

Nominator.....Judy Milner..... Secoded.....Lyn Winn.....

With no other nominations – Mandy Scott was declared elected Vice President. Congratulations Mandy

3. Secretary

Nominee.....Judy Milner.....

Nominator.....Jan Bobin..... Secoded.....Mandy Scott.....

With no other nominations – Judy Milner was declared elected Secretary. Congratulations Judy

4. Assistant Secretary

Nominee Helen Musk

Nominator: Pam Sheean Secoded: Mandy Scott

With no other nominations, Helen Musk was declared Assistant Secretary – Congratulations Helen

5.. Treasurer

Nominee.....Jan Bobin.....

Nominator.....Pam Sheean..... Secoded Judy Lee.....

With no other nominations, Jan Bobin was declared Treasurer – Congratulations Jan

New president Pam Sheean took the chair and calls for nominations for committee members for the Next twelve months

1....Lyn Winn.....

Nominated.....Lorraine Castles.....Secoded.....Helen Musk.....

2.....Joy Clusker.....

Nominated.....Helen Musk..... Secoded.....Jane Cleary.....

3.....Sarah White.....

Nominated.....Mandy Scott..... Secoded.....Helen Musk.....

4.....Anne Aston.....

Nominated.....Kirstie Patterson.....Secoded.....Jane Cleary.....

5.....Debbie Spencer-Jones.....

Nominated.....Judy Milner..... Secoded.....Helen Musk.....

6.....Lindy Sloan.....

Nominated.....Pam Sheean..... Secoded.....Jan Bobin.....

7. Judy Lee

Nominated Lorraine Castles Secoded: Jan Bobin

That the committee for 2024-2025 be accepted

Moved.....Judy Lee.....Secoded.....Margaret Kane..... Carried

General Business: Pam advised the meeting of the changing regulations from the ATO. As a Not for Profit (NFP) organisation, we have an annual reporting requirement to notify the ATO of our eligibility for an income tax exemption, by lodging an annual NFP self-review return. The committee is asking our auditor to assist and advise us.

Alternatively, as other organisations have done, we could register as a Charity which would require an amendment to our Statement of Purpose before a special AGM.

Some research is being done by the committee so that the return can be completed before 31st March 2025.

Meeting closed at...2:45 p.m.....

The group then enjoyed our guest speaker Anne Aston, Member and Convenor of Tour Guides Group. Followed by afternoon tea.

Attach: Reports

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD 1/7/2023 TO 30/06/2024

Opening Balance		\$ 22,826.68
Income :		
Plant Sales	\$ 10,684.40	
Membership	\$ 850.00	
Illustrators - Paper, Art Sales	\$ 943.50	
Guided Walks	\$ 148.50	
Donations & Grants	\$ 2,115.00	
	\$ 14,741.40	
Expenses:		
Plants/Tools/Materials/Defibrillator purch	\$ 6,128.11	
Admin: Printing, Memberships, Insurance, Website	\$ 2,194.25	
Admin : Bank Charges (Tyro Fees)	\$ 119.18	
Botanical Illustrators - reimbursement sales	\$ 818.00	
Admin: Dovyallis expenses	\$ 202.95	
	\$ 9,462.49	
Closing Balance		\$ 28,105.59
Transfer to Term Deposit	\$ 10,000.00	
Closing Balance at Bank working account		\$ 18,105.59
Term Deposit Account No.1 Opening Balance		\$ 10,069.62
Interest received	\$ 481.43	
Term Deposit Account No.1 Balance		\$ 10,551.05
Term Deposit Account No.2 Balance		\$ 10,000.00
Total Balance at Bank		\$ 38,656.64
CASH ON HAND @ 30/06/2024 Float & Sales		\$ 193.60

Presidents Report 2023-2024

It is with pleasure that I present the President's report for the Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens Inc. from July 2023 to June 2024.

Overview

The Growing Friends have continued their successful propagation program, contributing many plants to the ever-flourishing sales on Saturdays and Tuesdays.

The Gardening Friends have worked tirelessly to assist Garden staff with the never-ending tasks of weeding, pruning and mulching to ensure the gardens look their best.

The Illustrators have continued to produce beautiful work and support and mentor new members.

The Garden Guides have totally revitalised and reorganised themselves, with an enthusiastic team now in place; busy learning from present members and expanding their garden knowledge for the benefit of visitors and locals alike.

In addition, we enjoyed a lovely day out at Gargarro Botanic Gardens at Girgarre and participated in The Australian Plant Society, Bendigo flower show and the Bendigo Sustainability Festival.

After the grand opening of Omari Café in August 2023, we experienced some disastrous news on 18th February 2024, with a catastrophic fire at Larni Garingilang. Due to an electrical fault, fire destroyed the Omari Function Centre with additional damage to the restaurant ceiling, consequently closing the precinct down.

We were also disappointed to learn that after all our hard work in preparing a Scope Development for the refurbishment of The Samuel Gadd Centre that it was ultimately unsuccessful.

The Committee

President: Pam Sheean

Vice President: Annie Clark

Secretary: Judy Milner / Helen Musk

Treasurer: Jan Bobin

Minutes Secretary: Jan Bobin

Growing Friends Nursery: Judy Milner

Growing Friends Garden workers: Mandy Scott

Guided Walks Co-ordinator: Anne Aston

Dovyalis editor: Judy Milner

Membership officer: Annie Clark

Social Media: Joy Clusker

Web page: Pam Sheean

Other Committee Members: Lindy Sloan, Lyn Winn, Deb Degenhardt and City of Greater Bendigo representative, Kirstie Paterson.

Committee meetings were held in July, August, October, November 2023, and February, April and May 2024.

