



Annual Report

2021-2022



Royal
Botanic
Gardens
Victoria



Acknowledgement of traditional owners

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria acknowledges the many Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia. We honour their custodianship, knowledge of, and connection with plants, land, water and sky. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and Elders past and present.

Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners	ii	Our People	90
Chairperson and Director and Chief Executive foreword	2	Public sector values and employment principles	91
About us	4	Executive Officer Data	93
Our Vision	5	Workforce Inclusion Policy & Equal opportunities	94
Our Mission	5	Occupational Health and Safety	94
Our Charter	6	Other Disclosures	100
Our organisation	9	Consultancy expenditure	101
Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne	10	Local Jobs First – Victorian Industry Participation Policy statement	102
Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne	11	Attestation for financial management compliance with Standing Direction 5.1.4	103
Scientific Research	12	Establishing Legislation	104
Governance	13	Financial Management Act 1994	104
Board Members 2021–22	14	Freedom of Information	104
Board Committees	15	Competitive neutrality policy	104
Executive Team	16	Compliance with the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012	104
Organisational Structure and key functional areas	17	Compliance with other Legislation	104
Our Performance	18	Office based environmental impacts	106
Visitation	19	Compliance with the Building Act 1993	109
State Botanical Collection	19	Maintenance works	109
Performance Measures (Annual Business Plan)	19	Permits and Emergency and Building Orders	109
Major Capital Projects	25	Conformity	110
Financial Overview	42	Disclosure Index	112
Revenue Generation and Budgetary Objectives	43		
Income from Government	43		
Financial results for 2021–22	44		
Comparison of Financial Performance and Position	44		
Financial Statements	46		
Statement of Financial Position	49		
Statement of Comprehensive Income (Profit and Losses)	50		
Statement of Cash Flows	52		
Statement of Changes in equity	53		
Notes to Financial Statements	54		

Chairperson and Director and Chief Executive's Foreword

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, the Board is pleased to present the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Annual Report for 2021–22.

On behalf of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV), we thank our many donors and supporters, as well as the Victorian Government, particularly The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Action, and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The members of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board and Foundation Board, and the RBGV Executive Team, are thanked for their dedication and contributions throughout the year, as are office bearers and members of the Cranbourne and Melbourne Friends. Thank you too to the dedicated staff, volunteers and associates at RBGV, who have shown resilience and positivity as we navigated through the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Victoria emerged from the pandemic, its 'Gardens' were there to provide a safe place for families and friends to gather and celebrate. Behind the beautiful landscapes, RBGV was steadfastly protecting nature by safeguarding plants for the wellbeing of people and the planet. Awareness of the impact of RBGV continued to rise through major cultural events, national prizes and significant contributions to science, horticulture and learning.

The promotional highlight was winning *Best Major Attraction in Australia* at the 2021 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, the first Victorian win in two decades. RBGV was a finalist in these awards after winning for the second consecutive year, *Best Major Attraction* at the Victorian Tourism Industry Council Tourism Awards. RBGV was also listed as one of Tripadvisor's *Top 10% tourist attractions* in the world.

The spectacular 1.8 km light and sound trail, *Lightscape*, began its eventual sell-out season at Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. This highlight of Melbourne's winter events program promises to be even more exhilarating and enchanting on its return in 2023. Even in the lead up to this event, RBGV garnered unprecedented publicity and brand awareness through partnerships with Yarra Trams and Red Energy, and prominent city-wide marketing support from City of Melbourne and Tourism Australia.

Other valuable partnerships this year included our collaboration with Anther Distillery to create Florescence Gin, winning Bronze in the International Wine and Spirits Competition.

We achieved further brand awareness with international audiences, and promotion of our Aboriginal cultural activities, through hosting high-profile visitors on the Aboriginal Heritage Walk, one of the Gardens' most popular visitor activities. These included US Secretary

of State, Antony Blinken; professional tennis player, Barbara Schett; children's music group, *The Wiggles*; and the cast of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. We had regular visits and strong support at both sites by our Minister the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP. In addition, the Hon Harriet Shing MP and Pauline Richards MP launched the new Recycled Water Treatment Plant at RBG Cranbourne, providing 100% of irrigation water for the Australian Garden and plant nurseries.

A successful event with low-impact on the living landscapes and collections, but strong engagement locally and online, was *Seeing the Invisible*, an international collaboration between twelve botanic gardens. Hosted at both Cranbourne and Melbourne sites, this augmented reality exhibition included works from leading artists such as Refik Anadol and Ai WeiWei. With the addition of a phone and some imagination, our botanic garden became a gallery of world art.

This year saw RBGV publish two stunning new books. *Wonder*, commemorating 175 years of the Gardens, won three top awards in the Australian and National Print Awards and is now in a second reprint. *Of Friends and Gardens*, documenting the history of the Cranbourne Friends, has been warmly reviewed.



We expanded the range of self-guided botanic garden experiences including live-streamed Botanic Connect experiences direct from RBG Melbourne and RBG Cranbourne, reaching over 9,000 students. Following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, by February 2022, more than 25,000 participants returned to our suite of onsite learning programs including Wellbeing, First Peoples, STEM, Geography, Sustainability and Nature Play. Teacher professional development programs were also offered and RBGV was funded by the Department of Education and Training and Catholic Education Commission of Victoria to produce new biomimicry learning programs.

As part of its Bushfire Plant Rescue and Care program, RBGV added 41 new species to the Victorian Conservation Seedbank, with some propagated in nurseries as an additional precaution. The Seedbank now holds 817 (51%) of the 1,600 listed Victorian Rare or Threatened plant species and 98 (75%) of 130 species listed under the Federal Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*.

The Bushfire Conservation Genetics project supported the collection of 1,200 samples from 19 species. RBGV botanists also helped improve the conservation status of native orchids

in south-eastern Australia through propagation and reintroduction of numerous threatened species and resolving the identity of an orchid presumed extinct for 100 years. FungiMap, a citizen-science group founded by and still strongly supported by RBGV, was a finalist in the 2022 Eureka Prizes.

The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions Regional Tourism Investment Fund and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, provided funding of \$5.4 million to improve access and experiences for our visitors at Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, Victoria's leading family eco-tourism nature attraction. These projects, including sealing of car parks, improvements to facilities and new garden displays, are due for completion in December 2023.

In May, we welcomed the Victorian Government's announcement of \$4.82 million in funding to safeguard the priceless State Botanical Collection for the next three to five years. This funding provides recognition of our continued advocacy efforts towards securing a long-term solution for the protection and improved access to the botanical treasures held within the National Herbarium of Victoria. We look forward to building on our successes in 2022-23.

Chris Trotman
Chairperson
Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Tim Entwisle
Director and Chief Executive
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

About us





Our Vision

Life is sustained and enriched by plants.

Our vision is a flourishing community and healthy planet, sustained and enriched by plants. Through iconic landscapes, horticultural excellence, world-leading engagement programs and scientific eminence, we will make an enduring contribution to this vision. Plants, along with fungi and algae, are fundamental to life on Earth. They provide the air we breathe, the food we eat, many of the medicines that heal us, and habitat and shelter for our planet's wildlife. They give our lives meaning and inspiration. We prosper and our planet benefits when we understand, appreciate and protect plants for their life-giving qualities. The actions we all take should be based on our knowledge and respect for plants and the natural world.

Our Mission

Safeguarding plants for the wellbeing of people and the planet.

Our mission underscores our commitment to evidence-based social, scientific, educational and economic benefit for the state. In this way, we are an influencer, communicator, collaborator and catalyst for behavioural change, both within Victoria and beyond, through our extensive international networks.



Our Charter

Under the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991*, the objectives of our organisation are:

- To conserve, protect and improve the Botanic Gardens and managed land and their collections of living plants
- To conserve and enhance the State Botanical Collection and National Herbarium of Victoria
- To provide for the use of the State Botanical Collection or plants or plant specimens at the Botanic Gardens or managed land for scientific or reference purposes, consistent with accepted international practice
- To increase public knowledge and awareness of plants and plant communities
- To provide for the use of the Botanic Gardens for education, public enjoyment and tourism
- To provide for the carrying out of and contribution to research into biodiversity and the conservation of biodiversity.

Our organisational culture

Organisational culture arises from the shared beliefs, behavioural expectations and practices that govern how people approach their work and interact with each other. At Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, we're clear about the culture we wish to have, and this is reflected through our four **values**, which underpin the way we act and behave:

Creative – we are inventive and enthusiastic. Our curiosity allows us to find considered solutions to challenges. We use our resources wisely and draw upon our collective intelligence to answer questions. We have a joyful, positive and respectful approach that is expressed with a good sense of humour. Our inclusive and engaging style helps us to learn and share our knowledge in new and interesting ways.

Open – we make time to listen, learn and be clear. To help us achieve our vision we listen to each other and the community. We are friendly and respectful of different perspectives. We solve problems together because supporting and learning from each other results in better work. We share our knowledge because it helps people inside and outside our organisation to understand the importance of safeguarding plants for the wellbeing of people and the planet.

Brave – we have the courage to change things. We have the confidence to challenge established ways of thinking if it improves our collective understanding of plants. We embrace our responsibility to protect plants and biodiversity. We have the courage to try new things, and we help each other as we make these changes. We are positive, so we turn challenges into opportunities. We lead the way to inspire confidence and enthusiasm in others.

Remarkable – we leave a lasting impression. We create experiences and special places that help everyone to learn and see the world differently. Whether our actions are big or small, they inspire people to think and act. We seek out knowledge and apply our learning because we believe in the importance of plants and our planet. We do things that are different and exciting if they help us achieve our vision. We are proud of our past and passionate about our future.

Our organisational performance

We recognise that a great organisational culture is supported by a number of underlying elements, all of which influence how we perform as an organisation. These include:

- A clear strategy and goals so our people can immediately see and understand what Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is aiming to achieve.
- Appropriate planning frameworks and mechanisms that are inclusive of staff, ensuring our people influence and contribute to the future direction of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.
- Strong systems and processes to support our people to be their best.
- Empowering leadership skills and behaviours that engage and involve people.

Major awards and highlights



Gold win for *Best Major Attraction in Australia* at the 2021 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards



Gold win for *Best Major Attraction in Victoria* at the 2021 Victorian Tourism Industry Awards



2022 Travellers' Choice Award Winner, awarded by Tripadvisor to Top 10% rated tourism attractions in the world



FungiMap, an organisation of scientists that observe and map Australia's fungi founded by RBGV was shortlisted for a citizen science award at the 2022 Eureka Prizes



Florescence Gin, the Gardens' collaboration with Anther Distillery, won Bronze in the International Wine and Spirits Competition



RBGV's curated publication of *WONDER: 175 Years of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria* by Sophie Cunningham and Peter Wilmoth won the top award in three categories at the National Print Awards including Victorian State Awards – Limited Edition Piece – GOLD prize; the National Awards – Limited Edition Piece – GOLD prize and the Judges Book Prize – GOLD prize



BGANZ Victoria and RBGV's *Care for the Rare* program received a horticultural media award at the Horticulture Media Association of Australia Laurels



RBGV Herbarium Staff reached the milestone of one million herbarium specimen records shared with the public and science community



Our organisation

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

For over 175 years, RBGV has connected people with nature at two outstanding botanic gardens: a heritage-listed landscape in the heart of Melbourne and a contemporary native garden set within a natural bushland reserve at Cranbourne. These sites are home to extraordinary landscapes, innovative public programming and world-leading plant science, horticultural science and conservation research.

Beyond their physical beauty, the Gardens also contribute to global and local biodiversity knowledge, through research, discovery, protection, cultivation and restoration of rare and threatened plant species, both ex situ and in the bushland, and as the insurance policy for a state's unique flora pre- and post-bushfire recovery.

RBGV is also the custodian of the \$341 million State Botanical Collection, housed within the National Herbarium of Victoria, and is a hub for global plant knowledge, with internationally recognised biodiversity management and conservation research programs. The Gardens are stewards for irreplaceable preserved plant collections, plant records, seeds and knowledge required for future generations to thrive.

The organisation is increasingly known for innovative engagement programs that highlight the role of nature in underpinning individual and community wellbeing, while fostering social inclusion for community benefit. It is also dedicated to stimulating conservation action and contributing to climate resilience, lifelong learning and unique memories for all visitors at every stage of their lives.



Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Established in 1846, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne has been an iconic Victorian attraction for 176 years. This heritage-listed landscape is loved by generations of Victorians, as well as visitors from interstate and overseas.

Located less than three kilometres from the CBD, RBG Melbourne is an important green sanctuary and resource for learning, conservation, science and horticulture. The site extends over 38 hectares and houses a collection of 7,500 plant species from around the world, including diverse plant collections such as camellias, rainforest flora, cacti and succulents, roses, Californian species, herbs, perennials, cycads, plants from southern China and, in the Rare and Threatened Species Collection, plants from south-eastern Australia.

It is home to the National Herbarium of Victoria, the ark for Victoria's flora, where scientific laboratories and the Victorian Conservation Seedbank are based, together with the irreplaceable State Botanical Collection. Here the science division works to further our knowledge of plant life and how to conserve it.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is also the proud steward of the Melbourne Observatory site, established in 1862 to map the southern skies for the first time and serve as a scientific research institution for Melbourne. The Observatory closed its working operations in 1945 and is now opened for heritage research purposes.



Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne offers a natural bushland experience alongside the Australian Garden, an award-winning, contemporary botanic garden celebrating the beauty and diversity of Australian landscapes and flora and featuring over 100,000 plants representing 1,900 different taxa.

The bushland has over 450 indigenous plant species and includes over 10 kilometres of walking tracks, six kilometres of cycling tracks, a lookout tower, picturesque shelters, barbecues and playgrounds. It is a precious remnant of the vegetation that once covered the broader region and is actively managed to control the number of non-indigenous plants and exotic weeds.



Scientific Research

RBGV is the Victorian Government's primary centre for botanical studies, including plant identification, systematics, classification and bioinformatics. Research areas encompass biodiversity, classification, evolution, genomics, biogeography, molecular systematics, conservation, and horticulture.

The Board of the RBGV is custodian to the irreplaceable State Botanical Collection, Australia's largest and richest herbarium collection, founded in 1853 and housed in the National Herbarium of Victoria at Melbourne Gardens. This Collection is an invaluable resource of approximately 1.5 million dried specimens of plants, fungi and algae from across Australia and from abroad.

Historically significant, the State Botanical Collection is one of the world's premier resources for scientific research. It is used by the global scientific community and by the horticultural and biosecurity industries, providing data on climate change and the environmental health of Victoria, for enhanced biodiversity, improved agriculture, and biopharma innovation.

The State Botanical Collection contains the oldest and most comprehensive botanical library in Australia, which includes a varied and valuable collection of botanical art. Sitting alongside the State Botanical Collection is the Victorian Conservation Seedbank, an 'insurance policy' against extinction for some of Victoria's rarest and most threatened plant species.



Board members (G. Hund absent) with Staff member, Christopher Jakobi, Aboriginal Programs Facilitator

Governance

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board is a statutory authority established under the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991*. The Royal Botanic Gardens Regulations 2014 make provision for the care, protection, management and improvement of the Melbourne Gardens, the RBG Cranbourne and the National Herbarium of Victoria. The responsible Minister for the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 was The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Action (formerly Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change).

The Board comprises a maximum of seven members, including a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson, who are appointed by the Governor-in-Council on the recommendation of the Minister. Appointed Board members have a diversity of knowledge and expertise in the fields of botany, financial and business management, fundraising, public administration, major projects and arts and culture. The members are appointed for a term not exceeding four years but are eligible for re-appointment. A quorum of the Board is four members.

The Board oversees the governance of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and may delegate its functions and powers to a committee of the Board, the Director and Chief Executive, any of the Board's members, or any of its employees. The Director and Chief Executive has responsibility for the day-to-day management and control of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

Board Members 2021–22

Ms Chris Trotman B.Bus (Acc), Grad Dip Ed (Health) MoE, GAICD
Chairperson – Appointed 9 April 2020
Appointed to the Board 9 April 2020

Ms Trotman has more than 20 years of executive experience, most recently as Chief Executive Officer of a public hospital in Gippsland. She has extensive experience serving as chairperson and member of a range of boards and committees. A former registered nurse, Ms Trotman holds undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in accounting and business and has expertise in finance, corporate governance and strategic planning. Living on a farm, she has a keen interest in agriculture and is committed to public health, public land management and conservation.

