE's participated in culturally based lessons and tours at the Royal Botanic Gardens. In collaboration with Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME, a not-for-profit organisation), 30 Aboriginal High School students and their respective University student mentors experienced cultural heritage workshops with Aboriginal staff on Trust estates.

Aboriginal Education Officers lead cultural heritage tours for approximately 150 DECC staff as part of five Cultural Awareness Training workshops which took place on Trust estates over the year. Further training and cultural experience was provided to Aboriginal staff who run public education programs as part of the National Parks and Wildlife

Service's Aboriginal Discovery program. Other Aboriginal specific involvement included visits to the Royal Botanic Gardens by 20 Aboriginal students from Bullman Community School NT, 15 Koori students from Matraville Sports High School and Earthstar productions incorporated a cultural workshop and tour for a group of at-risk Aboriginal teenagers from Western Sydney as part of a documentary. Also, a half-day workshop was held for Aboriginal writers and teachers involved in the Indij Readers program to incorporate Aboriginal People and plants/bush food stories into new material in upcoming publications.

Large scale public events included walks and talks as part of NAIDOC week cultural celebrations; hosting the City of Sydney's Harmony Day for participants from many cultural backgrounds and the Woggan-ma-gule Morning Ceremony. The latter is performed at Farm Cove on Survival/Australia Day (26 January). Approximately 50 Aboriginal dancers and performers (including many children from different Aboriginal language groups) and over 1,000 members of the public marked the occasion.

## Appendix G

### Human Resource Information

#### Staff representation levels for EEO groups

##### Trends in the representation of EEO groups

EEO group	% of total staff*	
	Benchmark	30 June 2009
Women	50	47
Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders	2	2.1
People whose first language is not English	20	6
People with a disability	12	7
People with a disability requiring a work-related adjustment	7	1.3

\* Excludes casual staff

##### Trends in the distribution of EEO groups

EEO group	Distribution index* for total staff**	
	Benchmark	30 June 2009
Women	100	108
Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders	100	n/a
People whose first language is not English	100	n/a
People with a disability	100	100
People with a disability requiring a work-related adjustment	100	n/a

\* A distribution index of 100 indicates that the centre of the distribution of the EEO group across salary levels is equivalent to that of other staff. Values less than 100 mean that the EEO group tends to be more concentrated at lower salary levels than is the case for other staff. The more pronounced this tendency is, the lower the index will be. In some cases the index may be more than 100, indicating that the EEO group is less concentrated at lower salary levels.

\*\* Excludes casual staff

## Botanic Gardens Officers — Staffing Statistics

	EFT 30 June 2007	EFT 30 June 2008	EFT 30 June 2009
Horticulturists/rangers	136	132	146
Senior officers	5	4	3
Senior executive service	2	2	2
Other*	113	128	130
<b>Total</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>281**</b>

\* 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

\*\* Additional staff have been employed in revenue generating areas and to deliver services and maintenance in priority areas.

## Location of Officers

The numbers reported are equivalent full-time (EFT) employees.

Location	EFT 30 June 06	EFT 30 June 07	EFT 30 June 08	EFT 30 June 09
Sydney Gardens	153	170	178	191
Mount Tomah	39	33	34	35
Mount Annan	53	53	54	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>281</b>

## Appendix H

### Occupational Health and Safety

The Trust has strengthened its commitment to providing a safe workplace for all staff and visitors. The number of Lost Time Injuries steadily decreased from last year, and the total days lost to injury remains low. Occupational Health and Safety and injury management statistics for the Trust are reported in the annual report of the Department.

The total number of medically treated injuries fluctuated throughout the year, with four months recording no injuries at all, and four months recording a relatively high number of incidents. Next year the Trust's focus will move to improved reporting and response to near misses, as well as a renewed emphasis on major risks.

Trust figures are well on their way to meeting the NSW Public Sector OHS and Injury Management milestones, of the following targets that were 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 Statement: forms which are completed when a risk is identified. 25 prepared and 194 reviewed
- Toolbox Talks: one-on-one safety discussions based on the risks identified in Safe Work Methods Statements conducted before staff undertake any major task. 3501 completed throughout the year
- Safety Check Book: over 10,000 individual safety checks carried out on the Sydney site



- OHS Self Assessment tool: a self-audit mechanism for members of the Executive. Completed for all Executive and again, this year, all above 95 per cent
- Continued support for preventative measures such as warm-up routines and general fitness training
- 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. Focus areas this year have included:
  - body stress injuries with many attending Manual Task Training
  - consistent updating of Safe Work Methods Statements and re-education in these
  - safety training in snake handling, advanced resuscitation and chemical training, as appropriate to each site.

In the year ahead, supervisors and managers across the department will participate in OHS Risk Management Training; 'Worksafe Online', piloted at Mount Annan Botanic Garden, will be rolled out at all sites. Monthly contributions by OHS site committee to the Trust staff newsletter *BGT News* helps further promote safety awareness throughout the organisation.

### Safety Culture Review

A Safety Culture Review was commissioned to improve our safety performance. While internal audits have found that the systems and procedures are adequate, our lost-time injury rate continues to remain a concern. The number of days lost and the severity of injuries remains low, but it has been difficult to reduce the number of lost-time injuries to our target of zero.

Lloyd-Jones Meakin Group visited all estates and used focus groups, site walks and individual interviews to assess the approach staff take to hazards in the workplace, and how they manage risks.

