

# Dovyalis

Friends of Bendigo Botanic  
Gardens Inc. Newsletter

Issue 21 Autumn 2025



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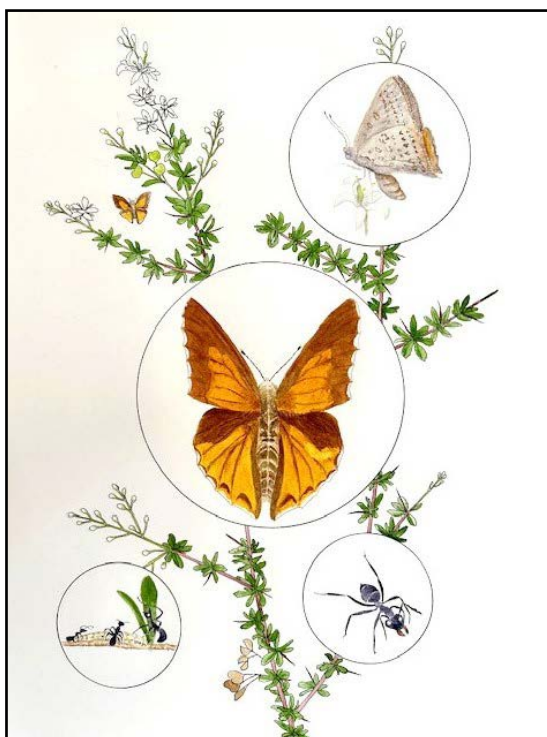
This newsletter is named after  
Dovyalis caffra,  
the South African Kei Apple Tree  
which is a heritage listed tree  
in the Bendigo Botanic Gardens



## FBBG Illustrators 2025 Art Exhibition 'Re-Emergence'

was held at the old Court House Eaglehawk  
on the 1st & 2nd May 2025

The FBBG Illustrators have been a key part of the Friends Group since 2005. They currently meet to work on their illustrations each Wednesday and Saturday between 9.30am and 3pm at the Samuel Gadd Centre in the gardens. Workshops with visiting tutors and gallery visits are also part of their activities. New members are welcome and given a guiding hand with various techniques including watercolour.



For many years botanical illustration was the main focus. Botanical drawings help identify and understand plants in a timeless and visually appealing manner.

In more recent times the topics have expanded to include many other natural history subjects, including birds, butterflies, insects, shells and fish.

Participants have shown great progress and are producing wonderful art work.

Several exhibitions have been held over the years but this is the first major one since the disruption of Covid.

This exhibition signified a "Re-emergence"; not only of artistic vision but also the enduring cycle of nature .



## RE-EMERGENCE ART EXHIBITION - 2025

Pam Sheean - President FBBG

### THE FRIENDS OF BENDIGO BOTANIC GARDENS ILLUSTRATORS EXHIBIT THEIR WORK



*Pam Sheean at the opening.*



The illustrators held a very successful exhibition of their work at The Old Courthouse in Eaglehawk on the 1st-2nd March 2025. A well-attended opening on Friday evening 28th February saw Pam Sheean, President of the Friends and one of the exhibiting artists, give a welcome speech and introduction to past Mayor Peter Cox, who officially opened the exhibition. He praised the Friends and generously commented on the professional standard of the exhibition and the great variety of works on display. A number of sales occurred that evening as guests enjoyed the wine and nibbles whilst studying the array of artwork including botanicals, both exotic and native, birds, butterflies, shells, insects and fish. These works had not been previously exhibited in Bendigo and most had been completed in the last 3 years.



Exhibiting artists included Annie Clark, Joy Clusker, Dianne Davis, Pam Gaulke, Don Leversha, Judie O'Donnell, Rod and Greg Orr, Pam Sheean, Joan Sullivan, Carlene Tyler and Emily Unt Wan. This was the first exhibition for several of our more recent artists.

## RE-EMERGENCE ART EXHIBITION - 2025

continued



We had over 270 people visit the exhibition over the weekend, with 12 art works sold as well as many gift cards.

Special thanks to Greg and Rod Orr and Don Leversha for spending all one day hanging our works and also to all the Friends Illustrators team who assisted beforehand and completed roster duty over the weekend.