Mrs Penny Fowler GAICD, BBus
Deputy Chairperson – Appointed 9 April 2016, reappointed 9 April 2020
Appointed to the Board 8 April 2014, reappointed 9 April 2020

Mrs Fowler has a Bachelor of Business (Marketing) and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a CEW member. She has also been a member of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria since 2014 and is currently the Deputy Chairperson. She is also Chair of the Herald and Weekly Times and the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. In addition, Mrs Fowler is a Board Member of the Australian Ballet, The National Portrait Gallery, Tourism Australia and is on the Advisory Boards of Visy and the Bank of Melbourne Foundation.

Professor Tony Bacic FAA
Appointed to the Board 17 December 2013, reappointed 9 April 2020

Professor Bacic is a highly respected plant scientist. He is currently the Director of the La Trobe Institute for Agriculture and Food at La Trobe University and ARC Industrial Transformation Research Hub in Medicinal Agriculture. Previously he was Director of the Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute at The University of Melbourne, Deputy Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Cell Wall and was a long serving member of the Maud Gibson Trust Advisory Committee. His primary focus is on understanding plant

growth and development to secure a sustainable food supply with optimal nutritional and health benefits. He has been a member of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria since 2013.

Ms Gillian Hund OAM B Ed, Grad Dip Spec Ed, MA Social Investment and Philanthropy
Appointed to the Board 9 April 2020

Ms Hund is a graduate of University of Sydney (Bach. of Ed), University of London (Grad Dip Teaching of ESN Children) and Swinburne University (Master of Social Investment and Philanthropy). She began her career in teaching, before co-founding and publishing a national magazine group. She currently holds several roles in the philanthropic sector, including Co-Founder of Melbourne Women's Fund, and Foundation Officer at the Jack Brockhoff Foundation. She is also a member of Australian Institute of Company Directors and Philanthropy Australia and received an Order of Australia medal in 2020 for service to charitable organisations. Ms Hund's term as a Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria concluded in November 2021.

Mr Tim Jacobs BA (Hons)
Appointed to the Board 9 April 2020

Mr Jacobs has contributed in senior management roles to a variety of high-profile cultural organisations over the past 35 years. He was previously Director of Visual Arts, Craft and Design at the Australia Council, Director of Arts Victoria, and Chief Executive of both the Sydney Opera House and the Victorian Arts Centre. He recently served as the Executive Director of Melbourne Festival, as a trustee of the Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust, and as a director of The Myer Foundation.

Ms Susanne Williamson Grad Dip Bus & Marketing, GAICD
Appointed to the Board 9 April 2016, reappointed 9 April 2020

Ms Williamson has been a senior executive and fundraising professional, advising leading organisations in the not-for-profit sector for more than 25 years. Winner of multiple awards for her work in the non-profit and commercial sectors, she is currently Chief Philanthropy Officer at Monash University, responsible for leading a team of 40 fundraising professionals, raising more than \$60 million a year. Ms Williamson is also Chair of the Audit and Risk committee. She is a Certified Change Management Practitioner (APMG International).

Ms Christine Wyatt MEnvS, BRTP (Hons), GAICD
Appointed to the Board 30 November 2021

Ms Wyatt is a non-Executive Director with substantial corporate and public sector executive leadership and expertise in urban planning and strategy, environmental management, infrastructure delivery and governance. Ms Wyatt is currently the Deputy Chair of the Suburban Rail Loop Authority, and a Director of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority and Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation. Previously, Ms Wyatt held senior executive positions in the Victorian public service including as Deputy Secretary Planning at the Department of Environment, Land Water and Department of Transport. Before joining the public service, she was a senior executive with global consulting engineering firms working with public and private organisations across Australia and internationally. Ms Wyatt holds a Masters of Environmental Studies and a Bachelor of Town and Regional Planning from the University of Melbourne and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Board Attendance 2021-22

The Board meets formally at least six times a year or more frequently as required.

Board member	Number of meetings eligible	Number of meetings attended
Chris Trotman (Chairperson)	6	6
Penny Fowler (Deputy Chairperson)	6	6
Professor Tony Bacic	6	6
Gillian Hund OAM	6	6
Tim Jacobs	6	6
Susanne Williamson	6	6
Christine Wyatt	4	4

Board Committees

Board members participate in one or more Board Committees. During the 2021-22 year, the following Committees were in place:

- Audit and Risk Committee
- Finance Committee
- Major Capital Projects Committee
- Remuneration Committee

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee provides independent oversight and monitoring of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's performance, risk management, internal controls and compliance framework, and its reporting obligations under the *Financial Management Act 1994*. The Committee consists of six members, appointed by the Board, including four Board members and one external member.

Members: Susanne Williamson (Committee Chairperson), Penny Fowler, Tim Jacobs, Chris Trotman (Ex-officio), Tim Entwisle (Ex-officio)

External Member:

Rochelle Wrigglesworth

Finance Committee

The role of the Finance Committee is to oversee the financial reporting process and financial performance of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. The Finance Committee consists of four members, appointed by the Board.

Members: Professor Tony Bacic (Committee Chairperson), Gillian Hund OAM, Chris Trotman (Ex-Officio), Tim Entwisle (Ex-Officio)

Major Capital Projects Committee

The Major Capital Projects Committee provides governance, oversight and advice to the Board relating to the delivery of major capital projects across Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria sites. The Major Capital Projects Committee consists of six members, appointed by the Board.

Members: Tim Jacobs (Committee Chairperson), Penny Fowler, Gillian Hund OAM, Christine Wyatt (from 1 January 2022), Chris Trotman (Ex-officio) and Tim Entwisle (Ex-officio)

Remuneration Committee

The Committee is responsible for: advising the Board that RBGV complies with executive remuneration requirements, setting the Director and Chief Executive performance measures and reviewing the performance of the Director and Chief Executive. The Remuneration Committee consists of three members, appointed by the Board.

Members: Penny Fowler (Committee Chairperson), Professor Tony Bacic and Chris Trotman

Executive Team

Executive Team as at 30 June 2022

Director and Chief Executive (2013 –)

Professor Timothy J Entwisle PhD, BSc (Hons)

Responsible for leading and promoting Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria to achieve the highest standards in horticulture, science, financial management and a broad range of visitor and education programs. Professor Entwisle is a highly respected scientist, scientific communicator and botanic gardens Director. He took up the role of Director and Chief Executive of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in March 2013, following two years in a senior role at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and eight years as Executive Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust in Sydney. He is an Honorary Professorial Fellow at The University of Melbourne, and a regular contributor to print, radio and social media.

Executive Director Melbourne Gardens (2010 –)

Chris Cole Dip Hort (Kew)

Responsible for the leadership, development and management of Melbourne Gardens, including horticultural planning and operations, landscape design, management and development of living plant collections, and nursery operations. Mr Cole is also responsible for arboriculture and management of site facilities and infrastructure and provides strategic direction for the implementation of Master Plan, Integrated Water Management and Landscape Succession projects at Melbourne Gardens. He has 20 years' experience in public and botanic gardens management and has worked at Hampton Court Palace, National Trust and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Executive Director Science (2006 –) **Professor David Cantrill PhD, BSc (Hons)**

Responsible for directing research into plant biodiversity, systematics, and conservation and management of the State Botanical Collection. This entails statutory responsibility under the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991* and the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981*. Professor Cantrill worked as a senior research scientist in Europe for 15 years, first for the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge and later at the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm. He has published over 120 scientific articles; is an editor of *Grana*, an international journal for pollen studies; and sits on several international editorial and scientific advisory boards. His research interests focus on integrating information from fossil and living floras to understanding the origins of patterns of diversity in the southern hemisphere. He holds an honorary professorship with the School of BioSciences at The University of Melbourne.

Executive Director Corporate Services (2020 –)

Fiona McLaughlin BA (Hons)

Responsible for leading a range of corporate and strategic functions for the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria including finance, information management, people and culture, and governance and projects. The Corporate Services Division also leads the provision of secretariat support to the Royal Botanic Gardens Board and its committees. Ms McLaughlin has over 15 years' experience in the Victorian public sector across governance, corporate services, fiscal strategy, and performance management. She has held senior leadership roles in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and Victoria Legal Aid. Ms McLaughlin holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from The University of Melbourne and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD).

Executive Director Engagement and Impact (2016 –)

Robin Penty MFA, BFA (Hons)

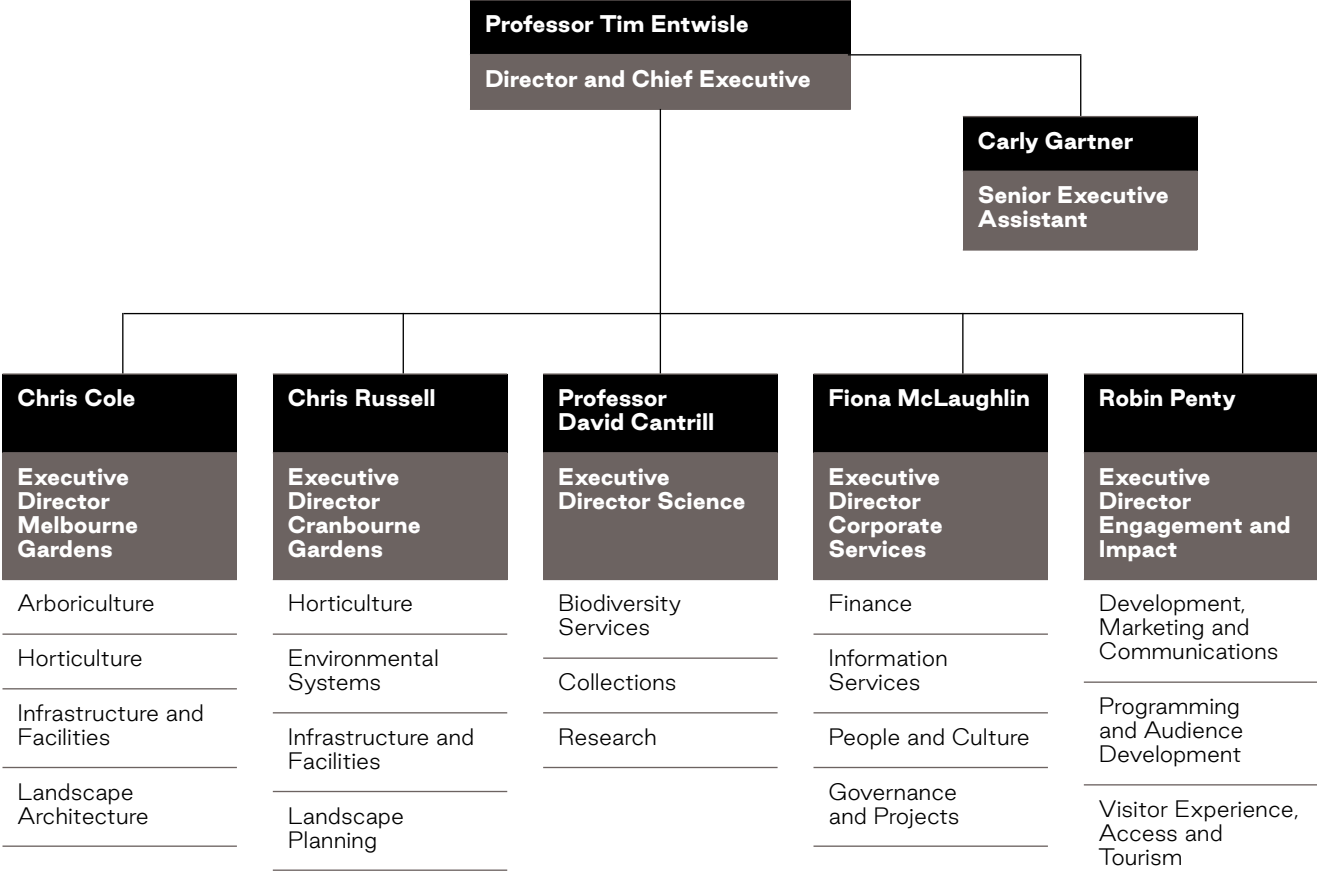
Responsible for leading programming and audience development, visitor experience, access and inclusion, philanthropy, marketing, communications, partnerships, retail and tourism. She has held senior and national leadership roles as an engagement executive, director of business development and marketing, philanthropic fundraiser, director of public programs, executive producer, researcher, educator and extensively in strategic communications and community participation for highly respected organisations such as Arts Centre Melbourne, The Smith Family, Alcohol and Drug Foundation and The University of Melbourne. She is a recent graduate of the Oxford Executive Leadership Programme.

Executive Director Cranbourne Gardens (2001 –)

Chris Russell BSc (Hons), Grad Dip Land Rehab

Responsible for the leadership, management and operation of RBG Cranbourne encompassing the Australian Garden and conservation areas, including horticultural planning and operations, natural areas research and management, and development and implementation of the site's Master Plan. Mr Russell is also responsible for delivery of capital works projects, strategic input into land-use planning and relationship management in the region, and organisational occupational health and safety. Prior to joining the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, he had experience in environmental management and capital projects with Parks Victoria, the building industry and scientific research.

Organisational Structure and Key Functional Areas



Our Performance



Visitation

	Sites	Target	Actual	Comments
Visitors to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne and Cranbourne	Total (BP3)	2.0 – 2.2 million	1,774,239	Gardens visitation is 17% less than the target due to significantly reduced international and interstate tourism caused by the ongoing global pandemic, and to reduced public programs and experiences due to COVIDSafe settings in the first half of the financial year.

State Botanical Collection

	Target	Actual	Comments
Specimens curated in the State Botanical Collection	30,000	26,984	Performance is 10% below target due to COVID-19 impacts on staff and volunteer availability, and measures required to address the deteriorating storage conditions and critical capacity issues.

Performance Measures (Annual Business Plan)

Summary Table (without BP3 measures)

Performance Measures	Unit of Measures	Target	Actual
Visitors to RBG Melbourne	Number	2,000,000 – 2,200,000 (Melbourne and Cranbourne)	1,420,487
Visitors to RBG Cranbourne	Number		353,752
Increase in the number of curated specimens in State Botanical Collection	Number	30,000	27,004
Increase in visitation to Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria website and social media channels	Percent	10%	7.5%
Increase in donors to Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria	Percent	10%	20%
Increase in climate-suited taxa in Melbourne Gardens comprising a majority of wild provenance	Number	120	94

Our Goals and Achievements



Pillar 1

People – Engaged communities

Over the next three years, we will seek to reach a broader, more diverse range of visitors through innovative engagement programs that promote inclusive nature-based experiences for individual and community wellbeing. We will focus our efforts on creating a deepened connection with and understanding of nature, and on advocating for the role individuals play in acting for nature (Goal 1, Victorians value nature, *Biodiversity 2037*, Department of Environment Land Water and Planning).

Through our Diversity, Inclusion and Access Plan and first Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan, we commit to fostering an accessible and socially inclusive environment for and with the community. We will work in partnership with Aboriginal communities to foster reconciliation, respect and understanding, particularly in relation to Aboriginal people's deep cultural connection with and knowledge of plants and the living environment.

To deliver on our goal of engaging with communities, over the next three years we will:

- Invest more in our digital presence and strategy to reach and attract new audiences
- Expand our range of nature and science-based programs
- Be inclusive and meet the needs of a wide and diverse cross-section of the community

The Gardens Wins Gold

This year, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria won the tourism industry's peak award, *Best Major Attraction in Australia* at the 2021 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards.

The Australian Tourism Industry Council (ATIC) judges selected Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria from many outstanding competitors based on its achievements in areas of tourism, business planning, marketing, customer service and sustainability. The award was the first win to Victoria in two decades and was a thrilling addition to the two Gold Awards that the Gardens won consecutively, this year and last, at the Victorian Tourism Industry Awards. This award helped further raise the profile of the organisation, across all mediums, and opened new opportunities for partnership and promotion.