The study found that the Trust was well advanced in achieving a safe working culture. It is strong on systems and skills and improving safety behaviour. There is a general attitude of personal responsibility for safety and staff responded positively to the review and to safety generally. All spoke of big changes in OHS over the last 10 years and it was clear that safety is taken seriously.

Major areas identified for improvement were in the areas of high risk and 'actively caring' for colleagues and visitors. The workplace includes a number of high risks, such as working at heights, dangerous plant and machinery, laboratories and motor vehicle use, which are generally well managed, but the focus on reacting to relatively low level lost-time injuries runs the risk of taking attention away from the big impact activities. Actions from the review in this area include reviewing all major risks and preparing a series of 'life saving rules' that local areas agree to never allow to be broken. The recent focus on reporting and analysing 'near misses' will also be encouraged further, so that major near misses are addressed immediately.

While there is a strong culture of personal care, the consultants felt that this should be extended further to active intervention and interaction to make sure that staff watch out for each other. Actions will include positive safety interactions — meeting and discussing safety aspects of the job — led by senior staff, and more regular reviewing of what is working well and what isn't at Executive and Board level.

The review has already created a greater awareness of safety in the workplace, and increased the profile of safety committees, processes and commitment. The next step is to use this renewed enthusiasm to maintain and improve organisational safety culture to ensure every staff member and visitor keeps accident free.

## Appendix I

### Trustees' Disclosure

The Chairperson of the Trust, Mr Greg Martin, was 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. Mr Martin ceased to have a conflict of interest in relation to this issue in October 2008.

## Appendix J

### Overseas Travel

Name & Position	Countries / Cities visited	Purpose of visit	Duration	Total Cost	Cost to Trust	Source of Other Funds
Dr Maurizio Rossetto, Senior Research Scientist	Berlin, Germany and Kew, United Kingdom	To participate and present at XX International Congress of Genetics  To discuss potential conservation genomics projects on Australian flora (also availed of recreation leave from 19–25 July 2008)	10–25 July 2008	\$5,500	Nil	Grant from HSF
Dr Edward Liew, Plant Pathologist/ Mycologist	Turin and Alghero, Italy	To attend 9th International Congress of Plant Pathology and 10th International <i>Fusarium</i> Workshop	23 August – 3 September 2008	\$7,300	Nil	Friends of The Gardens, Horticulture Australia Limited and Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
Surrey Jacobs, Principal Research Scientist	Copenhagen (Denmark)	Participate in 5th International Symposium on Grass Systematics & Evolution, presenting talks/ posters	9–16 August 2008	\$9,700	3,500	Friends of The Gardens and Remseck/Neckar & Mainz University
	Mainz, Remseck/ Neckar (Germany)	Give lecture; discuss joint projects with fellow researchers	17–21 August 2008			
Karen Wilson, Acting Manager Plant Diversity; Special Botanist	Copenhagen	Participate in Monocots IV international conference, presenting talks/posters	10–16 August 2008	\$7,800	2,000	Friends of The Gardens and personal contribution
	Lund (Sweden; day-trip from Copenhagen); Hamburg (Germany); Kew (UK)	Examine specimens in three herbaria; discuss joint projects with fellow researchers	7–8, 18–22 August 2008			
John Benson, Senior Ecologist	Spain; Barcelona	Participate and present at the IUCN 4th World Conservation Congress	1–15 October 2008	\$7,100	2,100	Friends of The Gardens, external grant funds and personal contribution

Dr Kim Hamilton, Rainforest Seed Project Coordinator, Horticultural Research Section	UK, Sussex	Presentation at the conference 'Tree Seeds 2008 — Trees, Seeds and a Changing Climate'	19 September – 4 October 2008	\$6,000	nil	Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation
		Visit Millennium Seedbank for discussions with collaborators.				
Dr Tim Entwisle, Executive Director	New Zealand	To participate in awards ceremony	5–8 November 2008	\$2,500	nil	New Zealand Horticulture Industry Training Organisation
Dr Alan Millar, Principal Research Scientist	Wellington, New Zealand	To attend Asia-Pacific Phycological Forum	9–19 November 2008	\$1,950	nil	Allen Press, USA
Dr Elizabeth Brown, Systematic Bryologist	New Zealand	To attend workshop and fieldwork for Lepidoziaceae projects	16 November – 12 January 2009	\$3,500	nil	Personal contribution
Hannah McPherson, Technical Officer (Scientific)	Hamburg, Germany and Grenoble, France	To research Australian collection in Hamburg Herbarium	22 December 2008 – 3 April 2009	\$15,000	nil	Australia Germany Association, Goethe Institut, Lufthansa, and ARC Discovery grant
		To work with colleagues at the University Joseph Fourier	4–18 April 2009	\$3,000	nil	
Pauline Markwell, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation	USA	To visit botanic gardens, other cultural institutions and grant-making bodies to research leading fundraising and philanthropy.	28 March – 26 April 2009	\$13,950	nil	Friends of The Gardens and Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation
Dr Barry Conn, Principal Research Scientist	Singapore	To conduct research at Singapore Botanic Gardens	14 June – 7 July 2009	\$9,590	nil	Friends of The Gardens and Singapore Botanic Gardens
	Indonesia	To conduct research at Herbarium Bogoriense	7–13 July 2009			
	Indonesia	To attend conservation symposium	13–19 July 2009			
Dr Alan Millar, Principal Research Scientist	Lawrence, Kansas, USA	To attend meeting at Allen Press	21–28 June 2009	\$1,920	nil	Allen Press, USA
	Honolulu, Hawaii, USA	To attend Phycological Society of America Conference	18–25 July 2009	\$2,300		
	Tokyo, Japan	To attend Phycological Congress	31 July – 9 August 2009	\$3,534		