## Ornamental Pears in the Garden for the Future

Anne Bridley - FBBG member

There are several species and a number of cultivars of ornamental pears (*Pyrus* spp.) available in Australia. Ornamental pears have become a popular street and garden tree in Bendigo, as they are hardy in our climate, tolerate our soils and give dappled shade. They also have a fine display of single, white flowers in late winter and early spring and colourful autumn foliage of reds, oranges and purples.

The somewhat ill-smelling flowers attract flies, including hoverflies, as well as honey bees as pollinators.

The Garden for the Future contains *Pyrus calleryana* 'Aristocrat' and 'Chanticleer' which have been standing up very well to the current hot and mostly dry weather. *P. calleryana* originally came from East Asia. It grows to over 10m tall, the width depending on the cultivar. Some cultivars are comparatively narrow (about 4m), making them more suitable for smaller gardens.

The ornamental pear (species unknown) in my garden has an interesting leaning form and has grown into a spreading tree. Mine is also prone to suckering.

Its small round hard fruits are popular with parrots such as Eastern Rosellas. I have found that by waiting until they are golden brown on the tree, the larger fruits can be ripened inside until they are soft and black and provide a tart nibble. Don't eat the seeds though; they contain cyanide precursors, as do seeds of domesticated pears and apples.



*Pyrus calleryana* 'Aristocrat'

Fruit



*Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer'

Further reading:

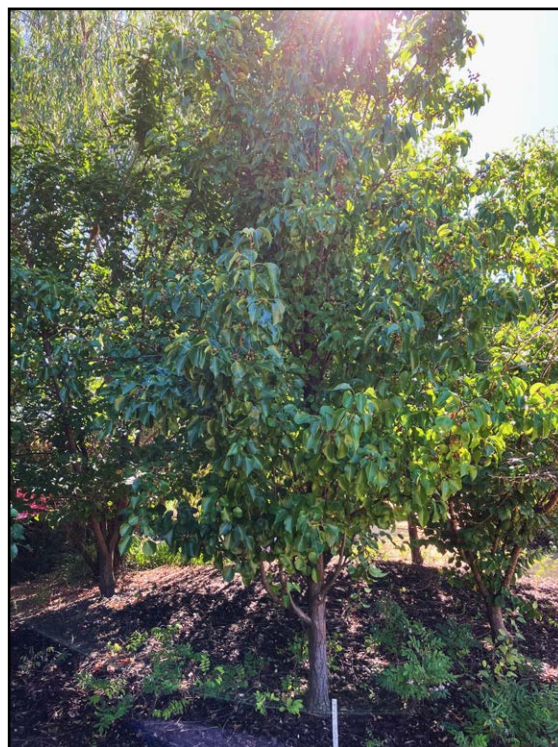
<https://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au/living-collections/forests-and-trees/forest-87>

<https://plantselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/Plants/Details/17931>

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/ornamental-pears/13881548>



*Pyrus calleryana* 'Aristocrat'



*Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer'

## Sustainability Festival - 2025 - Run by Bendigo Sustainability Group.

Judy Milner - FBBG Secretary

**Bendigo Sustainability Festival** was held on Sunday 30th March in The Garden for the Future area of the Gardens with the aim to empower and inspire positive sustainable action in our community.

It has become a regular event each year in Bendigo. The theme this year was (in Djaara) GART GART MARNA 'Many Hands', inspired by the famous quote: "We were born with two hands, one to help ourselves and one to help others."

It was a very busy day in the gardens with large numbers of attendees.

This year's festival included talks, stalls, information on living more sustainably, a wash against waste trailer, an EV Expo, acts, singers, artists, performers on the main stage, a sustainable fashion show, clothes swap, and repair cafe.

The Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens had a stall (shaded with our new canopy), providing information about the various activities we are involved in.

There was a trolley full of plants for sale from our nursery, cards by the Illustrators, booklets re the history of the gardens as well as information about becoming a member or a guide.

We sincerely thank member volunteers who helped set up and run the stall during the day. The day was warm and sunny although a little windy.



*FBBG stall at the Sustainability Festival*



*Tree planting of 'Poetree' by Kirstie Paterson (team leader BBG staff.) during the Festival.*



## BGANZ-Victoria Network Meeting

Kirstie Paterson - Team Leader BBG

**On February 26 BGANZ Vic held a network meeting at Royal Botanic Gardens -Melbourne. The topic was the ‘Growing Victorias Botanic Gardens Grant’ (GVBG) and what was achieved by the recipients. The Grant funding totalled \$3.9 Million which covered 42 projects across 29 gardens across Victoria.**

The day started on the Eastern lawn with a Welcome to Country by Wirundjeri Woi Wurrung elder Uncle Bill Nicholson. This was followed by an address from the Hon Steve Dimopoulos, Minister for Environment, Tourism, Sport, Major Events and Outdoor Recreation, who was really engaged and genuinely impressed by the work done with the grant funding.