Launches of WONDER: 175 Years of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and Of Friends and Gardens

The Gardens published two stunning books with Hardie Grant this year to highlight the Gardens’ beautiful landscapes, and world-leading scientific, horticultural and cultural work.

WONDER: 175 Years of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria was launched online by Her Excellency, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria and hosted by Catriona Rowntree. The book shared the recollections and stories of the Gardens by some of Victoria’s artists, scientists, media icons, business leaders, writers, journalists, conservationists and elders, as told through conversations with writers Sophie Cunningham and Peter Wilmoth. It also included stories of conservation and climate change, reminding the reader of the critical role played by our public gardens in securing the future of the planet through its science, irreplaceable collections and conservation action.

Of Friends and Gardens: A History of the Cranbourne Friends commemorated the 30th Anniversary of the Cranbourne Friends and the beauty of RBG Cranbourne. Launched by Cranbourne Member Pauline Richards MP and written by Friend and author Carolyn Landon, the book provides a comprehensive history of the Friends as they grew together with Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne.

Lightscape Reaches New Audiences

Following enormous successes in the UK and US, *Lightscape* made its Australian debut at Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne in June 2022 and over its six-week season became the highlight of Melbourne’s winter events calendar. *Lightscape* took audiences on a 1.8 kilometre journey of light and sound through Melbourne’s iconic Botanic Gardens featuring luminous walkways and vistas, vibrant bursts of colour and large-scale installations.

Social and Cultural Impact

A curated program of engaging events and placemaking projects contributed to positive social and cultural impact for audiences at home during lockdowns or back out in the open air as Melbourne recovered from the impacts of COVID-19 lockdowns of the past two years.

To offer more accessible and COVIDSafe programs to Victorians, several self-guided audio, digital and physical programs were developed. This included the self-guided narrative audio tour *Flora and The Baron*, audio experiences *Sonica Botanica Episodes 1, 2, 3, 4* and *Eco Opera* as well as *Seek and Find* nature and *Connecting to Country* cards for children and families.



RBGV's 2021 National Science Week partnership program with Royal Society of Victoria included talks with RBGV specialists hosted by writer and climate activist Sophie Cunningham in response to the theme ACCLIMATISE, and participation in the annual Parliament of Victoria event. The livestreamed conversations were both very popular and featured on the Virtual Garden on RBGV's website.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria also contributed significantly to DELWP's 2021 Victoria Nature Festival. A feature of the program was *Seeing the Invisible*, an ambitious and expansive augmented reality (AR) exhibition created in partnership with 12 other botanic gardens around the world. Audiences delighted in tracking down 13 AR artworks responding to the environment and climate change at both Gardens. A family's guide was created to complement the exhibition and to encourage young people and families to engage with the artworks and the Gardens and to act for nature.

Events were also livestreamed, including *A Virtual Walk on the Wild Side*, which featured members of the Cranbourne Horticulture and Victorian Conservation Seedbank teams. All new RBGV content created for the festival now features on RBGV's Virtual Garden.

Regular wellbeing programs including the ever-popular Forest Therapy and First Peoples programs for a range of visitors continue to provide opportunities to pause and learn while partnerships with Melbourne University's Victorian College of the Arts and Victorian Seniors Festival reached a wider audience.



Digital and Onsite Learning and Participation

Throughout the various COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria continued to redirect to digital learning and participation programs. This included the expanding range of self-guided botanic garden experiences available through the RBGV Virtual Garden as well as the range of curriculum linked programs available to Victorian school audiences. New in 2021-22 were the live-streamed Botanic Connect experiences direct from the RBG Melbourne and RBG Cranbourne, which reached more than 9,000 students.

By February 2022, with the easing of restrictions, more than 25,000 participants returned to our suite of onsite learning programs including Wellbeing, First Peoples, STEM, Geography, Sustainability and Nature Play. Teacher professional development programs were also offered and RBGV was supported to invest in its new biomimicry learning programs through funding from both the Department of Education and Training and Catholic Education Commission of Victoria.

Welcoming high-profile visitors

To raise awareness with international audiences and to promote Aboriginal culture and activities, the Gardens hosted numerous high-profile visitors on the Aboriginal Heritage Walk this year, one of the Gardens' most unique ongoing experiences. These included US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, professional tennis player Barbara Schett, children's music group, *The Wiggles*, and the cast of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* who also undertook a Forest Therapy session. These experiences resulted in positive social media posts about their visit to large international followings. The Hon Harriet Shing MP and Pauline Richards MP also visited RBG Cranbourne for the launch of the new Recycled Water Treatment Plant.



Pillar 2

Place – Vibrant places

Over the next three years, we will seek to sustainably increase new and repeat visitation to both our sites by investing in the activation and improvement of our iconic landscapes. Conditional on the current COVID-19 environment, we will pursue a program of events to engage the general public through creative site interpretation, public talks and exhibitions, and in improvements to visitor amenity and interpretation.

As a world-leading botanic organisation, we pledge to maintain and enhance our beautiful displays and gardens so that there is always something new to stimulate the senses and delight domestic and international visitors.

To deliver on our goal of creating vibrant places, over the next three years we will:

- Create opportunities to drive repeat visitation at both gardens in order to promote deeper community engagement and learning
- Invest in and showcase our contemporary and heritage landscapes, buildings, collections and their interpretation to support increased visitation and positive visitor experience
- Expand our strategically aligned partnerships with the tourism, health and cultural sectors and with the community more broadly



Major Capital Projects

A significant capital works program was undertaken at both Gardens' sites throughout 2021–22. We acknowledge and thank the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions (DJPR) for \$8.5 million in capital funding to deliver on key projects identified under the Melbourne Gardens Master Plan 2020–40 and Cranbourne Gardens Master Plan 2016–2026.

Key highlights over the past 12 months include:

- Melbourne Gardens path upgrades from D Gate to Volcano and within the Australian Forest Walk
- Installation of security cameras at several points throughout Melbourne Gardens to protect entrances and major assets
- Main car park at RBG Cranbourne sealed and disabled car parks and other accessibility features upgraded
- Fauna exclusion fencing installed along Philip Moors Drive at Cranbourne Gardens to improve the safety of native animals
- Roof of Rockpool Pavilion in Cranbourne Gardens has been replaced and drainage upgraded to provide improved visitor amenity at this popular dwell point.

The Nature Science Precinct Place Plan

RBGV commissioned and co-authored a Detailed Place Plan for the transformational Nature Science Precinct with ASPECT Studio, an extension of the 2019 Feasibility Study and 2018 Conceptual Building Master Plan. The Nature Science Precinct Detailed Place Plan (December 2021) provides an exciting vision of place and sustainable future for our site in Melbourne.

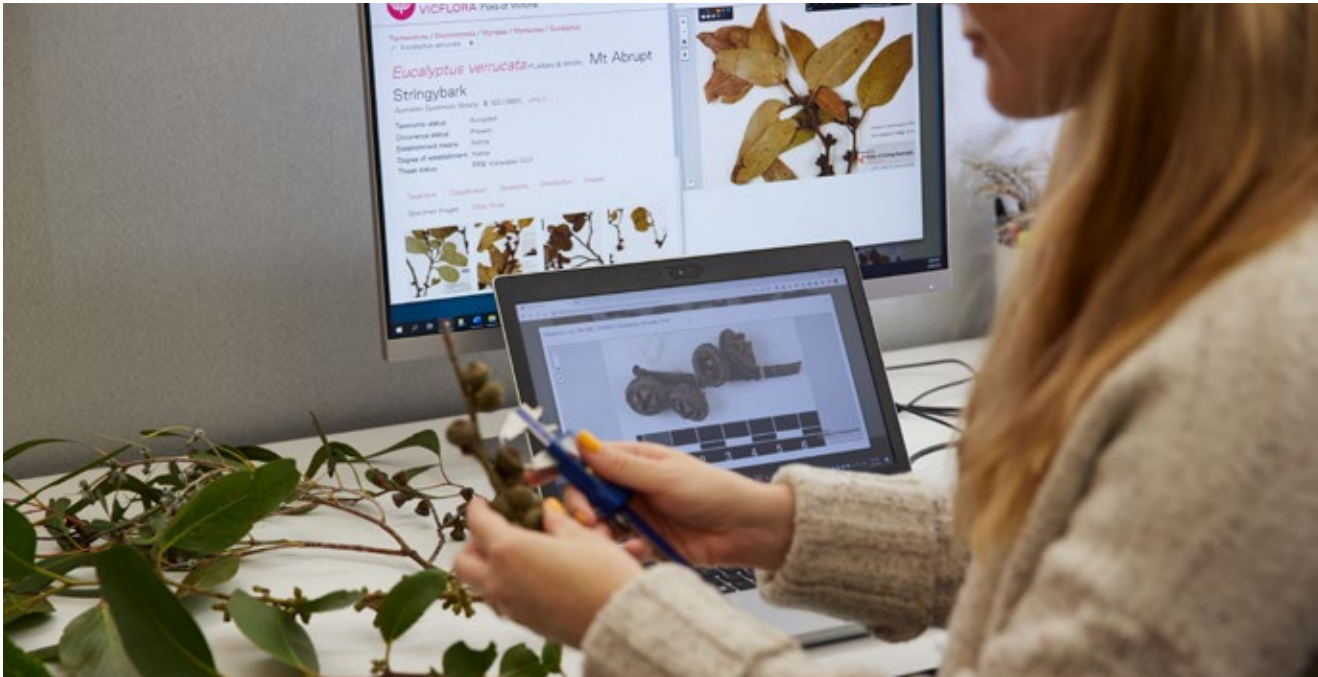
New Partnership and Business Opportunities

Several business partnerships and opportunities were secured this year to support growth, programming and innovation of the organisation. These included Specsavers as an Official Partner for the augmented reality contemporary art exhibition *Seeing the Invisible*, and Red Energy as the Major Partner for *Lightscape*. In addition to financially supporting *Lightscape*, Red Energy strengthened the marketing effort for the event. Most notably Red Energy is powering *Lightscape* with accredited Green Power.

The Gardens also partnered with Anther, an award-winning distillery, to produce *Florescence*, a boutique gin containing plants foraged from Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. Proceeds from the sale support Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's important landscapes, research and innovative public programs. *Florescence* won Bronze at the International Wine and Spirits Competition.

Learning outreach to regional botanic gardens

Victoria's botanic gardens network provides a unique science/STEM learning opportunity across the State and there is significant appetite for specialised learning programs in regional areas. To meet this demand, RBGV launched a regional outreach learning program using the extensive network of gardens across the State to bring science, STEM and sustainability programs to students in regional areas. With support from the Department of Education and Training RBGV delivered programs for regional students in Shepparton, Geelong, Ballarat and Sale Botanic Gardens. These programs aimed to reduce the geographical and financial barriers regional students face to participation in extension specialist learning opportunities.



Pillar 3

Plants – Sharing plant knowledge and discovery

Over the next three years, we will focus our efforts on the most urgent conservation needs of Australia's rare and threatened flora. We will continue to support plant salvage work via scientific field work to aid conservation of rare and threatened plants.

To maintain the organisation's reputation as one of the world's leading botanical institutions and centre of plant knowledge, we will support effective research translation and communications, so that key discoveries, research and programs can be promoted to scientific, government and public audiences.

We will improve the way we conduct, support and communicate botanical research and its outcomes. In particular, we will increase access to information held within the corpus of the State Botanic Collection so that it remains the authoritative resource for information and identification of the flora of Victoria through curation, digitisation, databasing and provision of electronic and controlled access maintenance of online floras (*VicFlora*, *HortFlora*) – including any holdings of cultural significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

To deliver on our goal of sharing plant knowledge and discovery, over the next three years we will:

- Improve how we translate our research and expertise within the broader community, making Gardens' research more engaging and influential in society
- Expand Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's role as a catalyst and hub for plant biodiversity and conservation research
- Adopt innovative approaches to increase visitor engagement with the natural world

Increase in use of RBGV VicFlora

Access to VicFlora increased dramatically by nearly 40% over the past year. This coincided with the addition of the second set of more than 1,000 high quality exemplar images early in the year, making identification of one of Australia's most iconic plant groups, *Acacia* (wattles), easier for users. Seminars and workshops have highlighted the nation leading feature-set and usability of Victoria's flora and led to calls for it to be a model for floras of Australia. This timely increase in features and profile has coincided with a return of people to the bush post-lockdowns and serviced the needs of users to identify Victorian plants.



Application of Research

Citations of RBGV scientific publications increased by 37%, largely due to the prevalence of scientific research into biodiversity and climate change. Publications documented new species of fungi, the symbiotic relationships of fungi with their rare and threatened host plants, particularly orchids, investigated the genomics and phylogenetics of iconic Australian plant groups such as eucalypts and wattles, and elucidated interactions between fungi, plants and animals and their importance to the environment and its management.

Databasing the Global Collection

To allow greater access to the scientific and historically important information from the Global Collection (non-Australian component of the State Botanical Collection) 17,017 specimens were databased this year. A significant milestone was reached early in the year, when the one millionth specimen record was databased and made available to the botanical research community.

Mounting Specimens

As the working tools of botanists, herbarium specimens need to withstand repeated handling and close inspection. To improve the accessibility of the herbarium collection, 24,112 plant, algae and fungi specimens were mounted by staff and volunteers this year. A variety of techniques are used to carefully conserve and protect the specimens so they can support scientific research for generations to come.

Genomics of Australian Plants

RBGV has led and supported this national collaboration to build capacity in the botanical community to use genomic data. The program includes the development of 11 reference genomes, completing an evolutionary tree for all Australian flowering plant species and resolving species complexes that include conservation dependent taxa. To date, two 'reference genomes' have been completed, an evolutionary tree of all Australian plant genera has been assembled and 10 species complexes are being worked on by researchers across the country.

Setting Future Directions

For the first time RBGV has a whole-of-organisation Science Strategy to deliver on our mission to safeguard plants for the wellbeing of people and the planet. The strategy, developed in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders, and reviewed by an external reference panel, sets out to combine the expertise of creative people with our unique collections to generate and share essential knowledge about algae, fungi and plants for the conservation and sustainable use of Australia's biota.

Name that pea

Legumes, or the pea family, are one of the world's most important plant families, ecologically and economically. Therefore, it is essential for efficient and effective communication that there is agreement on the naming of these plants. A team of legume-specialists from around the world, including RBGV staff, collaborated and together produced the first community-endorsed list of legumes for the world, allowing everyone with access to the internet to have the opportunity to learn about the biology, diversity and evolution of this fascinating plant family, www.legumedata.org

Understanding fungal diversity and function

To address key issues about the diversity and role of the megadiverse fungal kingdom, RBGV mycology research is often collaborative, with research partners in countries including Chile, China, Mexico, Netherlands, Sweden, Spain and the USA. These collaborations addressed fundamental taxonomic questions about the family trees of various groups of fungi, and also practical investigations into mycophagy (fungus-eating), mushroom toxicity and the complex interactions between fungi, plants and environmental impacts such as wildfires and silviculture. RBGV mycologists also continue to document novel fungi — in the last year, describing several dozen new species as well as higher taxa such as genera. New species include truffle-like fungi that are food for animals and microscopic thread-like fungi that are essential symbiotic partners of orchids.

Highlights



52

research papers were published



10,000

orchid seedlings were propagated with their mycorrhizal fungi



49%

of Victoria's rare plants protected in the Victorian Conservation Seedbank



2,060

new images made available through VicFlora



1,476

new species profiles added to VicFlora, and 272 profiles updated



24,112

specimens were mounted and prepared for digitisation



17,017

specimens databased from the Global Collection.



rediscovery of an orchid species after assumed extinct for a century (one of many individual research and conservation highlights)



3,533

citations to RBGV scientific publications



424,345

unique sessions on VicFlora.



Pillar 4

Planet – Conservation action

Over the next three years, we will expand the role Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria plays in shaping how people value, perceive, and care for the environment and adapt to climate change. To do this, we will lead by example, especially in the area of environmental sustainability. We will continue with the growth of the Climate Change Alliance of Botanic Gardens and share important knowledge that will allow botanic gardens around the world to develop strategies to adapt and protect their collections from this threat.