## Appendix K

### Account Payment Performance

#### Age analysis at the end of 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	520,000	501,000	19,000	—	—
December	412,000	401,000	11,000	—	—
March	346,000	346,000	—	—	—
June	210,000	206,000	4,000	—	—

#### Accounts paid on time within each quarter

Quarter	Target %	Actual %	Paid on time \$	Total amount paid \$
September	85	94	5,048,000	5,222,000
December	85	95	6,357,000	4,496,000
March	85	94	5,830,000	5,972,000
June	85	95	7,410,000	8,036,000

## Appendix L

### Consultancies

#### Consultancies equal to or more than \$30,000

There were two consultancies totalling (unaudited) \$86,920:

Root Projects Pty Ltd, PlantBank project, \$47,000

International Conservation Services, Section 170 Heritage Register, \$39,920.

#### Consultancies less than \$30,000

There were 12 consultancies less than \$30,000, totalling (unaudited) \$129,866.

### Botanical Information Service

	UNITS	2008–09	2007–08	2006–07	2005–06
<b>Inquiry statistics</b>					
Inquiries in person	no.	<b>217</b>	298	339	286
Inquiries by mail	no.	<b>965</b>	1141	1114	1270
Inquiries by telephone	no.	<b>697</b>	678	870	776
Inquiries by internet	no.	<b>1033</b>	1309	990	761
Requests for e-data	no.	<b>21</b>	26	11	16
Specimens identified	no.	<b>4096</b>	4370	4878	4765
<b>Revenue (ex. GST)</b>	\$	<b>24,564</b>	20,400	30,674	22,086

## Appendix M

### Provision of Information Services

#### 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 centres provide information about Trust services and facilities, and sell a comprehensive range of botanical and horticultural books, souvenirs and gifts.

#### Inquiries for Plant Identification

The Plant Disease Diagnostic Unit (PDDU) received close to 300 requests, eight per cent more than last year. Over half of these were for detection of soilborne pathogens, particularly those species causing *Phytophthora* root rot. The Trust's online plant information service, PlantNET, recorded almost 600,000 visits. The Botanical Information Service received approximately 3000 inquiries; eighty-one per cent of which were answered within seven days.

## Appendix N

### Corporate Credit Card Use

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

## Appendix O

### Consumer Response

There are 3.6 million visits to the Trust's three botanic gardens each year and a similar number in the Domain. Excluding New Year's Eve in the Domain (see below), only 52 visitors raised issues of concern in writing or by phone.

The most frequently raised concern, but with only seven complaints, was the impact of public events in the Domain, specifically the noise or the related closures of public space. Each complaint was passed to the Event Manager to respond to the complainant and, where appropriate, to also communicate with the organisers regarding noise levels at future events.

Right of access and appropriate use of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain was a recurring theme. Joggers, cyclists and Falun Gong loudspeakers were all sources of irritation or anger for their impact on others, as were the large tourist buses double-parking at Mrs Macquaries Point. Homeless people and rubbish on the Sir John Young Crescent side of the Domain Car Park also generated correspondence. In most cases rangers dealt with issues raised. Cyclists proved particularly problematic, with repeated instances of cyclists being unaware that cycling is not permitted in the Gardens.

Concern about the preservation of heritage structures and art generated five letters and required explanations about why it was not appropriate or possible for the Trust to undertake the proposed cleaning or repair.

Bubblers not working and uneven or slippery surfaces, which generated five communications, were repaired. The path on Art Gallery Road, which was one of the sites of a fall, is scheduled for complete resurfacing.

The increase of fees at Mount Annan Botanic Garden generated a single letter to the Trust. There were also a number of letters for and against the fees published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and local Macarthur papers which are not included in this feedback tally. A response from the Executive Director was published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Disappointment at events or the Gardens themselves were expressed only four times — two for the 'Sex and Death' exhibition at the Tropical Centre, one for the 'Midnight at the Oasis' New Year's Eve event, and one for Mount Annan Botanic Garden.

Cleanliness, service and food quality at the kiosk in the Gardens was the subject of three complaints which were passed on to the lessee.

Two people who requested earlier opening hours for the Royal Botanic Gardens received explanations as to why this was not possible — to protect the Gardens and ensure people's safety.

Two complaints about parking fines (both of which were refunded) are

included in the feedback tally, but this is not representative of communications related to parking fines which are usually handled by the Trust's Business Services.

### New Year's Eve

The Trust received over 170 calls on New Year's Eve, including 20 calls from the queue of people trying to access Mrs Macquaries Point. Complaints were about the long wait (up to 4–6 hours) in the heat, lack of information, lack of monitoring of the queue, and insufficient and dirty toilets. These complaints were further to grievances passed to staff at the on-site information stall at the start of the queue. All complaints were discussed in the post-event review to improve visitor services for 2009–10.

Ten enquiries concerned disabled car parking, which was not available on New Year's Eve as all spaces had been booked in advance. Twenty calls concerned ticketed events which were sold out but which did not have this information on the website. Most other enquiries were about access to views for the fireworks, which were directed to the City of Sydney and Botanic Gardens Trust websites.

## Appendix P

### 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 through the Trust's website, or through the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. There were no requests under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* in full or part this year.