The network meeting then moved to Domain House where the presentations began. Ten of the recipient gardens presented on their projects, discussing the total project funding and how the GVBG grant prompted reciprocal funding to get the much-needed Garden upgrades.

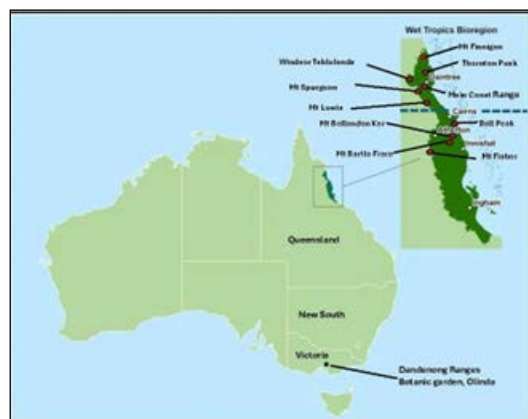
Please see below the highlights of the presentations.

### Project Highlights

#### Australian Cloud Forest Collection

Andrew Rouse – President of the Australian Rhododendron Society Victoria, discussed the Australian Cloud Forest Collection project at the **Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden**. Round 1 Funding constructed the Cloud Forest Collection Garden and Round 2 supplied and installed the irrigation system. The project, funded by multiple grants, aims to conserve and showcase endemic plant species from Queensland tropical mountain regions.

Funding: GVBG Round 1: \$120,000; GVBG Round 2: \$150,000; Australian Rhododendron Society: \$180,000; Ian Potter Foundation: \$20,000



*Where plants were sourced from*

#### Grampians/Gariwerd Endemic Botanic Garden

Jill Burness, a member of the WAMA (Wildlife Art Museum of Australia) presented the **Grampians/Gariwerd Endemic Botanic Garden**, a project initiated to protect and showcase plants endemic to the Grampians region. The garden highlights the region’s biodiversity and addresses challenges posed by climate change and wildfires. Construction of stage 1: Sub-Alpine Garden and irrigation installation was achieved.

Funding: GVBG: \$48,000; WAMA: \$72,000; Donations: \$17,500; Total: \$137,500.



*Stage 1 construction from L-R to 2nd Circle*

## BGANZ-Victoria Network Meeting continued

Kirstie Paterson - Team Leader BBG

### Gargarro Regional Botanic Garden (Girgarre, Victoria)

Athol (Doc) McDonald – Convenor of Gargarro Botanic Garden shared the development of the Gargarro Regional Botanic Garden, emphasizing the importance of the GVBG grant in building momentum and credibility for the project. Stage 1 of the garden and the café were constructed.

Funding: GVBG: \$200,000; BBRF: \$400,000; RIF & MDBEDP: Additional funding.



*Gargarro Regional Botanic Garden*

### Bendigo Botanic Gardens

I discussed the **Larni Garingilang precinct** which aims to provide a space for Indigenous events, educational experiences, and the celebration of Indigenous culture. The design incorporates the concept of “Upside Down Country,” reflecting the environmental degradation of the Gold Rush era and addressing historical impacts on the land. The Dja Dja Wurrung community’s involvement ensures that their stories and ecological knowledge are integral to the project, fostering cultural awareness and a deeper connection between people and place.

Funding: GVBG Round 1: \$255,000; GVBG Round 2: \$200,475; Victorian Government: \$3.75M; Australian Government: \$1.75M; DELWP: \$250,000; City of Greater Bendigo: \$1M; Friends of the Bendigo Botanic Gardens: \$10,000



### Melton Botanic Gardens

John Bentley- President of the Melton Friends, highlighted two projects at the Melton Botanic Gardens: The Solar Lighting Project and the Nature Play Space. These initiatives enhance the garden’s accessibility and provide engaging spaces for visitors.