We are in the strong position to raise public awareness of the importance of conservation and environmental sustainability through innovative site interpretation, indoor and outdoor exhibitions, educational programs and major events. We will continue to develop communications and programs that lead to an understanding of the threats and consequences of loss of biodiversity (such as the loss of plant and fungi species, as well as the habitat of the Southern Brown Bandicoot and other wildlife) and foster a greater appreciation of the need to preserve natural habitats.

To deliver on our goal of conservation action, over the next three years we will:

- Develop, refine and communicate our strategic responses to major biodiversity and conservation matters (i.e. climate change, land use changes, invasive species and individual action)
- Improve and promote our approach and outcomes in environmental sustainability across all areas of the organisation
- Further extend our international support, capacity building and partnerships consistent with our mission (i.e. scientific and conservation collaboration with Timor Leste, Climate Change Alliance of Botanic Gardens, contributions to Botanic Gardens Conservation International and the International Association of Botanic Gardens, 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in 2022)

Victorian Conservation Seedbank

The seedbank had one of its biggest ever collecting years, supported by targeted Bushfire Recovery funding, adding 41 new taxa banked. This is especially notable given the difficulty to access and collect many of the threatened species that were specifically sought and has led to an all-time high representation of 817 out of 1,600 (51%) of Victorian Rare or Threatened taxa and 98 of 130 (75%) Victorian taxa listed under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*.



Bushfire Conservation Programs

The Bushfire Conservation Genetics project resulted in 10 extended multi-day fieldtrips and many daytrips to collect 1,200 samples over the past year, taking the total to 2,000 bushfire conservation genetics collections for this project. Despite the challenges of lockdowns, and wet weather restricting access to sites, complete collections have been obtained for 19 species, and the project is shifting focus to an analysis and interpretation phase. Samples for 11 species have been sent to Diversity Arrays Technology for sequencing, results for nine species have been received, and analysis completed for seven species. Reports for six species have been sent to DELWP and on-ground staff to inform land and natural resources management decisions. This work was part of a broader program of Plant Rescue and Care, involving the collection of seed, propagation and other materials of plants across the state, but particularly those under threat after the 2019–20 bushfires.

RBGV botanists uncover true identity of orchid presumed extinct for 100 years

The tiny *Prasophyllum morganii* (Mignonette leek orchid) hadn't been found, despite several unsuccessful searches, for almost 100 years, and was presumed extinct. Federal bushfire recovery grants targeting assessment of 14 species of nationally threatened orchids, funded field work in East Gippsland and alpine areas of NSW, leading to new collections being made of a species first described in 2000, *Prasophyllum retroflexum* (Kiandra leek orchid). RBGV botanists conducted exhaustive comparisons between the new collections and historical specimens in RBGV's herbarium, and determined they were one and the same species! This work on the identity and naming of the orchid species, has clarified its conservation status, now critically endangered rather than extinct, and led to it being one of the nationally endangered orchid species being propagated by RBGV for future conservation efforts.

Fern Conservation Sporebank

Victoria's native ferns and lycophytes are in need of urgent conservation action, with most species occurring in moist vegetation types that are vulnerable to fire and drought. To help conserve fern and lycophyte diversity, RBGV is developing a fern conservation sporebank with support from DELWP. Spores harvested from wild ferns and lycophytes by RBGV botanists are being placed in long-term cryopreservation and will include Victoria's rarest and most threatened ferns. This burgeoning conservation collection acts as insurance against extinction, providing a source of spores that can be used to support in situ and ex situ conservation efforts. In its first year, the fern conservation sporebank has exceeded its target of 35 species, with 42 species collected. 40 species are growing in the RBGV nursery for orcharding and spore samples have been banked in the cryogenic freezer for seven species.



Living Plant Conservation Collections

RBGV scientists have continued their research into the pollination, mycorrhizal associations and ecology of orchids, and applied that knowledge to the successful propagation of 10,000 orchid seedlings from 20 species, including their mycorrhizal fungi. The team have also applied their skills to establishing an ex situ collection of the Grampians Globe-pea, *Sphaerolobium acanthos*, a critically endangered species with fewer than 100 plants growing in Gariwerd (Grampians) National Park.

Care for the Rare

The Care for the Rare project is a pilot project nearing its completion. Funded by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, the project aimed to build capacity for regional botanic gardens in Victoria in establishing living collections of local Rare and Threatened plants. In addition, the funding incorporated an interpretation plan to be written for each participating garden to explain the significance of the collections to visitors to each garden. The final element of the project has been to establish a bursary which will allow 40 regional botanic gardens staff to attend the 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress.

Bushfire Recovery Living Collections

After the 2019–20 Victorian Bushfires RBGV Science and Horticulture branches partnered to plan and conduct extensive field work to survey and collect (seed and vegetative material) at risk species. This resulted in the establishment of a bushfire recovery ex situ living collection at the Cranbourne Gardens which contains 457 new accessions, 136 of which have rare and threatened status. This is an example of an integrated approach which involved collaboration between Cranbourne Horticulture, the Victorian Conservation Seedbank and the RBGV Conservation Genetics team to deliver the project.

Promotion of Environmental Activities

The Communications and Media team worked to promote the organisation’s approach and outcomes in environmental sustainability across all areas of the organisation through a variety of mediums including the EDM, website, a weekly social post, promotion of the science seminar series and regular press releases.



The team built strong relationships with major science publications such as *New Scientist* and *Phys.org* to share Gardens science research, hosted a media training session with key science staff, and promoted the horticulture team’s work through ABC’s *Gardening Australia*, *Australian Geographic*, *The Age* and the ABC more generally.

Media features were secured about the work being undertaken to preserve endangered oak species, the discovery of a once extinct orchid *Prasophyllum morganii*, discovery of the largest ever population of Tea Tree Finger Fungus, awareness of poisonous fungi, and the science week virtual talks and the Learning team’s new biomimicry programs.

Our supporters



Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria

Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria was established in May 2001 to provide the Gardens with a secure source of future income from the investment of bequests, seat dedications as well as support for the Director's Circle, the Gardens' annual giving program. The Foundation has Deductible Gift Recipient (Item 2) status and is endorsed as an Income Tax Exempt Fund.

Maud Gibson Trust

Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria is also Trustee of the Maud Gibson Trust, a public ancillary fund, which is required to make annual distributions to Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. The Trust was established in 1945 with a donation from Miss Maud Gibson for the maintenance, development, or otherwise for the benefit of, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

From the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria Chairperson

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Foundation was established by Melbourne philanthropist Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC, DBE in June 2001. In setting up the Foundation, Dame Elisabeth established in-perpetuity funding for the Gardens, to allow it to flourish beyond what would be possible through the Victorian Government's critical funding and public donation income streams. Today, the Foundation manages a pool of capital for the Gardens' benefit, providing long-term sustainable funding for a wide range of projects and initiatives at the Gardens that would not otherwise receive funding. The Foundation works closely with the Gardens to understand the priority funding areas and support the most important of these.

The updated vision for the Foundation reflects this rich philanthropic history and our vision for the future:

Our treasured and iconic Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, nurtured by philanthropy, and sustained through responsible financial stewardship.

The Foundation's mission flows from this:

To establish, strengthen and honour donor relationships; raise and steward funds ethically and responsibly; and distribute critical funding to secure the future of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

The Foundation was fortunate to receive bequests over the year 2021–22 which help grow the corpus and underpin critical long-term funding to the Gardens.

It is always an enormous privilege when we hear that someone has chosen to leave a lasting legacy to the Gardens via their Will and we recognise the weight of responsibility that comes with this. In what has been a particularly challenging year for investment markets, we continue to manage the corpus responsibly, in line with our long-term objectives and consistent with our investment policy.

This has also been a year of opening up, coming out of lockdown and enjoying time together in the gorgeous Gardens. These have provided a haven of nature and a site for remarkable creativity enjoyed by tens of thousands of people recently during *Seeing the Invisible* and *Lightscape*. Donors and visitors alike have expressed how their visits to the Gardens have supported them during pandemic times. Donors to the Foundation, and to Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria directly, have been able to come together again at special events to learn more about the impact of work carried out at both Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and Cranbourne and to celebrate the beautiful environments.

During 2021–22, the Foundation distributed a total of \$505,000 in funding to the Gardens, including \$213,750 in grants from untied funds to the following priority projects:

1. Genomics for Australian Plants
2. Horticultural Apprenticeships
3. Changing Places facility at Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne
4. 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress

In addition, the Foundation distributed \$291,250 funding to the following projects via tied sub-funds:

5. Jim Willis Studentships
6. Pauline Ladiges PhD fellowship
7. Global Collection
8. Lake View Rest House and Nareeb Gate restoration

The Maud Gibson Trust supported the following projects at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria during the year:

- Elisabeth Murdoch Scholarships for RBGV Staff
- Contribution to ARC Linkage Grant to RBGV Science
- 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress
- Global Collection

The Foundation Directors continued the strategic planning work to refine the vision, mission and priorities and the Foundation updated its constitution through the year to bring it into line with best practice.

The Foundation Directors are thanked for generously providing their time and talents to support the Foundation's mission. This year the Foundation welcomed new Board members Kathryn Kings, Jan Robins and Alan Logan.



Members of the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria Board:

Ms Farren Williams, Chairperson

Mr Ian Wong, Chairperson Finance and Audit Committee

Mr Alan Logan

Ms Kathryn Kings

Ms Jan Robins

Ms Alice Sidhu

Ms Michelle Varcoe

Donor Stewardship

We extend a sincere thank you to the donors and Trust and Foundations that have supported Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in 2021–22.

The Gardens was delighted to welcome donors back to our sites this year. The generosity of our donors has contributed to many important projects across the organisation. The impact of their giving ripples out to visitors who get to experience refreshed landscapes like the Stringybark Walkway at RBG Cranbourne and the soon to commence refurbishment of the beautiful Rose Pavilion. Our staff benefit from the ongoing support of projects such as the Global Collection, revealing the secrets of hundreds of years of collecting as well as scholarships for professional development opportunities that help us continue to hone our skills. Our Appeals generated much needed income for our Schools Access Fund, *Excursions for All*, providing opportunities for disadvantaged students to join nature-based learning workshops, and our conservation

focus, supporting our work in the Victorian Conservation Seedbank and the conservation zone at Cranbourne. Put simply, the Gardens could not be the world-leading scientific and cultural institution it is today without our donors. We thank them for their belief in our work and continued generous support.

Thank you

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors for their support of \$1000 or more during 2021 – 22.

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The Estate of Peter Greenham
The Estate of John Madden
The Estate of Vivien M Thomas

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Connie Kimberley
Kathryn Kings

Bryan Lawrence
 George Lefroy AM and Joan Lefroy AM
 Nichola Lefroy
 Lea Levy and Geoffrey Levy
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 Clive Weeks AO
 Pera Wells
 Angela Westacott
 Paul Wheelton AM and Angela Wheelton
 Kaitlin Wright
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Supporters who gave \$10,000-\$99,999 to the Gardens

Betsy and Ollie Polasek Endowment
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Lindy Shelmerdine and David Moffatt
 Geoff Steinicke
 The Stuart Leslie Foundation
 Anne U'Ren
 George Ventouras
 Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund

Supporters who gave \$100,000-\$999,999 to the Gardens

Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, Australian Heritage Grant
 Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Trust Fund
 Helen Macpherson Smith Trust
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 Portland House Foundation
 Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria
 Rosemary Simpson
 The Edward Wilson Estate
 The Ian Potter Foundation
 Frank van Straten AM & Adrian Turley

Supporters who gave \$1,000,000 or more to the Gardens

Lady Primrose Potter AC

Corporate Partners and Sponsors

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria welcomed a new Official Partner this year in Specsavers and thanks them for their support of the Augmented Reality exhibition *Seeing the Invisible*. In addition, The Gardens would like to thank its corporate partners and sponsors, which include Official Partners STIHL and Maxwell & Williams, Platinum Partner Interflora, and Bronze Sponsor Neutrog.

OFFICIAL PARTNERS



PLATINUM SPONSOR



BRONZE SPONSOR



Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

This year the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne approved grants of \$154,220 to the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria through its Trust Fund. This represented \$70,000 for the Changing Places Facility at the Visitors Centre, a new pod \$30,000 for the Garden Ambassadors, new gate to the Friends Nursery \$15,000, \$12,520 towards scholarships for Gardens staff for professional development and the remaining \$19,700 towards the Helen McLellan Research Grant. In addition, a grant of \$4,355 to the Whirlies for the Acacia Project. The Friends were able to respond to COVIDSafe principles by successfully hosting regular events online. The biennial Art Exhibition for botanical art was also presented online as a virtual exhibition. The Botanical Art classes were well attended and continuing as normal. The Growing Friends had a successful autumn plant sale with approximately \$26,000 being raised. Several new memberships were purchased at the sale. The nursery is now open from 9am to 12pm on Fridays. The Plant Craft Cottage has reopened from Thursday to Saturday and has had increased visitation, craft workshops and sales of merchandise.

Cranbourne Friends, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

Events and activities continued to be enthusiastically planned and sometimes went ahead despite the challenges posed by COVID-19.

The program of Open House both in the Elliot Centre and online was reinvigorated and offered interesting speakers and a chance to catch up monthly. Publications continued to be the glue in the relationship with members, with Naturelink quarterly newsletter providing interesting articles and monthly Quicklink updated events and activities. Membership stayed steady at around 600.

Into 2022, the Cranbourne Friends enjoyed more in-person opportunities; activities such as a guided conservation horticulture walk in the Gardens and a fungi foray in the bushland. They were thrilled to find our very own 'cloud forest' from far North Queensland now embedded in not so tropical Cranbourne.

Plant sales for Spring and Autumn were enthusiastically patronised and provided a focus for reconnecting. Trips and tours recommenced with covid caution – member tours went to Mount Hotham in January and to tropical North Queensland in June.

The pinnacle of efforts this year was the launch of the 30-year history of the Cranbourne Friends – *Of Friends and Gardens*, by Carolyn Landon. This was the culmination of years of work and planning by the many who supported Carolyn's expert writing. The Cranbourne Friends are particularly proud of this handsome tome published in collaboration with RBGV.

Research Partners

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria acknowledges the following organisations and individuals for supporting or collaborating with the activities of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's Science Division in 2021–22: Alpine Garden Society Victorian Group, Atlas of Living Australia (CSIRO), Austin Health, Australasian Native Orchid Society, Australasian Systematic Botany Society, Australian Biological Resources Study, The Australian National University, Australian Network for Plant Conservation, Australian Pacific Science Foundation, Australian Research Council, Australian Seed Bank Partnership, Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG), BioPlatforms Australia, Botanic Gardens & State Herbarium of South Australia, State Key Laboratory of Mycology – Institute of Microbiology – Chinese Academy of Sciences, Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (CHAH), Cybec Foundation, David Moffatt, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (Victorian Government), Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Victorian Government), Department of the Environment and Energy (Australian Government), Edward Wilson Estate, Erica Foundation, Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc., Global Partnerships, Seedcorn Fund, Griffith University, Herbarium Information Standards Committee (HISCOM), Hermon Slade Foundation, The Ian Potter Foundation, International Commission on the Taxonomy of Fungi, James Cook University, Joint Genome Institute (United States Department of Energy), J.T Reid Charitable Trusts, Lindy Shelmerdine, Local Land Services Murray, Managers of Australasian Herbaria (MAHC), Estate of Marian Brookes, Maud Gibson Trust, Meg Bentley, Nell and Hermon Slade Trust, Nillumbik Shire Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW Government), Phillip Island Nature Parks, Project Platypus Association Inc., Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Foundation, Siobhan Leachman, Specify Collections Consortium, Taxonomy Australia, The Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species, The University of Melbourne, University of New South Wales, University of the Ryukyus (Japan), Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, and Zoos Victoria.

Volunteers and associates

Volunteers and Honorary Associates worked across Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in a variety of roles at RBG Cranbourne, Melbourne Gardens, the National Herbarium of Victoria and the Engagement and Impact Division. Working in partnership with staff, they welcomed visitors, guided tourists, supported science, planted, and propagated, and provided important knowledge and skills. Over the year volunteers and associates contributed almost 8,159 hours to Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, adding significant value to the organisation.