Thanks to Helen Musk for stepping up to assist Judy with the secretaries' duties. She has taken over the computer work of checking emails and managing the correspondence.

Thanks also to Lindy Sloan for completing the role descriptions for the committee, covering Office Bearers, the Dovyalis Editor, the Guided Walks, Growing Friends, Gardening Friends and Illustrators Co-ordinators.

Promotional signage including a new A-Frame, a pull-up sign and a tear drop banner were designed and approved for order from Signarama. These have proved to be a great addition for promotional and publicity purposes.

The first Scope Development Project Meeting for the redevelopment of the Samuel Gadd Centre was held in August. A subcommittee of Friends and Council staff led by Anna Savage met several times before a formal Project Proposal was submitted to Council for the 2024-25 Capital Budget. The submission was included in the City of Greater Bendigo formal budget project prioritisation process which was reviewed through March to May 2024. Much time, thought and effort was put into the process from the Friends, while I gave a presentation to council in November, supporting the proposal and plans. We were very disappointed when we learnt this was not deemed a priority by council, so will not go ahead. Thanks to Judy, Jan, Kirstie, Anna and staff for their time and expertise in preparing the proposal. The Committee will now need to discuss and consider our next appropriate course of action to be able to achieve an acceptable and satisfactory outcome for all involved.

Many thanks to all the current Committee for their work throughout the year.

Membership

During the year 17 new members joined our group. The membership as of June 30 was 86.

Growing Friends and Gardening Friends

Nursery organiser Judy Milner, and Garden Group organiser, Mandy Scott were assisted by a core of regular hard-working members who continued to propagate beautiful plants for sale and weed, prune and mulch to ensure the gardens look their best. New shelving was constructed on the wall of the garage for pot storage and documentation of growing procedures were produced. Thanks to Lindy for her ongoing help in organising plant labels and keeping everything tidy. All the hours contributed by the Growing and Gardening Friends is much appreciated.

Organised visits to members private gardens were an added pleasure with the gardens much enjoyed by all who attended.

Illustrators group

Several workshops were held during the year: 28 October 2023 on composition, tutor Pam McDiarmid and an in- house workshop lead by Annie Clark on watercolour washes in August. Unfortunately, the planned exhibition at Larni Garingilang in March/April 2024 was not able to go ahead.

Several works were prepared for the APS Bendigo Flower Show, in September, where the Illustrators exhibited unframed works and gift cards were available for sale.

The Illustrators are now working towards our 25th anniversary exhibition to be held in October 2025.

Guided Walks

Anne Aston, initially with assistance from Kirstie Paterson, ran a successful induction program to train new garden guides. There were 5 sessions completed over a period of several weeks. In April the tours resulted in a great front page in the Bendigo Advertiser and accompanying article on 6th April. The guides group continued regular guided walks each Saturday commencing at 10.30am from the Samuel Gadd Centre. Throughout the winter months this proved to be unsuccessful as the cold weather kept visitors away. In the future, the Guides plan to run regular walks in Spring & Autumn and encourage bookings from interested groups.

Many tours occurred in the Gardens, including: - Passions & Pathways with Kangaroo Flat students; The Mad Hatters, the RBGV education Day, Malmsbury Gardens Friends, Nature Journalling workshops and the Wedderburn Garden Club. Many thanks to Kirstie and all the guides for a stellar effort.

Events

On September 23 & 24th 2023, a promotional stall was set up at the Australian Plant Society, Bendigo Flower Show.

The stall aimed demonstrate what the Friends do, encourage people to support the Botanic Gardens and exhibit art works. We were able to display our new promotional signage to great advantage. On March 17th 2024, a joint Promotional stall with Garden staff at The Bendigo Sustainability Festival was organised.

The Friends, in conjunction with Kirstie and Garden staff set up a marquee with trolleys of plants, FBBG illustrators gift cards, information brochures and membership forms available. There were also two of the Gardens battery powered vehicles on display with staff available to provide information.

Excursions

We had one excursion this year, organised by Annie Clark.

On Wednesday 10th April a group of 25 members and friends had a very enjoyable day travelling to Gargarro Botanic Gardens in Girgarre, Shire of Campaspe. The gardens were officially opened in May 2023 and reflect the dry landscapes of the region, celebrating native flora and precious water resources with a multi-sensory design theme. Thanks, Annie, for organising a great day out.

Dovyalis

Dovyalis continues to be a credit to our editor, Judy Milner and contributors and proof readers. Some of the great articles included were, the Introduction to plant identification by Anne Bridley; Mount Stewart Garden, Northern Ireland by Anne Aston and My Moss House by Peter Fountain. Dovyalis is enjoyed by many and showcases the activities and knowledge of the Friends. Thanks to Judy for all the hard work involved, it is much appreciated.

Grants and Donations

There was a successful application in April 2023 for \$2,000 to fund the purchase of a defibrillator. Council covered the installation and will manage ongoing maintenance. Thanks to Judy for completing the grant submission.

Bendigo Botanic Gardens Staff

Kirstie and her team have continued to work hard.

We thank them for providing a much-appreciated community space for enjoyment and relaxation and for continuing to look after the valuable trees and plants in the gardens.

The increase in major events has been a challenge for the team to continue to maintain the gardens and manage the impact of large numbers of people.

Work on the damaged Omari Café and function centre also presented a challenge as plants were often destroyed in the process of repairing the buildings.

The aviary was removed and a new garden created with assistance from The Friends nursery with many propagated native plants provided.

I would like to thank our wonderful group of volunteers who continue to raise the profile of The Friends, grow membership, advertise activities, and most importantly, inform, educate and promote the Gardens to the broader community. We look forward to celebrating our 25th anniversary next year.

President
Pam Sheean
5/10/2024