Funding: Solar Lighting Project: \$35,000 (GVBG), \$35,000 (Council), \$5,000 (in-kind); Nature Play Space: \$117,000; (GVBG) \$100,000; (Council), \$72,000 (in-kind)

## BGANZ-Victoria Network Meeting continued

### Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum

Janet O’Hehir- Secretary and honorary curator, presented the rejuvenation of the Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum, focusing on improving amenities and reopening areas for public use.

Funding:

GVBG Round 2: \$83,000; Corangamite Shire Council: \$14,000; Additional Council investment: \$50,000; State grant: \$50,000.



### Williamstown Botanic Gardens

Loraine Callow- Program Development Officer discussed the Plant Labelling Project at the Williamstown Botanic Gardens, which enhances visitor understanding and appreciation of the gardens.

Funding: GVBG: \$50,000

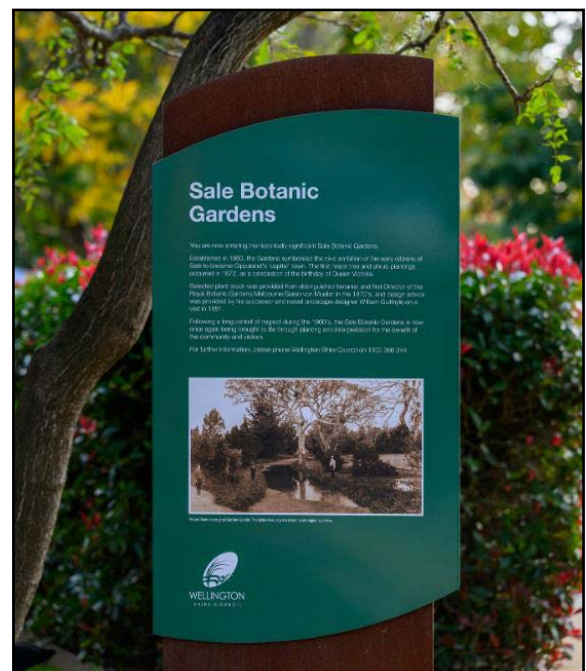
### Sale Botanic Gardens

Liam Cole -Open Space Planning Officer, highlighted the Visitor Enhancement Project at the Sale Botanic Gardens, including the construction of shelters and the Maple Pavilion, as well as the rejuvenation of Sensory Garden Living Collection.

Funding:

Visitor Enhancement Project: \$183,294.10 (Total), \$99,440 (GVBG), \$83,854.10 (Council)

Sensory Garden Living Collection: \$150,200 (Total), \$130,200 (GVBG), \$20,000 (Council)



the



## BGANZ-Victoria Network Meeting continued

### Euroa Arboretum

Cathy Olive presented the Daanak (Coolamon) Walking Trail and the Climate Ready Garden and Welcome Circle at the Euroa Arboretum. These projects highlight indigenous plants and provide culturally sensitive spaces for workshops and community engagement.

Funding:

Daanak Walking Trail: \$45,000 (GVBG)

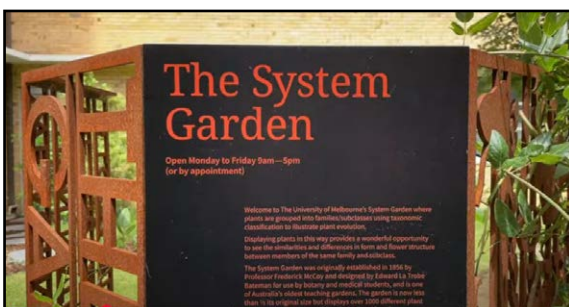
Climate Ready Garden and Welcome Circle: \$135,000 (GVBG)



### System Garden, University of Melbourne

Virginia McNally- Curator of the System Garden, discussed the masterplan development and interpretive signage project at the System Garden, University of Melbourne. The project aims to enhance the garden's educational and interpretive value.

Funding: GVBG Round 1: \$99,082; GVBG Round 2: \$67,515; University of Melbourne: \$54,000



Overall, it was an amazing day, highlighting what can be achieved when funding is available. Let us hope that the positive outcomes of the Growing Victoria's Botanic Gardens Grant scheme might prompt future funding initiatives by the Government...