## Appendix Q

### Access Directory

#### 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  
(02) 9231 8134
- Free guided walks  
10.30 am every day
- Botanical information service  
(02) 9231 8155
- Plant pathology diagnostic service  
(02) 9231 8186
- Botanic Gardens Restaurant & cafe  
(02) 9241 2419
- Pavilion on the Park restaurant & cafe  
(02) 9232 1322

#### 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

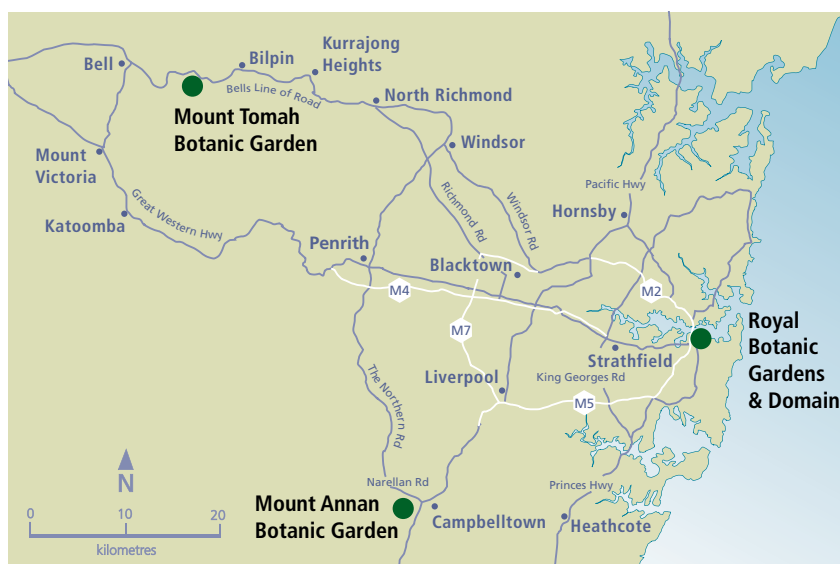
#### Mount Tomah Botanic Garden

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](http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au)



Map of the Sydney region





# 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 Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust (the Trust), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2009, the operating statement, statement of recognised income and expense, cash flow statement, service group statements — 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 2009, and its financial performance 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 Trustees' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Trustees 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 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.



Steven Martin

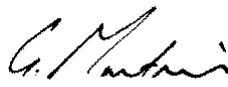
Director, Financial Audit Services  
13 October 2009  
SYDNEY

## 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:

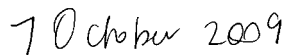
- a) the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Finance and Audit Act, 1983*, the Financial Reporting Code for Budget Dependent General Government Sector Agencies, the *Public Finance and Audit Regulations 2005* (as applicable) and The Treasurer's 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



Ms Vanessa Priest  
Trustee  
Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust



Date



Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

Operating Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

	Notes	Actual 2009 \$'000	Budget 2009 \$'000	Actual 2008 \$'000
<b>Expenses excluding losses</b>				
Operating expenses:				
Other operating expenses	2(a)	35,266	29,846	33,845
Depreciation	2(b)	4,923	4,400	4,390
Grants and subsidies	2(c)	54	0	54
Finance costs	2(d)	3	6	4
<b>Total Expenses excluding losses</b>		<b>40,246</b>	<b>34,252</b>	<b>38,293</b>
Less:				
<b>Retained Revenue</b>				
Sale of goods and services	3(a)	7,312	8,010	7,289
Investment revenue	3(b)	3,455	200	1,825
Retained taxes, fees and fines	3(c)	1,235	400	674
Grants and contributions	3(d)	5,502	3,362	3,881
Other revenue	3(e)	1,345	500	2,617
<b>Total Retained Revenue</b>		<b>18,849</b>	<b>12,472</b>	<b>16,286</b>
<b>Gain/ (loss) on disposal of non-current assets</b>	4	<b>(140)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(284)</b>
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	19	<b>21,537</b>	<b>21,780</b>	<b>22,291</b>
<b>Government Contributions:</b>				
Recurrent appropriation	5	18,105	18,080	17,781
Capital appropriation	5	2,635	2,635	3,695
<b>Total Government Contributions</b>		<b>20,740</b>	<b>20,715</b>	<b>21,476</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(797)</b>	<b>(1,065)</b>	<b>(815)</b>

[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 2009

	Notes	Actual 2009 \$'000	Budget 2009 \$'000	Actual 2008 \$'000
TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSES RECOGNISED DIRECTLY IN EQUITY		0	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	15	(797)	(1,065)	(815)
TOTAL INCOME AND EXPENSES RECOGNISED FOR THE YEAR		(797)	(1,065)	(815)
Accumulated Funds		(797)	(1,065)	(815)
Reserves		0	0	0
		<b>(797)</b>	<b>(1,065)</b>	<b>(815)</b>

[The accompanying notes form part of these statements]

Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009

	Notes	Actual 2009 \$'000	Budget 2009 \$'000	Actual 2008 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	7	3,447	5,857	5,687
Receivables	8	640	521	521
Inventories	9	248	315	315
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>4,335</b>	<b>6,693</b>	<b>6,523</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>				
Property, plant and equipment				
– Land and building		203,721	203,150	204,668
– Plant and equipment		3,882	4,037	3,690
– Infrastructure systems		37,174	37,302	37,396
– Collection assets		33,304	26,177	26,177
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	10	<b>278,081</b>	<b>270,666</b>	<b>271,931</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>282,416</b>	<b>277,359</b>	<b>278,454</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Payables	12	1,724	4,306	4,306
Borrowings	13	24	24	30
Provisions	14	2,001	1,762	1,762
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>3,749</b>	<b>6,092</b>	<b>6,098</b>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>				
Borrowings	13	0	0	2
Provisions	14	24	19	19
<b>Total Non Current Liabilities</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>3,773</b>	<b>6,111</b>	<b>6,141</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>278,643</b>	<b>271,248</b>	<b>272,313</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>				
Reserves		129,988	122,880	122,880
Accumulated funds		148,655	148,368	149,433
<b>Total Equity</b>	15	<b>278,643</b>	<b>271,248</b>	<b>272,313</b>

[The accompanying notes form part of these statements]



## Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Notes	Actual 2009 \$'000	Budget 2009 \$'000	Actual 2008 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>				
<b>Payments</b>				
Employee related		0	0	0
Grants and subsidies		(54)	0	(54)
Finance costs		(3)	(6)	(4)
Other (inc Personnel Services)		(37,219)	(27,863)	(29,919)
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>(37,276)</b>	<b>(27,869)</b>	<b>(29,977)</b>
<b>Receipts</b>				
Sale of goods and services		7,305	8,010	7,118
Retained taxes, fees and fines		1,235	0	674
Interest received		3,455	200	1,825
Other		6,417	2,279	5,586
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>18,412</b>	<b>10,489</b>	<b>15,203</b>
Cash Flows from Government				
Recurrent appropriation		18,105	18,080	17,781
Capital appropriation		2,635	2,635	3,695
Cash reimbursements from the Crown Entity		0	0	0
<b>Net Cash Flow From Government</b>		<b>20,740</b>	<b>20,715</b>	<b>21,476</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	19	<b>1,876</b>	<b>3,335</b>	<b>6,702</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Proceeds of sale of land and buildings, plant and equipment and infrastructure systems		39	0	5
Purchases of land and buildings, plant and equipment		(4,125)	(3,135)	(4,168)
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>(4,086)</b>	<b>(3,135)</b>	<b>(4,163)</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Proceeds from borrowings and advances		0	0	0
Repayment of borrowings and advances		(30)	(30)	(29)
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>(30)</b>	<b>(30)</b>	<b>(29)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH</b>		<b>(2,240)</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>2,510</b>
Opening cash and cash equivalents		5,687	5,687	3,177
<b>CLOSING CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	7	<b>3,447</b>	<b>5,857</b>	<b>5,687</b>

[The accompanying notes form part of these statements]

Service group statements\* for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Service Group 1 **		Service Group 2 **		Not Attributable ***		Total	
	2009 \$000	2008 \$000	2009 \$000	2008 \$000	2009 \$000	2008 \$000	2009 \$000	2008 \$000
<b>AGENCIES EXPENSES AND INCOME</b>								
<b>Expenses excluding losses</b>								
Operating expenses:								
– Other Operating expenses	9,596	8,601	25,670	25,244	0	0	35,266	33,845
Depreciation and amortisation	1,339	1,116	3,584	3,274	0	0	4,923	4,390
Grants and subsidies	14	13	40	41	0	0	54	54
Finance Costs	1	1	2	3	0	0	3	4
<b>Total Expenses excluding losses</b>	<b>10,950</b>	<b>9,731</b>	<b>29,296</b>	<b>28,562</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40,246</b>	<b>38,293</b>
<b>Retained Revenue</b>								
Sale of goods and services	312	333	7,000	6,956	0	0	7,312	7,289
Investment income	2,188	32	1,267	1,793	0	0	3,455	1,825
Retained taxes, fees and fines	132	0	1,103	674	0	0	1,235	674
Grants and contributions	1,378	1,558	4,124	2,323	0	0	5,502	3,881
Other revenue	144	21	1,201	2,596	0	0	1,345	2,617
<b>Total Retained Revenue</b>	<b>4,154</b>	<b>1,944</b>	<b>14,695</b>	<b>14,342</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,849</b>	<b>16,286</b>
Gain / (Loss) on disposal of non current assets	(15)	(36)	(125)	(248)	0	0	(140)	(284)
Other gains / (losses)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>6,811</b>	<b>7,823</b>	<b>14,726</b>	<b>14,468</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,537</b>	<b>22,291</b>
Government Contributions***	0	0	0	0	20,740	21,476	20,740	21,476
<b>NET EXPENDITURE / (REVENUE) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>6,811</b>	<b>7,823</b>	<b>14,726</b>	<b>14,468</b>	<b>(20,740)</b>	<b>(21,476)</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>815</b>
<b>AGENCIES ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>								
<b>Current Assets</b>								
Cash and cash equivalents	1,090	1,885	2,357	3,802			3,447	5,687
Receivables	202	173	438	348			640	521
Inventories	78	104	170	211			248	315
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>2,162</b>	<b>2,965</b>	<b>4,361</b>			<b>4,335</b>	<b>6,523</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>								
Property, plant and equipment								
– Land and building	64,425	67,842	139,296	136,826			203,721	204,668
– Plant and equipment	1,228	1,223	2,654	2,467			3,882	3,690
– Infrastructure systems	11,756	12,396	25,418	25,000			37,174	37,396
– Collection assets	10,532	8,677	22,772	17,500			33,304	26,177
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>87,941</b>	<b>90,138</b>	<b>190,140</b>	<b>181,793</b>			<b>278,081</b>	<b>271,931</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>89,311</b>	<b>92,300</b>	<b>193,105</b>	<b>186,154</b>			<b>282,416</b>	<b>278,454</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>								
Payables	545	1,427	1,179	2,879			1,724	4,306
Borrowings	8	10	16	20			24	30
Provisions	633	584	1,368	1,178			2,001	1,762
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,186</b>	<b>2,021</b>	<b>2,563</b>	<b>4,077</b>			<b>3,749</b>	<b>6,098</b>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>								
Borrowings	0	8	0	16			0	24
Provisions	8	6	16	13			24	19
<b>Total Non Current Liabilities</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29</b>			<b>24</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>2,035</b>	<b>2,579</b>	<b>4,106</b>			<b>3,773</b>	<b>6,141</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>88,117</b>	<b>90,265</b>	<b>190,526</b>	<b>182,048</b>			<b>278,643</b>	<b>272,313</b>