Science Division Volunteer Programs

Science Division volunteers contributed more than 1,441 hours of work and continued supporting staff with the curation and documentation of the State Botanical Collection; assisted with the Royal Botanic Gardens Library; and supported conservation research projects.

Orchid Conservation Program

While the past 12 months has seen time without our wonderful volunteers due to COVID-19, we have been fortunate to welcome our orchid conservation volunteers back onsite at RBG Cranbourne in 2022. The fantastic group of six orchid conservation volunteers (named in the volunteer section) this year have undertaken a fantastic 780 hours of seed cleaning and storage, seed viability counting, flasking and deflasking of orchid seedlings and repotting the ex situ orchid conservation collection. The volunteer work helping conserve our rare and threatened orchids is invaluable.

Victorian Conservation Seedbank

Bob Hare was able to image the seeds of 67 rare and threatened plants cleaned and processed in readiness for long-term storage in the Victorian Conservation Seedbank. Four undergraduate Deakin University students completed their 80 hours of student placements assisting staff in the seedbank, of which two are now registered RBGV volunteers.

Collections Branch

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the volunteer program was closed from 4 August 2021 to 22 November 2021. During the active weeks of the volunteer program:

- Over 1,117 hours were volunteered
- 3,018 specimens curated
- 317 specimens updated to reflect changes in taxonomic classification (i.e. name changes)
- 585 images taken
- 133 specimens added to the database
- Volunteers contributed to the complete physical curation of eight plant families from the Global Collection.

Science Division Volunteers

Collections: Marina Albert, Ruth Ault, Margaret Brookes, Robyn Brownscombe, Sally Bufe, Sandra Cumbari, Francis Faul, Lib Howcroft, Vicki Jaeger, Achala Khot, Janne Lade, Jannie Lay, Lynsey Poore, Diana Prapas, Veronica Reeves, Jenny Ross, Judy Ryan, Ros Savio, Ben Stone, Cathy Taylor, Bob Thomas, Cathy Trinca, Ann Walsham, Vicky Waymouth, Wey Yao Wong.

Honorary Associates

Honorary Associates are appointed by the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria on the recommendation of the Director and Chief Executive for a fixed term of up to three years, with the option of reappointment by mutual agreement. They are individuals with expertise in areas that supplement or complement Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria employees. They have contributed greatly to the achievements of the organisation through their research on various angiosperm plant families, as well as bryophytes, fungi, lichens, and algae, or by curating the specimens held in the State Botanical Collection. Others contributed to the State Botanical Collection by collecting specimens, including undescribed plants and fungi, from areas that employees are unable to survey. The library also benefits from the input of several Honorary Associates to the Mueller Correspondence Project. The Gardens acknowledges these Honorary Associates: Mr Rob Cross, Dr Roger Spencer, Dr Austin Brown, Dr Michelle Casanova, Mr Ian Clarke, Dr Bronwyn Ayre, Dr Thomas Darragh, Professor Rod Home, Dr Gerry Kraft, Dr Graeme Lorimer, Dr Sara Maroske, Ms Mali Moir, Mr Kevin Rule, Mrs Katrina Syme, Dr Anneke Veenstra, Mrs Margaret Brookes, Professor David Guest, Dr Teresa Lebel, Dr Bee Gunn, Dr Ryan Phillips, Mr Ray Thomas, Mr John Miller, Dr Camille Truong and Dr Josephine Milne.



Education Partners

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria gratefully acknowledges its funding partners in support of learning and participation for primary and secondary school students in Victoria. For specific grants and collaborations the Gardens acknowledges: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Victoria), Department of Education (Victoria), Department of Health (Victoria), Catholic Education Victoria, Brian and Virginia McNamee Foundation, Betsy and Ollie Polasek Endowment, City of Casey, Kids in Nature Network, and Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Network.

Library

The library’s seven volunteers contributed 324 hours of work towards the library’s mission to preserve and improve access to the collection. Projects undertaken in the past 12 months include digitising artworks, documenting items from the Economic Botany Collection, creating descriptive lists of uncatalogued items, reshelving items, and assisting with moving parts of the collection. The library volunteers for this past year have included Anna Long, David Sambrooks, Geoff Lay, Jenny Williams, Cherie McKeich, Anne McLachlan and Bob Hare.

Engagement and Impact Volunteers (RBG Melbourne)

At RBG Melbourne, 85 engagement volunteers contributed 4,654 hours of work over the year. Due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 COVIDSafe Principles, volunteers returned gradually to limited operations this year.

The Ian Potter Foundation Children’s Garden Volunteers

The Gardens thanks these volunteers for their contributions: Anne Ada, Moira Bainbridge, Mary Becker, Lesley Blow, Lorraine Brock, Jan Brown, Stephanie Campbell-Gabb, Billie DeBondi, Jenni Eaton, Lea Levy, Anna Malone, Susan Moloney, Billy Moore, Claire McGoldrick, Donna Osbourne, Regina Pike, Jakub Mardon, Merienne Shortridge, Sue Smith, and Julie Troschke.

Gardens Ambassadors (Melbourne)

The Gardens thanks these ambassadors for their contributions: Dianne Allen, Anne Aston, Marie Banic, Carmel Bateman, Deborah Boyd, Judy Cain, Suzanne Clark, Dianne Costelloe, Rosemary Cotter, Helen Creedon, Rose Davey, Berys Dixon, Sue Donning, Veronica Harrison, Angela Herd, Wendy Hopkins, Judith Hughes, Gail Latchford, Lea Levy, Judy MacWilliams, Dennis Manz, Claire McGoldrick, Marian McLean, David Plant, Helen Pyran, Jadzia Rae, Sandia Rose, Emily Sale, Anne Scott, Christine Stott, and Libby Tronson.

Voluntary Guides

The Gardens thanks these voluntary guides for their work in enriching visitor experience: Anne Ada, Marie Banc, Jill Bartlett, Bud Batrouney, Judith Bennett, Doris Berry, Dimi Bouzala, Susan Broadbent, Pamela Carder, Liz Cooper, Rosemary Cotter, Anna Denton, David Forbes, Kay Hall, Jenny Happell, Ross Harris, Virginia Heywood, David Johnston, Marg Kerr, Julianne Lewis, Georgina Mountford, Rosemary O'Brien, Anne Peterson, Kathryn Pile, David Plant, Lynsey Poore, Maggie Richards, Jayne Salmon, Louise Sexton, Julian Simpson, Carole Spillane, Nada Stojkovic, Catherine Trinca, Robin Viney, Chris Wallis, Bryon Wicks, and Mali Wilson.

Horticulture Volunteers

The Gardens thank volunteers Meg Bentley and Jenny Happell.

Horticulture Internship Program

There have been no intakes of interns due to COVID-19 COVIDSafe Principles. However, the intern program has been reviewed and the Gardens looks forward to welcoming interns back in reporting period 2022 – 23.

Engagement and Impact Volunteers (RBG Cranbourne)

At RBG Cranbourne, 31 engagement volunteers contributed 1,042 hours of work over the year. Due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, volunteers returned gradually to limited operations this year.

The Gardens thanks these volunteers for their contributions:

Anne Adams, Margaret Barnes, Pamela Binks, Lorraine Borthwick, Barb Bullen, Brian Cole, Peter Cowley, Johan de Bree, Ron Deane, Margaret Di Nuzzo, Mack Fenwick, Barrie Gallacher, Faye Hobby, Phil Jackson, Christine Kenyon, Eva Kowal, Linda Lee, Nancy Leonard, Peter McGrath, Lauris McInerney, Mark Nelson, Sue Spicer, Sharon Start, John Steward, Sue Tatton, Ray Turner, Jean Wallis, Roger Watts, Kate Walsh, Derek de Korte, Lyn Blackburne.

Cranbourne Gardens Volunteers

During the reporting period:

- 6 Orchid Conservation Volunteers contributed 780 hours in helping to conserve our rare and threatened orchids.
- 8 Nursery Volunteers contributed to 485 hours helping in the nursery.
- 10 Natural Areas volunteers contributed many hours to conservation of the Cranbourne Gardens bushland.
- 15 Landscape volunteers contributed many hours assisting in the Australian Garden.

Orchid Conservation Volunteers

The Gardens thanks these volunteers for their contributions:

Eve Almond, Lynda Entwisle, Brian Lawrence, Charles Young, Jenny Raven and Neil Freestone.

Nursery Volunteers

The Gardens thanks these volunteers for their contributions:

Sue Keon-Cohen, Eva Campi, Ali Wynne, Nancy Leonard, Peter McGrath, Pam Binks, Bernard Boulton, and Amanda Ford.

Landscape Volunteers

(called Friends in the Gardens: FIGs)

The Gardens thanks these volunteers for their contributions:

Christine Kenyon, Sue Spicer, Sue Gilbert, Susan Delaney, Wendy Herauville, Jean Wallis, Bill Jones, Barrie Gallacher, Emily Smith, Jennifer Raven, Pam Binks, Linda Jones, Tony Anderson, Karen Pogni, Sherryne Tully.

Natural Areas Volunteers

The Gardens thanks these volunteers for their contributions:

Allen Gillies, Brian Abbott, Dave Cundall, Dawn Neylan, Liam Martin, Michael Cook, Michael Curtain, Mike Paterson, Susan Mortan, Yvette Martin.

Financial overview



Revenue Generation and Budgetary Objectives

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's income is primarily annual recurrent and project specific funding from the Victorian Government, supplemented by income generated through grants, donations, fund generating programs, business operations and investment. The annual recurrent budget is allocated to salaries, operating costs and minor capital works.

Like many other government entities who rely on visitor and donor-driven sources of revenue, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria continued to experience financial challenges due to the impacts of the global pandemic. The 2021–22 deliverables reflected a continuation of work already commenced and the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria carefully balanced our priorities against our budget capacity and commitment to being financially responsible and sustainable.

The main budgetary objectives of the organisation in 2021–22 were to:

- maintain and improve both RBG Melbourne and RBG Cranbourne
- pursue scientific research on Australian flora and improve the curation and storage of the State Botanical Collection
- interpret and use the living collections and State Botanical Collection to advance the understanding and appreciation of plants

- complete the Integrated Water Management project at RBG Cranbourne
- invest more in our digital presence and strategy to reach new audiences
- expand the range of nature and science-based programs, including delivering a range of impactful RBGV-led nature engagement programs and projects for visitors
- invest in landscapes, built form and interpretation improvements to support increased visitation and positive visitor experience
- expand our strategically aligned partnerships with tourism, health, cultural and for-purpose community organisations
- improve how we translate our research and expertise within the broader community, making Garden's research more engaging and influential in society
- expand RBGV's role as a centre of excellence for plant biodiversity and conservation research
- develop, refine and communicate our strategic responses to major biodiversity and conservation matters (i.e. climate change, land use changes, invasive species and individual action)
- continue work towards COVID-19 recovery, budget repair and stability
- increase the vibrancy and innovation in our workplace through a focus on organisation culture, systems and processes

Income from Government

During 2021–22, annual funding provided by the Parks and Reserves Trust Account (PRTA) was applied to achieve the Board's main strategic objectives as outlined in the Annual Business Plan 2021–22. It was also used to support delivery of priority elements of the Melbourne and Cranbourne gardens master plans and enable repair or replacement of critical infrastructure including maintenance of garden paths and kerbs.

On 3 July 2021, we welcomed the announcement by the then Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change of \$8.52 million in once-off funding to support the delivery of priority elements of the Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens Master Plans, including the upgrading of facilities including pathways and fencing. This funding is a recognition of the important part that open spaces provide to the Victorian community, with both our Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens sites being a haven for people to continue to visit. Works continue delivering on these projects with completion due in 2022–23.

Financial results for 2021–22

	2021–22	2020–21	Change
	\$	\$	\$
Government and other grants			
– Parks and reserves trust account grants	21,668,000	16,347,000	5,321,000
– Other Victorian government grants	4,466,507	6,527,276	(2,060,769)
– Commonwealth Government grants	200,000	100,000	100,000
– Other grants	664,964	480,628	184,336
Philanthropic and other donations	9,245,835	1,840,094	7,405,741
Other income	3,454,022	2,815,206	638,816
Total expenses	(35,206,676)	(32,981,778)	(2,224,898)
Net result	4,492,652	(4,871,574)	9,364,226

Comparison of Financial Performance and Position

The RBGV Board's net result for the financial year ended 30 June 2022 finished in surplus compared to a prior year deficit, mainly reflecting a once-off \$5 million philanthropic bequest and increased annual recurrent grant. The previous year's grant allocation included early receipt of \$5 million which was provided in 2019–20 to enable liquidity for the organisation due to the impacts of COVID-19 on non-government revenue sources. Other Victorian government grants reduced by \$2 million due to the timing of recognising funding aligned to project deliverables under the DELWP funding and Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) Eco-Tourism funds.

Specifically, the major movements in the organisation's revenue and expenses included:

- Increased revenue to income generating activities including education, tour, and retail sales following easing of COVID-19 restrictions.
- Increased tenancy revenue due to the easing of the Victorian Government Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme and Tenants achieving turnover rental income.
- Increased depreciation charges due to the *Valuer-General Victoria's* June 2021 revaluation on the Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens Buildings and Infrastructure assets.
- Increased employee benefit expenses recognising annual escalation and lump sum agility payment in line with the new *Royal Botanic Gardens Enterprise Agreement 2021* which came into effect from December 2021.

The major movements in the organisation's financial position include:

- Increased cash and deposit balances at 30 June 2022, following the receipt of \$2.2 million funding provided by DELWP to support critical asset works for RBG Melbourne with delivery commencing in the 2022–23 financial year.
- Decrease in total assets following the reduction of assets under construction, following the write-off of expenditure relating to a feasibility study undertaken in support of the Nature Science Precinct. Direction from the Victorian Government is to identify an alternate option to components of this project negating the works previously undertaken.
- Decrease in total liabilities due to the reduction in payables due to a large accrual in 2020–21 relating to a progress payment for the Cranbourne Water Irrigation Project paid in 2021–22, and a favorable revaluation of employee leave provisions.

Five-year comparison of financial results

	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Income from government	26,999,471	23,454,904	30,981,428	22,242,712	24,318,867
Total revenue and income from transactions	39,699,328	28,110,204	37,029,370	29,724,710	31,816,019
Total expenses from transactions	(35,206,676)	(32,981,778)	(33,239,113)	(30,870,478)	(25,690,106)
Net result from transactions	4,492,652	(4,871,574)	3,790,257	(1,145,768)	6,125,913
Net result	2,002,832	(5,105,163)	3,837,415	(963,977)	6,142,740
Net cash flow from operating activities	5,860,405	4,762,476	4,180,506	6,786,419	4,426,989
Total assets	964,101,089	963,735,481	683,291,101	677,842,060	676,485,904
Total liabilities	14,105,320	15,724,204	8,587,253	6,485,683	6,477,550

Financial statements



ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS BOARD FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

How this report is structured

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board (the Board) has presented its audited general-purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2022 in the following structure to provide users with information about the Board's stewardship of the resources entrusted to it.

Financial statements	Comprehensive operating statement	50
	Balance sheet	51
	Cash flow statement	52
	Statement of changes in equity	53
Notes to the financial statements	1. About this report	54
	The basis on which the financial statements have been prepared and compliance with reporting regulations	
	2. Funding delivery of our services	55
	Income and revenue recognised from grants, sales of goods and services and other sources	
	2.1 Summary of revenue and income that funds the delivery of our services	55
	2.2 Income and revenue from transactions	55
	3. The cost of delivering services	58
	Operating expenses of the Board	
	3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services	58
	3.2 Other operating expenses	61
	4. Key assets available to support output delivery	62
	Land, property and cultural assets	
	4.1 Total property, plant and equipment	62
	5. Other assets and liabilities	65
	Working capital balances, and other key assets and liabilities	
	5.1 Receivables	65
	5.2 Payables	65
	5.3 Inventories	66
	5.4 Other non-financial assets	66
	5.5 Contract liabilities	67
	6. How we financed our operations	68
Borrowings, cash flow information, leases and commitments for expenditure		
6.1 Borrowings	68	
6.2 Leases	69	
6.3 Cash flow information and balances	70	
6.4 Commitments for expenditure	71	
7. Risks, contingencies and valuation judgements	72	
Financial risk management, contingent assets and liabilities as well as fair value determination		
7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures	72	
7.2 Fair value determination	76	
7.3 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities	80	

8.	Other disclosures	81
8.1	Ex gratia expenses	81
8.2	Other economic flows included in net result	81
8.3	Reserves	82
8.4	Responsible persons	82
8.5	Remuneration of executives	82
8.6	Related parties	83
8.7	Remuneration of auditors	84
8.8	Subsequent events	84
8.9	Other accounting policies	84
8.10	Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective	84
8.11	Glossary of technical terms	85
8.12	Style conventions	87

DECLARATION IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The attached financial statements for the Royal Botanic Gardens Board (the Board) have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2022 and financial position of the Board at 30 June 2022.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 16 September 2022.