## CHIHULY GARDEN CYCLE EXHIBITION in Adelaide Botanic Gardens

Simone Carmody (FBBG committee member)

Adelaide BG showcases Spectacular Glass Art. Sept 2024 - April 2025

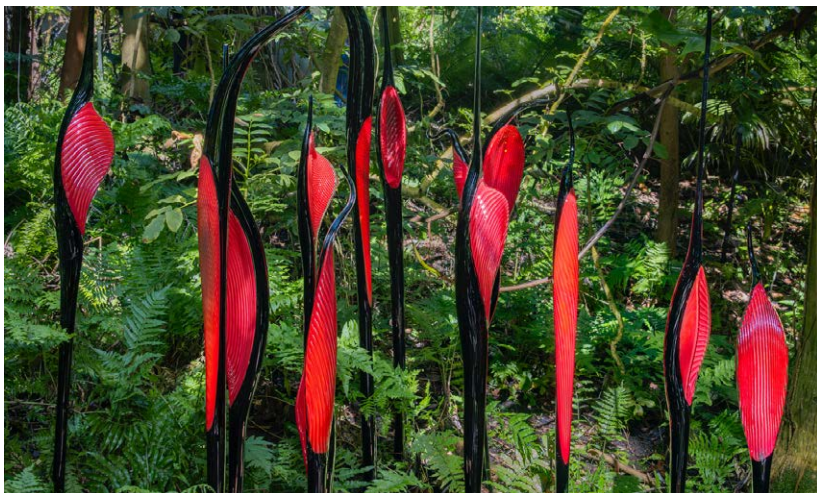
*In March 2025 Simone visited Adelaide Botanic Gardens to experience the spectacular glass art created by Seattle based American Glass Artist Dale Chihuly. He is the worlds most celebrated contemporary glass artist and has chosen the Adelaide Botanic Gardens for the first major outdoor exhibition of his work in Australia and the wider southern hemisphere. Chihuly started placing installations in conservatories and gardens in 2001, beginning what has become known as his "Garden Cycle" Ed*

The Dale Chihuly glass exhibition at Adelaide Botanic Garden is an experience that changes with the time of day. I visited both during the day and after dark, and each visit felt like a completely different encounter with the art.



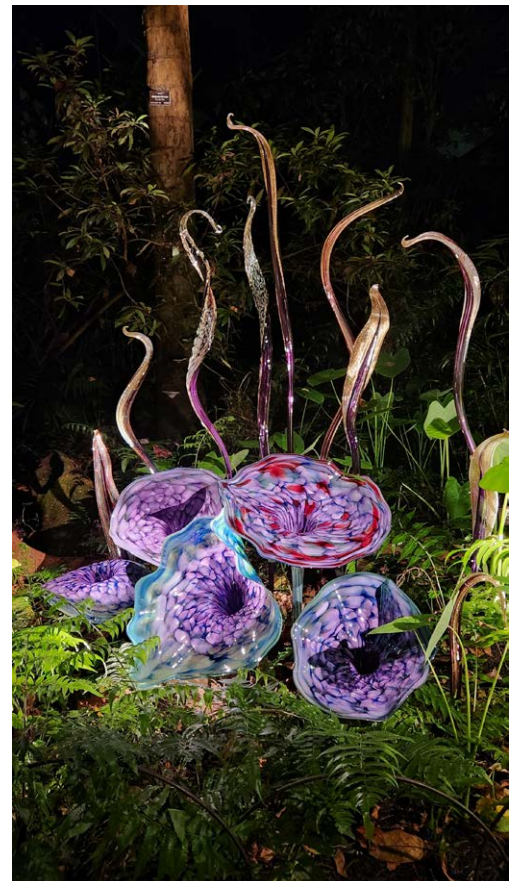
*Fiori Boat*

Two new site-responsive works were created specifically for Adelaide: *Glacier Ice* and *Lapis Chandelier*, located in the Palm House, and *Jet and Crimson Fiori*, displayed in the Bicentennial Conservatory. The latter was inspired by South Australia's iconic Sturt's desert pea and made using a new glass-stamping technique to create distinct textures.



*Jet and Crimson Fiori Detail*

By day, the fifteen large-scale works stood out against the lush greenery. The combination of glass and nature was striking, with carefully designed planting schemes featuring native Australian plants enhancing each piece. The horticultural team at the garden played a crucial role in this exhibition, designing entirely new landscapes to complement the sculptures. Their thoughtful selection of plants added texture, movement, and colour that responded to the glass works seamlessly.