\* NSW Budget Paper No. 3 has replaced program statements with service group statements.  
Service group statements focus on the key measures of service delivery performance.

\*\* The names and purposes of each service group are summarised in Note 6.

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

## Summary of Compliance with Financial Directives

	2009				2008			
	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
<b>ORIGINAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION / EXPENDITURE</b> — Appropriation Act	18,080	18,080	2,635	2,635	17,781	17,781	3,695	3,695
<b>OTHER APPROPRIATION / EXPENDITURE</b> Transfer from another agency (Section 31 of the Appropriation Act)	25	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Appropriations / Expenditure / Net Claim on Consolidated Fund (includes transfer payments)</b>	18,105	18,105	2,635	2,635	17,781	17,781	3,695	3,695
<b>Amount drawn down against Appropriation</b>		18,105		2,635		17,781		0
<b>Liability to Consolidated Fund</b>		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 Financial Year ended 30 June 2009

### 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 service groups as outlined in Note 6.

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 2009 has been authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on 07 October 2009.

#### (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 Financial Year ended 30 June 2009

### (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 NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.

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

The Trust's liabilities for long service leave and superannuation are assumed by the Crown Entity. The Trust accounts for the liability as having been extinguished resulting in the amount assumed being included as non-monetary revenue within the item described as Grants and Contributions.

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.

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.

## Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2009

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.

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

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 Department of Commerce Government Architect's Office. Statutes and Monuments were valued in 2009 by RHAS Pty Ltd.

### **(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.

### **(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.



## Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2009

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 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.

**(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

## Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2009

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**

There are no new Accounting Standards that the Trust considers having a material impact on the financial statements.

### 2. EXPENSES EXCLUDING LOSSES

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>(a) Other operating expenses</b>		
Personnel Services	22,623	21,025
External Audit	50	53
Internal Audit	47	59
Bad Debts	1	45
Operating Leases	266	260
Insurance	342	287
Advertising	140	148
Consultants	217	313
Legal fees	93	239
Purchase of Plant and equipment under \$5,000	293	356
Plant and equipment hire	370	206
Cost of Goods Sold	691	813
Stores and Provisions	1,104	918
Maintenance	3,544	2,445
Energy	378	356
Contractors	675	912
Telephone and Communication	216	243
Cleaning and Waste collection	1,069	886
Books, printing and publications	273	241
Travel	167	199
Motor Vehicle	256	242
Rates	282	166
Security	684	569
Other	1,485	2,864
	<b>35,266</b>	<b>33,845</b>

## Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

### Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2009

Personnel Services are acquired from the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water and the cost comprises:

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Salaries and Wages	18,289	17,068
Superannuation Entitlements	1,581	1,492
Long Service Leave	1,316	906
Workers Compensation Insurance	301	435
Payroll and Fringe Benefits Tax	1,136	1,124
	<u>22,623</u>	<u>21,025</u>

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	3,544	2,445
Maintenance related personnel services included in Note 2(a)	1,422	919
Total maintenance expenses included in Note 2(a)	<u>4,966</u>	<u>3,364</u>

**(b) Depreciation expense**

Buildings	2,316	1,923
Infrastructure	1,652	1,615
Plant and Equipment	955	852
	<u>4,923</u>	<u>4,390</u>

**(c) Grants and subsidies**

NSW Public Sector Agencies	4	4
Federal Government Agencies	0	0
Other	50	50
	<u>54</u>	<u>54</u>

**(d) Finance costs**

Interest Paid on Treasury loan	3	4
	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

### 3. REVENUES

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>(a) Sales of goods and services</b>		
Gross sales through the shops	1,667	1,838
Publications	9	4
Fees received	5,107	4,998
Admissions	520	446
Other	9	3
	<u>7,312</u>	<u>7,289</u>
<b>(b) Investment revenue</b>		
Interest	213	259
Rents	3,242	1,566
	<u>3,455</u>	<u>1,825</u>



Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2009

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>(c) Retained taxes, fees and fines</b>		
Parking	1,235	674
	<b>1,235</b>	<b>674</b>
<b>(d) Grants and contributions</b>		
Grants and Donations	3,295	1,666
Research Grants	566	907
Crown Grant LSL and Superannuation	1,641	1,308
	<b>5,502</b>	<b>3,881</b>
Research grants are applied to those areas of scientific endeavour sponsored by the grantor.		
<b>(e) Other Revenue</b>		
Insurance recoveries	343	122
Cost recoveries and other non user charges	1,001	2,462
Bad Debts Recovered	1	33
	<b>1,345</b>	<b>2,617</b>
<b>4. GAIN / (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL</b>		
Proceeds from the sale of assets	39	5
Written down value of assets disposed	(179)	(289)
	<b>(140)</b>	<b>(284)</b>
<b>5. APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
<b>Recurrent appropriations</b>		
Recurrent draw-downs from NSW Treasury (per Summary of Compliance)	18,105	17,781
Less: Liability to Consolidated Fund (per Summary of Compliance)	0	0
	<b>18,105</b>	<b>17,781</b>
Comprising:		
Recurrent appropriations (per Operating Statement)	18,105	17,781
	<b>18,105</b>	<b>17,781</b>
<b>Capital appropriations</b>		
Total capital draw-downs from NSW Treasury (per Summary of Compliance)	2,635	3,695
Less: Liability to Consolidated Fund (per Summary of Compliance)	0	0
	<b>2,635</b>	<b>3,695</b>
Comprising:		
Capital appropriations (per Operating Statement)	2,635	3,695
	<b>2,635</b>	<b>3,695</b>

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2009

**6. SERVICE GROUPS OF THE TRUST**

**Service Group 1 — Science and Public Programs**

This service group covers research to support plant diversity; informing researchers, land managers and the public; contributing to policies relating to flora, vegetation and biodiversity; collecting, maintaining and studying the State collection of preserved plants and NSW Seedbank; researching plant propagation, cultivation and pathology; researching, designing and delivering plant related programs for specific visitor and outreach groups; and delivering volunteer programs to support Trust objectives.

**Service Group 2 — Botanic Gardens and Parks**

This service group covers managing, making accessible and interpreting the landscapes and living collections of plants in the botanic gardens; maintaining conservation collections; conserving and interpreting the Aboriginal and cultural heritage of the Gardens; and making Trust sites available for community events, commercial events, sport and recreation.

**7. CURRENT ASSETS — CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENT**

	<b>2009 \$'000</b>	<b>2008 \$'000</b>
Cash at Bank	944	1,052
Petty Cash	12	11
At call deposits	2,491	4,624
	<b>3,447</b>	<b>5,687</b>

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)	3,447	5,687
	<b>3,447</b>	<b>5,687</b>

**8. CURRENT ASSETS — RECEIVABLES**

Debtors	503	496
GST Receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	48	71
Prepayments	94	58
Accrued Income	37	0
	682	625
Less: Allowance for impairment	(42)	(104)
	<b>640</b>	<b>521</b>

*Movement in the allowance for impairment*

Balance as at 1 July	104	86
Amounts written off during the year	(63)	(3)
Amounts recovered during the year	0	(23)
Increase/(decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss	1	44
Balance at 30 June	42	104

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2009

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>9. CURRENT ASSETS — INVENTORIES</b>		
Held for distribution	248	315
	<b>248</b>	<b>315</b>

	Land and Building \$'000	Plant and Equipment \$'000	Infra- structure \$'000	Collection Assets \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>10. NON-CURRENT ASSETS — PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>					
<b>At 1 July 2008 — fair value</b>					
Gross carrying amount	208,384	5,322	40,620	26,177	280,503
Accumulated Depreciation and impairment	(3,716)	(1,632)	(3,224)	0	(8,572)
Net Carrying Amount	204,668	3,690	37,396	26,177	271,931
<b>At 30 June 2009 — fair value</b>					
Gross carrying amount	209,753	6,011	42,048	33,304	291,116
Accumulated Depreciation and impairment	(6,032)	(2,129)	(4,874)	0	(13,035)
Net Carrying Amount	203,721	3,882	37,174	33,304	278,081

**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
<b>Year ended 30 June 2009</b>					
Carrying amount at start of year	204,668	3,690	37,396	26,177	271,931
Additions	1,369	1,323	1,433		4,125
Disposals		(176)	(3)		(179)
Net revaluation increment less revaluation decrements				7,127	7,127
Reclassification					0
Depreciation expense	(2,316)	(955)	(1,652)	0	(4,923)
Carrying amount at end of year	203,721	3,882	37,174	33,304	278,081
<b>At 1 July 2007 — fair value</b>					
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	204,715	3,255	38,295	26,177	272,442
<b>At 30 June 2008 — fair value</b>					
Gross carrying amount	208,384	5,322	40,620	26,177	280,503
Accumulated Depreciation and impairment	(3,716)	(1,632)	(3,224)	0	(8,572)
Net Carrying Amount	204,668	3,690	37,396	26,177	271,931



Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2009

**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.

	<b>Land and Building \$'000</b>	<b>Plant and Equipment \$'000</b>	<b>Infra- structure \$'000</b>	<b>Collection Assets \$'000</b>	<b>Total \$'000</b>
<b>Year ended 30 June 2008</b>					
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	0	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>

**11. RESTRICTED ASSETS**

	<b>2009 \$'000</b>	<b>2008 \$'000</b>
Cosh Bequest	416	397
Swane Bequest	67	95
Webster Bequest	109	103
Rathborne Bequest	4	103
Research	402	527
	<u>998</u>	<u>1,225</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.

**12. CURRENT LIABILITIES — PAYABLES**

Creditors	1,046	3,440
Accrued salaries, wages and on-costs	332	167
Unearned revenue	346	699
	<u>1,724</u>	<u>4,306</u>

**13. CURRENT / NON CURRENT LIABILITIES — BORROWINGS**

<b>Secured/Unsecured</b>		
Treasury advances repayable	24	54
	<u>24</u>	<u>54</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 20.