Chris Trotman
Chair
Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Melbourne
16 September 2022



Professor Tim Entwisle
Director and Chief Executive
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

Melbourne
16 September 2022



Simon van der Oord
Chief Finance Officer
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

Melbourne
16 September 2022

Comprehensive operating statement ^(a)

For the financial year ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue and income from transactions			
Grants	2.2.1	26,999,471	23,454,904
Donations	2.2.2	9,245,835	1,840,094
Sale of goods and services	2.2.3	1,295,931	1,452,412
Fair value of assets and services received free of charge or for nominal consideration	2.2.4	760,487	534,557
Interest	2.2.5	86,051	54,164
Other income	2.2.6	1,311,553	774,073
Total revenue and income from transactions		39,699,328	28,110,204
Expenses from transactions			
Employee benefit expenses	3.1.1	(22,015,493)	(20,941,432)
Depreciation	4.1.1	(3,461,426)	(2,753,761)
Interest expense	6.1	(7,555)	(12,356)
Other operating expenses	3.2	(9,722,202)	(9,274,229)
Total expenses from transactions		(35,206,676)	(32,981,778)
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		4,492,652	(4,871,574)
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets ^(b)	8.2	(2,277,914)	(3,255)
Other gain/(loss) from economic flow ^(c)	8.2	(211,906)	(230,334)
Total other economic flows included in net result		(2,489,820)	(233,589)
Net result		2,002,832	(5,105,163)
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net result			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	8.3	(18,340)	278,412,592
Total other economic flows - other comprehensive income		(18,340)	278,412,592
Comprehensive result		1,984,492	273,307,429

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes:

(a) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.

(b) 'Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets' includes disposals of all physical assets.

(c) Other gains/(losses) from economic flows relates to the decrease in bond rate for leave provisions.

Balance sheet ^(a)

As at 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	6.3	21,489,700	18,594,752
Receivables	5.1	453,299	385,261
Total financial assets		21,942,999	18,980,013
Non-financial assets			
Inventories	5.3	132,834	170,888
Non-financial physical assets classified as held for sale		38,860	-
Other non-financial assets	5.4	230,048	67,689
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	941,756,348	944,516,891
Total non-financial assets		942,158,090	944,755,468
Total assets		964,101,089	963,735,481
Liabilities			
Payables	5.2	580,178	1,589,432
Contract liabilities	5.5	8,306,098	8,598,366
Borrowings	6.1	458,465	343,287
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	4,760,579	5,193,119
Total liabilities		14,105,320	15,724,204
Net assets		949,995,769	948,011,277
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		21,939,708	19,936,876
Physical asset revaluation surplus	8.3	837,128,092	837,146,432
Contributed capital		90,927,969	90,927,969
Net worth		949,995,769	948,011,277

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note:

(a) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.

Cash flow statement ^(a)

For the financial year ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from government		26,998,946	31,611,889
Receipts from other entities		10,389,283	2,470,532
Goods and Services Tax received from the ATO ^(b)		906,633	802,886
Interest received		86,051	54,164
Total receipts		38,380,913	34,939,471
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and employees		(32,497,334)	(30,154,220)
Interest and other costs of finance paid		(23,174)	(22,775)
Total payments		(32,520,508)	(30,176,995)
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	6.3.1	5,860,405	4,762,476
Cash flows from investing activities			
Sale of non-financial assets		42,800	-
Purchases of non-financial assets		(3,123,435)	(3,344,893)
Net cash flows from/(used in) investing activities		(3,080,635)	(3,344,893)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of borrowings and principal portion of lease liabilities ^(c)		115,178	(116,240)
Net cash flows from/(used in) financing activities		115,178	(116,240)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		2,894,948	1,301,343
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of financial year		18,594,752	17,293,409
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of financial year	6.3	21,489,700	18,594,752

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes:

(a) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.

(b) Goods and Services Tax received from the ATO is presented on a net basis.

(c) The Board has recognised cash payments for the principal portion of lease payments as financing activities; cash payments for the interest portion as operating activities consistent with the presentation of interest payments for leases and low-value assets as operating activities.

Statement of changes in equity ^(a)

For the financial year ended 30 June 2022

	Physical asset revaluation surplus \$	Accumulated surplus \$	Contributed capital \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2020	558,733,840	25,042,039	90,927,969	674,703,848
Net result for the year	-	(5,105,163)	-	(5,105,163)
Other comprehensive income for the year	278,412,592	-	-	278,412,592
Balance at 30 June 2021	837,146,432	19,936,876	90,927,969	948,011,277
Net result for the year	-	2,002,832	-	2,002,832
Other comprehensive income for the year	(18,340)	-	-	(18,340)
Balance at 30 June 2022	837,128,092	21,939,708	90,927,969	949,995,769

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes:

(a) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.

1. ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board (the Board) is a Statutory Authority of the State of Victoria, established pursuant to the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991*.

Its principal address is:

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
Birdwood Avenue
Melbourne VIC 3004.

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities is included in the Report of operations, which does not form part of these financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are in Australian dollars and the historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the note associated with the item measured on a different basis.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in preparing these financial statements whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Consistent with the requirements of *AASB 1004 Contributions*, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital and its repayment) are treated as equity transactions and, therefore, do not form part of the income and expenses of the Board.

Additions to net assets which have been designated as contributions by owners are recognised as contributed capital. Other transfers that are in the nature of contributions to or distributions by owners have also been designated as contributions by owners.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in applying AAS that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates are disclosed in the notes under the heading 'Significant judgements or estimates'.

The financial statements cover the Board as an individual reporting entity which administers the operations of the Melbourne Gardens and the Cranbourne Gardens.

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar, unless otherwise stated.

Compliance Information

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the FMA and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASs) which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). In particular, they are presented in a manner consistent with the requirements of AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

Where appropriate, those AAS's paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied. Accounting policies selected and applied in these financial statements ensure that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Introduction

The Board's overall objective is to nurture an understanding of the scientific, environmental, social, economic, cultural and spiritual importance of plants to our existence, and provide our community with opportunities to prosper from a deep connection with plants.

To enable the Board to fulfil its objective, it receives income from the Parks and Reserves Trust Account, supplemented by income generated through grants, donations, programs, business operations and investment.

Significant judgement : Grants revenue

The Board has made judgement on the recognition of grant revenue as income of not-for-profit entities where they do not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations. Income from grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations and accounted for as revenue from contracts with customers is recognised when the Board satisfies the performance obligation. Income from grants without specific performance obligations are recognised progressively as the project is completed or when the Board gains control of the funds.

Structure

2.1 Summary of revenue and income that funds the delivery of our services.....	55
2.2 Income and revenue from transactions.....	55

2.1 Summary of revenue and income that funds the delivery of our services

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
Grants	2.2.1	26,999,471	23,454,904
Donations	2.2.2	9,245,835	1,840,094
Sale of goods and services	2.2.3	1,295,931	1,452,412
Fair value of assets and services received free of charge or for nominal consideration	2.2.4	760,487	534,557
Interest income	2.2.5	86,051	54,164
Other income	2.2.6	1,311,553	774,073
Total revenue and income from transactions		39,699,328	28,110,204

Revenue and income that fund delivery of the Board's services are accounted for consistently with the requirement of the relevant accounting standards disclosed in the following notes.

2.2 Income and revenue from transactions

2.2.1 Grants

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Income recognised as income of not-for-profit entities		
Parks and Reserves Trust Account grants	21,668,000	16,347,000
Income recognised as revenue from contracts with customers		
Other specific purpose grants	5,331,471	7,107,904
Total grants	26,999,471	23,454,904

Parks and Reserves Trust Account Grant. The annual Parks and Reserves Trust Account grant received from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is recognised as income of not-for-profit entities in accordance with AASB1058. As there are not any specific performance obligations, the income is therefore recognised when the Board gains control over the funds. The Parks and Reserves Trust Account derives its funding from the rate levied on metropolitan properties under the provisions of the *Water Industry Act 1994* and is provided to the Board for the purposes of conservation, recreation, leisure and tourism within the metropolitan area.

Income from grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations are accounted for as revenue from contracts with customers in accordance with AASB15. Revenue is recognised when the Board satisfies the performance obligation by providing the relevant services. This is recognised based on the consideration specified in the funding agreement and to the extent that it is highly probable a significant reversal of the revenue will not occur. Consideration received in advance of recognising the associated revenue from the customer is recorded as a contract liability (Note 5.5). Where the performance obligations is satisfied but not yet billed, a contract asset is recorded. The Board does not have any contract assets.

Income from grants to construct the capital items are recognised progressively as the asset is constructed. This aligns with the Board's obligation to construct the asset. The progressive percentage costs incurred is used to recognise income because this most closely reflects the construction progress as costs are incurred as the works are done.

2.2.2 Donations

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Donations (a)	9,245,835	1,840,094
Total donations	9,245,835	1,840,094

The Board is deemed to have control when the funds are received from the provider.

Note:

(a) *The increase in donations is due to once-off support of Royal Botanic Gardens Board for infrastructure related projects.*

2.2.3 Sale of goods and services

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Sale of goods	826,527	610,917
Rendering of services	469,404	841,495
Total sale of goods and services	1,295,931	1,452,412

The sale of goods and services are transactions that the Board has determined to be classified as revenue from contracts with customers in accordance with AASB 15.

Performance obligations and revenue recognition policies

Revenue from the **rendering of services** is recognised at a point in time when the performance obligation is satisfied when the service is completed and over time when the customer simultaneously received and consumes the services at it is provided. Revenue is measured based on the consideration specified in the contract with the customer.

Sale of goods are recognised as revenue at a point in time when the goods are delivered and have been accepted by the customer.

Consideration received in advance of recognising the associated revenue from the customer is recorded as a contract liability (Note 5.5). Where the performance obligations is satisfied but not yet billed, a contract asset is recorded. The Board does not have any contract assets.

2.2.4 Fair value of assets and services received free of charge or for nominal consideration recognised as income

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Voluntary Services	760,487	534,557
Total fair value of assets and services received free of charge or for nominal consideration recognised as income	760,487	534,557

In accordance with AASB 1058, contributions of resources provided for free of charge or for nominal consideration are recognised at their fair value when the recipient obtains control over the resources, irrespective of whether restrictions or conditions are imposed over the use of the contributions.

Voluntary services: Contributions in the form of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if not donated.

Volunteers mainly relates to guides, science research and collection of species.

2.2.5 Interest income

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Interest from financial assets not at fair value through profit and loss		
Interest on bank deposits	86,051	54,164
Total interest	86,051	54,164

Interest income includes interest received on bank term deposits and other investments. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method, which allocates the interest over the relevant period.

2.2.6 Other income

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Rental income	804,555	474,927
Royalties	116,472	88,930
Other	390,526	210,216
Total other income	1,311,553	774,073

Royalties are recognised when received or receivable in accordance with the substance of the licensing agreement.

Rental income in relation to leasing of the Board's assets i.e. café spaces is recognised when received or receivable under the terms of the lease agreement.

Leases mainly relate to the provision of event management, catering and functions in the Gardens, with lease terms of 5 years and options to extend for a further 5 years.

All lease agreements contain market review clauses in the event that the Board or lessee exercises its option to renew. The lessees do not have an option to purchase the leased asset at the expiry of the lease period.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Non-cancellable lease receivables		
Not longer than one year	450,135	435,097
Longer than one year and not longer than five years	745,730	744,584
Total	1,195,865	1,179,681

3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

Introduction

This section provides an account of the expenses incurred by the Board in delivering services. In Section 2, the funds that enable the provision of services were disclosed and in this note the costs associated with provision of services are recorded.

Structure

3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services.....	58
3.2 Other operating expenses.....	61

3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
Employee benefit expenses	3.1.1	22,015,493	20,941,432
Other operating expenses	3.2	9,722,202	9,274,229
Total expenses incurred in delivery of services		31,737,695	30,215,661

3.1.1 Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement

		2022 \$	2021 \$
Salary and wages		17,020,915	16,370,639
Superannuation	3.1.3	1,848,732	1,668,844
Annual and long service leave		1,725,798	1,638,375
Termination benefits		91,414	-
Other on-costs		1,328,634	1,263,574
Total employee expenses		22,015,493	20,941,432

Employee expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, termination payments and WorkCover premiums.

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to superannuation is employer contributions for members of both defined benefit and defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period. The Board does not recognise any defined benefit liabilities because it has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees. Instead, the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) discloses in its annual financial statements the net defined benefit cost related to the members of these plans as an administered liability (on behalf of the State as sponsoring employer).

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before normal retirement date, or when an employee accepts an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment. Termination benefits are recognised when the Board is demonstrably committed to terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy.

3.1.2 Employee benefits in the balance sheet

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave (LSL) for services rendered to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current provisions		
Annual Leave		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	1,307,900	1,283,905
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	216,554	380,837
Long service leave		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	364,497	467,705
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	1,767,022	1,877,340
Provision for on-costs		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	284,844	289,121
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	337,845	372,731
Total current provisions for employee benefits	4,278,662	4,671,639
Non-current provisions		
Employee benefits	411,782	447,600
On-costs	70,135	73,880
Total non-current provisions for employee benefits	481,917	521,480
Total provisions for employee benefits	4,760,579	5,193,119

Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision

	2022 \$
Opening balance	735,732
Additional provision recognised	329,707
Reductions arising from payments / other sacrifice of future economic benefits	(350,126)
Unwind of discount and effect of changes in the discount rate	(22,489)
Closing balance	692,824
Current	622,689
Non-current	70,135

Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave: Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and on-costs) are recognised as part of the employee benefit provision as current liabilities, because the Board does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of these liabilities.

The liability for salaries and wages is recognised in the balance sheet at remuneration rates which are current at the reporting date. As the Board expects the liabilities to be wholly settled within 12 months of reporting date, they are measured at undiscounted amounts.

The annual leave liability is classified as a current liability and measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid, as the Board does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the average sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the comprehensive operating statement as it is taken.

Employment on-costs such as payroll tax, workers compensation and superannuation are not employee benefits. They are disclosed separately as a component of the provision for employee benefits when the employment to which they relate has occurred.

Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability, even where the Board does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months, because it will not have the unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current LSL liability are measured at:

- undiscounted value – if the Board expects to wholly settle within 12 months; or
- present value – if the Board does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Conditional LSL is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is a conditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. This non-current LSL is measured at present value.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised as a transaction, except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised as an ‘other economic flow’ in the net result.

3.1.3 Superannuation contributions

Employees of the Board are entitled to receive superannuation benefits and the Board contributes to both defined benefit and defined contribution plans. The defined benefit plan(s) provides benefits based on years of service and final average salary.

However, superannuation contributions paid or payable for the reporting period are included as part of employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement of the Board.

	Paid Contribution for the year 2022 \$	Paid Contribution for the year 2021 \$	Contribution outstanding at year-end 2022 \$	Contribution outstanding at year-end 2021 \$
Defined benefit plans ^(a)				
State Superannuation Fund	112,819	125,608	-	3,371
Defined contribution plans				
VicSuper	774,969	695,598	-	23,059
Australian Super	188,336	117,929	-	2,381
UniSuper	122,663	88,447	-	1,786
Other	649,945	587,148	-	23,517
Total	1,848,732	1,614,731	-	54,113

Note:

(a) The basis for determining the level of contributions is determined by the various actuaries of the defined benefit superannuation plans.