*In Full Colour exihb. piece -3*

## CHIHULY GARDEN CYCLE EXHIBITION

continued

'*Glacier Ice and Lapis Chandelier*' was crafted by Chihuly and his team to complement the Palm House's heritage architecture and vibrant blue tones. As a lasting legacy of the exhibition this chandelier will remain in the garden permanently, thanks to the generosity of Dr Pamela Wall OAM.

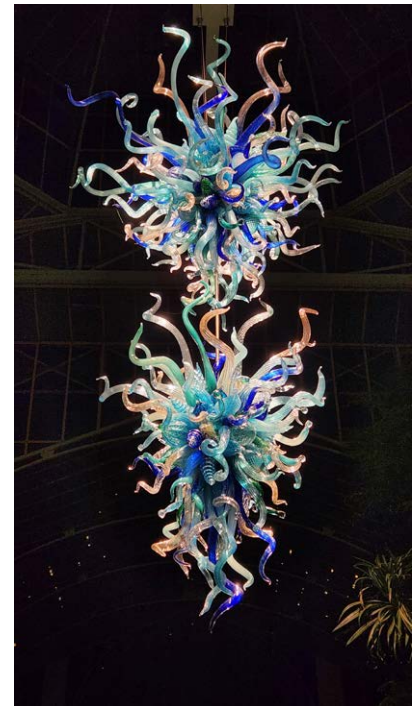
Chihuly himself remarked: "Adelaide Botanic Garden offers so many rich colours and textures – the ideal environment for the placement of my work."



*Ethereal Spring Persians*



*Lime and Lava Red Tower*



*Glacier Ice and Lapis Chandelier*



*Vivid Lime Icicle Tower*

Adelaide is only the third city outside the United States to host a Chihuly Garden Cycle exhibition, making this a rare opportunity to experience such an amazing exhibition. Whether seen by day or by night, it's an experience that continues to change, ensuring no two visits are ever the same but always spectacular.



*In Full Colour exhib. piece - 1*



*Sapphire Starday*

## What's On -

### **The Friends' Committee Meetings - all members are welcome to attend.**

Currently held at the Samuel Gadd Centre - 11.30am on 3rd Tuesday of alternate months (except January) and at other times as required.

**The Annual General Meeting** is generally held in August or September.

### **Growing Friends**

Growing Friends meet at the FBBG nursery (behind the Samuel Gadd Centre) each Tuesday from 9.30am - 11.30am. New members are always welcome. Sign in required.

Activities include

- \* Assisting the BBG staff in the gardens.
- \* Propagating plants for the gardens and for sale.
- \* Maintaining the plant nursery.
- \* **Plant Sales** - Supervising plant sales on Saturday and Tuesday mornings between 10am and 12 midday.

### **Botanical Illustration Group**

Meet Saturdays 9:30am – 3.00pm & Wednesdays 9:30am – 3.00pm at the BBG Samuel Gadd Centre. New members including beginners are always welcome.

### **Guiding Group**

Guides run guided walks most Saturdays commencing 10.30am and other times by arrangement.

New guides are always welcome and training is provided.

Date 2025	What	Details
May 10th	Illumin8 Festival of Light & Peace 4.00pm - 8.00pm	The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion 25 Sandhurst Town Road, Myers Flat
May 19th-25th	Botanic Gardens Week -	Saturday - Guided Walks, Plant sales, Illustrators at work
September 16th	FBBG AGM 2pm	Samuel Gadd Centre. BBG
September 27th-28th	Native Plant Flower Show 9.30-4pm	Victory Christian College 6 Kairn Rd., Strathdale, VIC <a href="mailto:bendigo@apsvic.org.au">bendigo@apsvic.org.au</a> .
October 4th-19th	FBBG 25th Anniversary Celebrations Workshop, exhibitions etc	BBG and Dudley House. Further activities TBA



*Garden for the Future - March 2025*

### Dovyalis is published by the Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens

71 Napoleon Cres. Bendigo 3550

Email: [info@friendsbgobg.org.au](mailto:info@friendsbgobg.org.au)

Website: <https://friendsbgobg.org.au>

President: Pam Sheean Vice President: Mandy Scott  
Secretary: Judy Milner Assistant Secretary: Helen Musk  
Treasurer: Jan Bobin

Committee Members: Anne Aston, Simone Carmody Joy Clusker,  
Judy Lee, Lindy Sloan, Sarah White and Lyn Winn.

Newsletter Editor: Judy Milner