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2009

14. CURRENT / NON CURRENT LIABILITIES — PROVISIONS	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>Employee benefits and related on-costs</b>		
Recreation leave	1,466	1,319
Provision for Long Service Leave	295	207
Payroll Tax on employee benefits	264	255
	<b>2,025</b>	<b>1,781</b>
<b>Aggregate employee benefits and on-costs</b>		
Provision - current	2,001	1,762
Provision - non current	24	19
	<b>2,025</b>	<b>1,781</b>

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

15. CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Accumulated Funds		Asset Revaluation		Total Equity	
	2009 \$000	2008 \$000	2009 \$000	2008 \$000	2009 \$000	2008 \$000
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	149,433	150,131	122,880	122,997	272,313	273,128
Changes in accounting policy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Correction of errors	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restated opening balance	149,433	150,131	122,880	122,997	272,313	273,128
Changes in equity-transactions with owners as owners	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	149,433	150,131	122,880	122,997	272,313	273,128
Changes in equity-other than transactions with owners as owners	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	(797)	(815)	0	0	(797)	(815)
Increment / (decrement) on revaluation of:						
Collections	0	0	7,127	0	7,127	0
Total	(797)	(815)	7,127	0	6,330	(815)
<b>Transfers within equity</b>						
Asset revaluation reserve balance transferred to accumulated funds on disposal of assets.	19	117	(19)	(117)	0	0
<b>Balance at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>148,655</b>	<b>149,433</b>	<b>129,988</b>	<b>122,880</b>	<b>278,643</b>	<b>272,313</b>

**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', as discussed in Note 1.

Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements  
for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2009

**16. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE**

<b>(a) Capital Commitments</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>	<b>2008 \$'000</b>
Aggregate capital expenditure for the acquisition of goods contracted for at balance date and not provided for:		
– Not later than one year	775	0
<b>Total (including GST)</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>(b) Operating Lease Commitments</b>	<b>2009 \$'000</b>	<b>2008 \$'000</b>
Future non-cancellable operating lease rentals not provided for and payable:		
– Not later than one year	200	179
– Later than one year, and not later than five years	185	178
– Later than five years	0	0
<b>Total (including GST)</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>357</b>

The total commitments above includes input tax credits of \$105,460 (2007-2008 \$32,526) that are expected to be recoverable from the ATO.

**17. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS**

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

**18. BUDGET REVIEW**

**Net cost of services**

The Net Cost of Services of \$21.5 million is \$0.3 million less than the budget of \$21.8 million. This is mainly due to the receipt in June of \$0.7 million from National Parks and Wildlife for the development of the World Heritage Exhibition Centre at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden in 2009/10, and Depreciation expense exceeding budget by \$0.5 million.

**Assets and liabilities**

Total Assets is \$5.0 million higher than budget generally as a result of the revaluation of the Statutes and Monuments Collection assets an increase of \$7.1 million and a reduction of cash balance of \$2.4 million.

**Cash flows**

Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities is \$1.5 million lower than budget. This is due to a general increase in other operating expenses of \$9.4 million funded by an increase in receipts of \$7.9 million.

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

	<b>2009 \$'000</b>	<b>2008 \$'000</b>
Net cash used on operating activities	1,876	6,702
Cash Flows from Government / Appropriations	(20,740)	(21,476)
Depreciation	(4,923)	(4,390)
Allowance for impairment	62	(18)
Decrease / (increase) in provisions	(244)	(20)
Increase / (decrease) in receivables and other assets	57	109
Decrease / (increase) in creditors	2,229	(2,521)
Decrease / (increase) in income received in advance	353	(359)
Increase / (decrease) in inventory	(67)	(34)
Net gain / (loss) on sale of plant and equipment	(140)	(284)
<b>Net cost of services</b>	<b>(21,537)</b>	<b>(22,291)</b>



## Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2009

### 20. 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 Risk Management Committee on a continuous basis.

#### (a) Financial instrument categories

Financial Assets	Note	Category	Carrying Amount 2009	Carrying Amount 2008
<b>Class:</b>				
Cash and cash equivalent	7	N/A	3,447	5,687
Receivables (1.)	8	Receivables (at amortised cost)	498	392
Financial Liabilities	Note	Category	Carrying Amount 2009	Carrying Amount 2008
<b>Class:</b>				
Payables (2.)	12	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	1,378	3,607
Borrowings	13	Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	24	54

#### 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.

## Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2009

### 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.

	2009 Carrying Amount \$000	2009 Net Fair Value \$000	2008 Carrying Amount \$000	2008 Net Fair Value \$000
At call	2,491	2,491	4,624	4,624
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	2,491	2,491	4,624	4,624

The deposits at balance date were earning an average interest rate of 2.95%, while over the year the weighted average interest rate was 4.74%.

### (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
2009 NSW Treasury advance	5.445%	24	5.445%	24	0	0
2008 NSW Treasury advance	5.445%	54	5.445%	30	24	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.

## Notes accompanying and forming part of the Financial Statements for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2009

### (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 2008. 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.

Carrying Amount		\$000		\$000	
		-1%		+1%	
		Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
<b>2009 Financial Assets</b>					
Cash	2,491	(25)	(25)	25	25
<b>2008 Financial Assets</b>					
Cash	4,624	(46)	(46)	46	46

### 21. 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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