3.2 Other operating expenses

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Supplies and services		
Contract costs	2,134,736	1,785,238
Garden and office equipment and supplies	818,787	771,554
Non-financial assets hire, maintenance and operational costs	1,624,673	1,704,623
Consultancies and professional services	1,228,701	1,590,241
Cleaning and waste disposal costs	657,103	597,529
Water charges	496,962	341,992
Advertising and promotion	326,349	388,874
Motor vehicle expenses	129,549	118,050
Computer expenses	507,017	497,829
Travel expenses	84,694	45,767
Staff training and development	140,482	85,275
Insurance costs	224,085	198,772
Postage and communication expenses	76,616	115,474
Books, periodicals and subscriptions	161,038	137,242
Legal costs	26,051	78,929
Security	152,093	202,251
Catering costs	96,693	42,365
Other	440,101	272,372
	9,325,730	8,974,377
Cost of goods sold	375,534	283,392
Lease rental expenses (low value assets)	20,938	16,460
Total other operating expenses	9,722,202	9,274,229

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations.

Supplies and services are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

The following lease payments are recognised on a straight-line basis:

- Short-term leases – leases with a term less than 12 months; and
- Low value leases – leases with the underlying asset's fair value (when new, regardless of the age of the asset being leased) is no more than \$10 000 are in Note 6.2.

Variable lease payments that are not included in the measurement of the lease liability (i.e. variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate and which are not, in substance fixed) such as those based on performance or usage of the underlying asset, are recognised in the Comprehensive operating statement (except for payments which has been included in the carrying amount of another asset) in the period in which the event or condition that triggers those payments occur.

Operating rental expenses payments are recognised on a straight line basis over the lease term, except where another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern of the benefits derived from the use of the leased asset.

Cost of goods sold: When inventories are sold, the carrying amount of those inventories shall be recognised as an expense in the period in which the related income is recognised. The amount of any write down of inventories to net realisable value and all losses of inventories are recognised as an expense in the period the write down or loss occurs.

The amount of any reversal of any write down of inventories, arising from an increase in net realisable value, shall be recognised as a reduction in the amount of inventories recognised as an expense in the period in which the reversal occurs.

4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT SERVICE DELIVERY

Introduction

The Board controls property, plant and equipment that are utilised in fulfilling its objectives and conducting its activities. They represent the resources that have been entrusted to the Board to be utilised for delivery of those services.

Structure

4.1 Total property, plant and equipment.....62

4.1 Total property, plant and equipment

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Land at fair value	491,100,000	491,100,000
Buildings at fair value	38,318,801	35,782,914
Less accumulated depreciation	(947,015)	(141)
Infrastructure at fair value	68,587,590	68,156,251
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,740,065)	(20,823)
Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	10,433,483	9,829,608
Less accumulated depreciation	(6,490,596)	(5,804,429)
Cultural assets at fair value	341,030,840	341,044,480
Assets under construction at cost	1,463,310	4,429,031
Total property, plant and equipment	941,756,348	944,516,891

The following tables are subsets of plant and equipment by right-of use assets

4.1.(a) Total right-of-use assets: vehicles

	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation	Net carrying amount	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation	Net carrying amount
	2022 \$	2022 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$	2021 \$	2021 \$
Vehicles	838,503	(394,630)	443,873	739,977	(382,965)	357,012
Net carrying amount	838,503	(394,630)	443,873	739,977	(382,965)	357,012
	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation	Net carrying amount	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation	Net carrying amount
	2022 \$	2022 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$	2021 \$	2021 \$
Opening balance - 1 July 2021	739,977	(382,965)	357,012			
Additions	301,002		301,002			
Disposals	(108,800)	54,327	(54,473)			
Transfer to assets classified as held for sale	(93,675)	54,815	(38,860)			
Depreciation		(120,808)	(120,808)			
Closing balance - 30 June 2022	838,503	(394,630)	443,873			

Initial recognition: Items of property, plant and equipment are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is its fair value at the date of acquisition.

The cost of constructed non-financial physical assets includes the cost of all material used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overheads.

Right-of-use asset acquired by lessees - Initial measurement

The Board recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentive received; plus
- any initial direct costs incurred, and
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

Subsequent measurement: Property, plant and equipment (PPE) as well as right-of-use assets under leases are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Fair value is determined with regard to the asset's highest and best use (considering legal or physical restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset) and is summarised on the following page by asset category.

Right-of-use asset – Subsequent measurement

The Board depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight-line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The right-of-use assets are also subject to revaluation.

In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any and adjusted for certain remeasurements of the lease liability.

Specialised land and specialised buildings: The market approach is also used for specialised land, although is adjusted for the community service obligation (CSO) to reflect the specialised nature of the land being valued.

The CSO adjustment reflects the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that the CSO adjustment is also equally applicable to market participants.

For the majority of the Board's specialised buildings, the current replacement cost method is used, adjusting for the associated depreciation.

Infrastructure are valued using the current replacement cost method. This cost generally represents the replacement cost of the building/component after applying depreciation rates on a useful life basis. However, for some heritage and iconic assets, the cost may be the reproduction cost rather than the replacement cost if those assets' service potential could only be replaced by reproducing them with the same materials.

Infrastructure mainly relates to various buildings, pavilions, workshops, iron picket fencings and gates.

Cultural assets are valued using the market approach, whereby assets are compared to recent comparable sales or sales of comparable assets that are considered to have nominal value. The State Botanical Collection is valued using a direct replacement cost approach.

Cultural assets mainly relates to the State Botanical Collection which is the collection of botanical specimens; paintings, photographs and drawings and other artistic material; and documents of all kinds located at the National Herbarium of Victoria.

Vehicles are valued using the current replacement cost method. The Board acquires new vehicles and at times disposes of them before the end of their economic life. The process of acquisition, use and disposal in the market is managed by experienced fleet managers in the Board who set relevant depreciation rates during use to reflect the utilisation of the vehicles.

Plant and equipment are valued at fair value and are specialised in use (such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern) is determined using the current replacement cost method.

Refer to Note 7.2 for additional information on fair value determination of property, plant and equipment.

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

The recoverable amount of primarily non-cash-generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement*, with the consequence that AASB 136 does not apply to such assets that are regularly revalued.

4.1.1 Depreciation

Charge for the period

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Buildings	946,874	599,764
Infrastructure	1,719,242	1,392,475
Plant, equipment and vehicles	674,502	652,896
Vehicles - right-of-use assets	120,808	108,626
Total depreciation	3,461,426	2,753,761

All infrastructure assets, buildings and plant and equipment that have finite useful lives, are depreciated. The exceptions to this rule include items such as assets held for sale, land and cultural assets.

Depreciation is generally calculated on a straight line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

Asset	Useful Life years
Buildings	5 to 100
Infrastructure	10 to 50
Plant, equipment and vehicles	5 to 50
Vehicles - right-of-use assets	5 to 8

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments made where appropriate.

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term. Where the Board obtains ownership of the underlying leased asset or if the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the entity will exercise a purchase option, the entity depreciates the right-of-use asset over its useful life.

Indefinite life assets: Land and core cultural assets, which are considered to have an indefinite life, are not depreciated. Depreciation is not recognised in respect of these assets because their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period.

4.1.2 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amount of property, plant and equipment

2022	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Plant, equipment and vehicles	Cultural assets	Assets under construction	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance	491,100,000	35,782,773	68,135,428	4,025,179	341,044,480	4,429,031	944,516,891
Additions	-	-	-	806,351	4,700	2,312,385	3,123,435
Disposals	-	-	-	(54,473)	-	(2,310,879)	(2,365,352)
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	(18,340)	-	(18,340)
Transfers ^(a)	-	2,535,888	431,339	-	-	(2,967,227)	-
Transfer to disposal group held for sale	-	-	-	(38,860)	-	-	(38,860)
Depreciation	-	(946,874)	(1,719,242)	(795,310)	-	-	(3,461,426)
Closing balance	491,100,000	37,371,787	66,847,525	3,942,886	341,030,840	1,463,310	941,756,348

Note:

(a) Transfers balances represent amounts transferred between asset classes.

2021	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Plant, equipment and vehicles	Cultural assets	Assets under construction	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance	310,676,607	35,775,933	60,430,634	3,541,639	251,588,940	3,499,413	665,513,166
Additions	-	19,424	600,116	870,882	33,871	2,132,207	3,656,500
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(311,606)	(311,606)
Revaluation	180,423,393	577,790	7,989,740	-	89,421,669	-	278,412,592
Transfers ^(a)	-	9,390	507,413	374,180	-	(890,983)	-
Depreciation	-	(599,764)	(1,392,475)	(761,522)	-	-	(2,753,761)
Closing balance	491,100,000	35,782,773	68,135,428	4,025,179	341,044,480	4,429,031	944,516,891

Note:

(a) Transfers balances represent amounts transferred between asset classes.

5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Introduction

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Board's operations.

Structure

5.1 Receivables	65
5.2 Payables.....	65
5.3 Inventories.....	66
5.4 Other non-financial assets.....	66
5.5 Contract liabilities.....	67

5.1 Receivables

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Contractual		
Sales of goods and services	209,323	111,801
Accrued donations income	112,199	27,322
	321,522	139,123
Statutory		
Net GST input tax credit recoverable	131,777	246,138
	131,777	246,138
Total receivables	453,299	385,261
<i>Represented by</i>		
Current receivables	453,299	385,261

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'financial assets at amortised costs'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. The Board holds the contractual receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Statutory receivables do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment), but are not classified as financial instruments for disclosure purposes. The Board applies AASB 9 for initial measurement of the statutory receivables and as a result, statutory receivables are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction cost.

Details about the Board's impairment policies, the Board's exposure to credit risk, and the calculation of the loss allowance are set out in Note 7.1.3.

5.2 Payables

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Contractual		
Supplies and services	415,363	1,601,768
Other payables	29,797	33,446
	445,160	1,635,214
Statutory		
Taxes payable	135,018	(45,782)
	135,018	(45,782)
Total payables	580,178	1,589,432
<i>Represented by</i>		
Current payables	580,178	1,589,432

Payables consist of:

- **contractual payables**, classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Board prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid; and
- **statutory payables**, that are recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables, but are not classified as financial instruments and not included in the category of financial liabilities at amortised cost, because they do not arise from contracts.

Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days.

Maturity analysis of contractual payables ^(a)

2022	Carrying amount \$	Nominal amount \$	Maturity dates				
			Less than 1 month \$	1- 3 months \$	3 months - 1 year \$	1 - 5 years \$	More than 5 years \$
			Supplies and services	415,363	415,363	415,321	(164)
Other payables	29,797	29,797	28,950	847	-	-	-
Total	445,160	445,160	444,271	683	206	-	-

2021	Carrying amount \$	Nominal amount \$	Maturity dates				
			Less than 1 month \$	1- 3 months \$	3 months - 1 year \$	1 - 5 years \$	More than 5 years \$
			Supplies and services	1,601,768	1,601,768	1,585,950	2,755
Other payables	33,446	33,446	32,450	996	-	-	-
Total	1,635,214	1,635,214	1,618,400	3,751	13,063	-	-

Note:

(a) Maturity analysis is presented using the contractual undiscounted cash flows.

5.3 Inventories

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current inventories		
Inventories held for sale:		
At cost	132,834	170,888
Total inventories	132,834	170,888

Inventories include goods held for sale in the ordinary course of business operations and are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

5.4 Other non-financial assets

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current other assets		
Prepayments	230,048	67,689
Total other assets	230,048	67,689

Other non-financial assets include prepayments which represent payments made in advance of receipt of goods or services or the payments made for services covering a term extending beyond that financial accounting period.

5.5 Contract liabilities

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Contract liabilities		
Opening balance brought forward	8,598,366	1,714,015
Add: Grant consideration received in the reporting period for performance obligations yet to be completed	2,200,000	8,222,154
Less: Grant revenue recognised for performance obligations completed in the reporting period	(2,510,031)	(1,361,074)
Other contract liabilities	17,763	23,271
Total contract liabilities	8,306,098	8,598,366
<i>Represented by</i>		
Current contract liabilities ^(a)	8,306,098	8,598,366

Contract liabilities include consideration received in advance by the Board completing performance obligations within the specific grant agreements. Revenue is recognised as the obligations are completed.

Note:

(a) Current contract liabilities includes capital grants though they have been recognised in line with AASB 1058.

6. HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS

Introduction

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the Board during its operations, along with interest expenses (the cost of borrowings) and other information related to the financing activities of the Board.

This section includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments (such as borrowings and cash balances). Notes 7.1 and 7.2 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

Structure

6.1 Borrowings.....	68
6.2 Leases.....	69
6.3 Cash flow information and balances.....	70
6.4 Commitments for expenditure.....	71

6.1 Borrowings

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current borrowings		
Lease liabilities ^(a)	229,414	161,993
Total current borrowings	229,414	161,993
Non-current borrowings		
Lease liabilities ^(a)	229,051	181,294
Total non-current borrowings	229,051	181,294
Total borrowings	458,465	343,287

Note

(a) Secured by the assets leased. Leases liabilities are effectively secured as the rights to the leased assets revert to the lessor in the event of default.

Borrowings refer to interest bearing liabilities which are lease liabilities that relate to motor vehicles leased through the VicFleet.

Borrowings are classified as financial instruments. The Board classifies its interest bearing liabilities as financial liabilities at amortised cost subsequent to initial recognition.

During the current and prior year, there were no defaults and breaches.

The maturity analysis of borrowings

2022	Carrying amount \$	Nominal amount \$	Maturity dates				
			Less than 1 month \$	1- 3 months \$	3 months - 1 year \$	1 - 5 years \$	More than 5 years \$
Lease liabilities	458,465	471,992	10,152	39,508	187,550	234,781	-
Total	458,465	471,992	10,152	39,508	187,550	234,781	-

2021	Carrying amount \$	Nominal amount \$	Maturity dates				
			Less than 1 month \$	1- 3 months \$	3 months - 1 year \$	1 - 5 years \$	More than 5 years \$
Lease liabilities	343,287	354,168	64,785	11,925	93,203	184,255	-
Total	343,287	354,168	64,785	11,925	93,203	184,255	-

Interest expense

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Interest on lease liabilities	(7,555)	(12,356)
Total interest expense	(7,555)	(12,356)

'Interest expense' includes costs incurred in connection with the borrowing of funds and includes the interest component of finance lease repayments.

Interest expense is recognised in the period in which it is incurred.

The Board recognises borrowing costs immediately as an expense, even where it is directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset.

6.2 Leases

Information about leases for which the Board is a lessee is presented below.

The Board leasing activities

The Board leases motor vehicles with terms of 3 - 8 years. Additionally, the Board leases office equipment which are low value assets that have not been included in lease liabilities.

6.2.1 Right-of-use Assets

Right of use assets are presented in note 4.1(a).

6.2.2 Amounts recognised in the Comprehensive operating statement

The following amounts are recognised in the Comprehensive operating statement relating to leases:

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Interest expense on lease liabilities	7,555	12,356
Expenses relating to leases of low-value assets	20,938	16,460
Total amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement	28,493	28,816

6.2.3 Amounts recognised in the Cash flow statement

The following amounts are recognised in the Cash flow statement for the year ending 30 June 2022 relating to leases:

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Total cash (inflow)/outflow for leases	(115,178)	116,240

For any new contracts entered into, the Board considers whether a contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'. To apply this definition the Board assesses whether the contract meets three key evaluations.

- Whether the contract contains an identified asset, which is either explicitly identified in the contract or implicitly specified by being identified at the time the asset is made available to the Board and for which the supplier does not have substantive substitution rights;
- Whether the Board has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the identified asset throughout the period of use, considering its rights within the defined scope of the contract and the Board has the right to direct the use of the identified asset throughout the period of use; and
- Whether the Board has the right to take decisions in respect of 'how and for what purpose' the asset is used throughout the period of use.

This policy is applied to contracts entered into or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

Separation of lease and non-lease components

At inception or on reassessment of a contract that contains a lease component, the lessee is required to separate out and account separately for non-lease components within a lease contract and exclude these amounts when determining the lease liability and right-of-use asset amount.

Recognition and measurement of leases as a lessee

Lease Liability - initial measurement

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease if that rate is readily determinable or the Board incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentive receivable;
- variable payments based on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- payments arising from purchase and termination options reasonably certain to be exercised.

Lease Liability - subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification, or if there are changes in-substance fixed payments.

When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset, or profit and loss if the right-of-use asset is already reduced to zero.

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Board has elected to account for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets using the practical expedients. Instead of recognising a right-of-use asset and lease liability, the payments in relation to these are recognised as an expense in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Below market / Peppercorn lease

Right-of-use assets under leases at significantly below-market terms and conditions that are entered into principally to enable the Board to further its objectives, are initially and subsequently measured at cost.

These right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the assets.

Presentation of right-of-use assets and lease liabilities

The Board presents right-of-use assets as 'property plant equipment' unless they meet the definition of investment property, in which case they are disclosed as 'investment property' in the balance sheet. Lease liabilities are presented as 'borrowings' in the balance sheet.

6.3 Cash flow information and balances

Cash and deposits, including cash equivalents, comprise cash on hand and cash at bank, deposits at call and those highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less, which are held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash commitments rather than for investment purposes, and which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Total cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet	21,489,700	18,594,752
Balance as per cash flow statement	21,489,700	18,594,752

6.3.1 Reconciliation of the net result for the period to net cash flows from operating activities

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Net result for the period	2,002,832	(5,105,163)
Non-cash movements		
(Gain)/loss on sale or disposal of non-current assets	2,277,914	-
Depreciation of non-current assets	3,461,426	2,753,761
Other non-cash movements	44,638	
Movements in assets and liabilities		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	(68,038)	(139,581)
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	38,054	(515)
Decrease/(increase) in other non-financial assets	(162,359)	786
Increase/(decrease) in payables	(1,009,254)	189,494
Increase/(decrease) in contract liabilities	(292,268)	6,884,349
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(432,540)	179,345
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	5,860,405	4,762,476

6.4 Commitments for expenditure

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and capital commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are recorded below at their nominal value and inclusive of GST. Where it is considered appropriate and provides additional relevant information to users, the net present values of significant individual projects are stated. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the Balance sheet.

6.4.1 Total commitments payable

Nominal amounts 2022	Less than 1 year \$	1-5 Years \$	5+ Years \$	Total \$
Capital expenditure commitments payable	466,350	52,341	-	518,691
Other commitments payable	1,422,520	2,117,874	-	3,540,394
Less GST recoverable	-	-	-	(369,008)
Total commitments (exclusive of GST)	1,888,870	2,170,215	-	3,690,077
2021	Less than 1 year \$	1-5 Years \$	5+ Years \$	Total \$
Capital expenditure commitments payable	599,500	-	-	599,500
Other commitments payable	627,592	600,239	-	1,227,831
Less GST recoverable	-	-	-	(162,457)
Total commitments (exclusive of GST)	1,227,092	600,239	-	1,664,874

7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

Introduction

The Board is exposed to risk from its activities and outside factors. In addition, it is often necessary to make judgements and estimates associated with recognition and measurement of items in the financial statements. This section sets out financial instrument specific information (including exposures to financial risks), as well as those items that are contingent in nature or require a higher level of judgement to be applied, which for the Board relates mainly to fair value determination.

Structure

7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures.....	72
7.2 Fair value determination.....	76
7.3 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities.....	80

7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

Introduction

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the Board's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract (for example taxes). Such assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments in AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*.

Categories of financial assets

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are measured at amortised costs if both of the following criteria are met and the assets are not designated as fair value through net results:

- the assets are held by the Board to collect the contractual cash flows; and
- the assets' contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest.

These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment.

The Board recognises the following assets in this category:

- cash and deposits;
- receivables (excluding statutory receivables).

Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income

These assets are initially recognised at fair value with subsequent change in fair value in other comprehensive income.

Categories of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they are originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in profit and loss over the period of the interest bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method. The Board recognises the following liabilities in this category:

- payables (excluding statutory payables); and
- borrowings (including lease liabilities).

Derecognition of financial assets: A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired; or
- the Board has transferred the rights to receive cash flows from the asset and either:
 - has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset; or
 - has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control of the asset.

Where the Board has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards or transferred control, the asset is recognised to the extent of the Board's continuing involvement in the asset.

Derecognition of financial liabilities: A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability. The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised as an 'other economic flow' in the comprehensive operating statement.

7.1.1 Financial instruments: Categorisation

	Cash and deposits	Financial assets at amortised cost	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	Cash and deposits	Financial assets at amortised cost	Financial liabilities at amortised cost
	2022 \$	2022 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$	2021 \$	2021 \$
Contractual financial assets						
Cash and deposits	21,489,700	-	-	18,594,752	-	-
Receivables at amortised cost						
Sale of goods and services	-	209,323	-	-	111,801	-
Accrued donations income	-	112,199	-	-	27,322	-
Total ^(a)	21,489,700	321,522	-	18,594,752	139,123	-
Contractual financial liabilities						
Supplies and services payables	-	-	415,363	-	-	1,601,768
Other payables	-	-	29,797	-	-	33,446
Lease liabilities	-	-	458,465	-	-	343,287
Total ^(a)	-	-	903,625	-	-	1,978,501

Note:

(a) The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory receivables (i.e. GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable).

7.1.2 Net holding gain/(loss) on financial instruments

	Interest income/(expense)	
	2022 \$	2021 \$
Contractual financial assets		
Financial assets at amortised cost	86,051	54,164
Total contractual financial assets	86,051	54,164
Contractual financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(7,555)	(12,356)
Total contractual financial liabilities	(7,555)	(12,356)

The net holding gains or losses disclosed above are determined as follows:

- for cash and cash equivalents and financial assets at amortised cost, the net gain or loss is calculated by taking the movement in interest income minus any impairment recognised in the net result; and
- for financial liabilities measured at amortised cost, the net gain or loss is equal to the interest expense incurred during the reporting period.

7.1.3 Financial risk management objectives and policies

As a whole, the Board's financial risk management program seeks to manage these risks and the associated volatility of its financial performance. Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, with respect to each class of financial asset and financial liability, are disclosed in Note 7.2 to the financial statements.

The main purpose in holding financial instruments is to prudentially manage the Board's financial risks within the requirements of the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991* and the government's policy parameters.

The Board's main financial risks include credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. The Board manages these financial risks in accordance with its financial risk management policy.

The Board uses different methods to measure and manage the different risks to which it is exposed. Primary responsibility for the identification and management of financial risks rests with the Audit and Risk Committee of the Board.

Financial instruments - credit risk

Credit risk refers to the possibility that a borrower will default on its financial obligations as and when they fall due. The Board's exposure to credit risk arises from the potential default of a counter party on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Board. Credit risk is measured at fair value and is monitored on a regular basis.

Credit risk associated with the Board's contractual financial assets is minimal, especially in relation to its sale of goods and services receivables due to the adoption of stringent credit establishment and collection policies and procedures. In addition, the Board does not engage in hedging for its contractual financial assets and mainly obtains contractual financial assets that are on fixed interest, except for cash and deposits, which are mainly cash at bank. As with the policy for debtors, the Board's policy is to only deal with banks with high credit ratings.

Provision of impairment for contractual financial assets is recognised when there is objective evidence that the Board will not be able to collect a receivable. Objective evidence includes financial difficulties of the debtor, default payments, debts which are more than 60 days overdue, and changes in debtor credit ratings.

The carrying amount of contractual financial assets recorded in the financial statements represents the Board's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral obtained.

There has been no material change to the Board's credit risk profile in 2021-22.

Contractual receivables at amortised cost

The Board applies AASB 9 simplified approach for all contractual receivables to measure expected credit losses using a lifetime expected loss allowance based on the assumptions about risk of default and expected loss rates. The Board has grouped contractual receivables on shared credit risk characteristics and days past due and selected the expected credit loss rate based on the Board's past history and existing market conditions, as well as forward looking estimates at the end of the financial year.

On this basis, the Board determines the closing loss allowance at end of the financial year as follows:

2022	Current	Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	3 months - 1 year	1 - 5 years	Total
Expected loss rate (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contracted receivables	308,822	12,700	-	-	-	321,522
Loss allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-
2021	Current	Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	3 months - 1 year	1 - 5 years	Total
Expected loss rate (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contracted receivables	117,490	2,353	7,337	11,943	-	139,123
Loss allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-

Contractual receivables are written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery and impairment losses are classified as a transaction expense. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against the same line item.

In prior years, a provision for doubtful debts is recognised when there is objective evidence that the debts may not be collected and bad debts are written off when identified. A provision is made for estimated irrecoverable amounts from the sale of goods when there is objective evidence that an individual receivable is impaired. Bad debts are considered as written off by mutual consent.

Statutory receivables at amortised cost

The Board's non-contractual receivables arising from statutory requirements are not financial instruments. However, they are nevertheless recognised and measured in accordance with AASB 9 requirements as if those receivables are financial instruments.

The Board's statutory receivables are considered to have low credit risk, taking into account the counterparty's credit rating, risk of default and capacity to meet contractual cash flow obligations in the near term. As a result, the loss allowance recognised for these financial assets during the period was limited to 12 months' expected losses. No loss allowance has been recognised.

Financial instruments - liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Board would be unable to meet its financial obligations as and when they fall due. The Board's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed in the face of the balance sheet. The Board continuously manages risk through monitoring future cash flows and maturities planning to ensure adequate holding of high quality liquid assets and dealing in highly liquid markets.

The Board's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk. Cash for unexpected events is generally sourced from its cash and deposits balance.

Financial instruments - market risk

The Board's exposures to market risk are primarily through interest rate risk.

The Board's sensitivity to market risk is determined based on past performance, future expectations and economic forecasts and, accordingly, the Board believes that a movement of 200 basis points is reasonably possible over the next 12 months.

Financial instruments - interest rate risk

Fair value interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Board does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk.

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Board has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits and finance lease liabilities that are at a floating rate.

The Board manages this risk by mainly undertaking fixed rate or non-interest bearing financial instruments with relatively even maturity profiles, with only insignificant amounts of financial instruments at a floating rate. Management has concluded for cash at bank, as financial assets can be left at floating rate without necessarily exposing the Board to significant bad risk. Movements in interest rates are monitored on a daily basis by Management.

The carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities that are exposed to interest rates are as follows:

2022	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Carrying amount ^(a) \$	Interest rate exposure		
			Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing
			\$	\$	\$
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	0.32	21,489,700	-	21,460,654	29,046
Sale of goods and services receivable	-	209,323	-	-	209,323
Accrued donations income receivable	-	112,199	-	-	112,199
		21,811,222	-	21,460,654	350,568
Financial liabilities					
Supplies and services payables	-	415,363	-	-	415,363
Other payables	-	29,797	-	-	29,797
Lease liabilities	3.12	458,465	458,465	-	-
		903,625	458,465	-	445,160

2021	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Carrying amount ^(a) \$	Interest rate exposure		
			Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing
			\$	\$	\$
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	0.33	18,594,752	-	18,569,848	24,904
Sale of goods and services receivable	-	111,801	-	-	111,801
Accrued donations income receivable	-	27,322	-	-	27,322
		18,733,875	-	18,569,848	164,027
Financial liabilities					
Supplies and services payables	-	1,601,768	-	-	1,601,768
Other payables	-	33,446	-	-	33,446
Lease liabilities	3.57	343,287	343,287	-	-
		1,978,501	343,287	-	1,635,214

Note:

(a) The carrying amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts (e.g. GST input tax credit recoverable and GST payable).

The Board's sensitivity to possible movements in interest rates is as follows:

	Carrying amount		+200 basis points		+0 basis points	
	2022 \$	2021 \$	Net result		Net result	
			2022 \$	2021 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Contractual financial assets						
Cash and deposits ^(a)	21,489,700	18,594,752	429,213	371,397	-	-
	21,489,700	18,594,752	429,213	371,397	-	-
Contractual financial liabilities						
Borrowings ^(b)	458,465	343,287	9,169	6,866	-	-
	458,465	343,287	9,169	6,866	-	-

Notes:

(a) Cash and deposits include a deposit of \$21,460,654 (2021: \$18,569,848) that is exposed to floating rates movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2022: $\$21,460,654 \times 0.02 = \$429,213$ and $\$21,460,654 \times 0.00 = \text{\$nil}$; and
- 2021: $\$18,569,848 \times 0.02 = \$371,397$ and $\$18,569,848 \times 0.00 = \text{\$nil}$.

(b) Borrowings include finance lease liabilities that are exposed to movements in interest rates. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2022: $\$458,465 \times 0.02 = \$9,169$ and $\$458,465 \times 0.00 = \text{\$nil}$; and
- 2021: $\$343,287 \times 0.02 = \$6,866$ and $\$343,287 \times 0.00 = \text{\$nil}$.

7.2 Fair value determination

This section sets out information on how the Board determined fair value for financial reporting purposes. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

The following assets and liabilities are carried at fair value:

- financial assets and liabilities at fair value through operating results;
- available for sale financial assets; and
- land, buildings, plant and equipment.

The Board determines the policies and procedures for determining fair values for both financial and non-financial assets and liabilities as required.

Fair value hierarchy

In determining fair values a number of inputs are used. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

- Level 1 - quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 - valuation technique for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
- Level 3 - valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

The Board determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

The Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) is the Board's independent valuation agency and monitors changes in the fair value of each asset and liability through relevant data sources to determine whether revaluation is required.

How this section is structured

For those assets and liabilities for which fair values are determined, the following disclosures are provided:

- carrying amount and the fair value (which would be the same for those assets measured at fair value);
- which level of the fair value hierarchy was used to determine the fair value; and
- in respect of those assets and liabilities subject to fair value determination using Level 3 inputs:
 - a reconciliation of the movements in fair values from the beginning of the year to the end; and
 - details of significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value determination.

This section is divided between disclosures in connection with fair value determination for financial instruments (refer to Note 7.2.1) and non-financial physical assets (refer to Note 7.2.2).

7.2.1 Fair value determination of financial assets and liabilities

The fair values and net fair values of financial assets and liabilities are determined as follows:

- Level 1 – the fair value of financial instruments with standard terms and conditions and traded in active liquid markets are determined with reference to quoted market prices; and
- Level 2 – the fair value is determined using inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the financial asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

The Board currently holds a range of financial instruments that are recorded in the financial statements where the carrying amounts approximate of fair value, due to their short term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of the 2021-22 reporting period.

These financial instruments include:

Financial assets	Financial liabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash and deposits • Receivables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sale of goods and services - Accrued donations income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supplies and services - Other payables • Lease liabilities

Where the fair value of the financial instruments is different from the carrying amounts, the following information has been included to disclose the difference.

	Carrying amount	Fair value	Carrying amount	Fair value
	2022	2022	2021	2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial liabilities				
Lease liabilities	458,465	458,465	343,287	343,287
	458,465	458,465	343,287	343,287

7.2.2 Fair value determination of non-financial physical assets

The fair value measurement hierarchy for assets at the end of the reporting period is as follows:

	Carrying amount		Fair value measurement using: ^(a)			
	2022 \$	2021 \$	Level 2		Level 3	
			2022 \$	2021	2022 \$	2021 \$
Land						
Specialised land	491,100,000	491,100,000	-	-	491,100,000	491,100,000
	491,100,000	491,100,000	-	-	491,100,000	491,100,000
Buildings						
Specialised buildings	19,815,873	18,815,021	-	-	19,815,873	18,815,021
Heritage assets	17,555,913	16,967,752	-	-	17,555,913	16,967,752
	37,371,786	35,782,773	-	-	37,371,786	35,782,773
Infrastructure						
Specialised infrastructure	65,914,722	67,250,536	-	-	65,914,722	67,250,536
Heritage assets	932,803	884,892	-	-	932,803	884,892
	66,847,525	68,135,428	-	-	66,847,525	68,135,428
Plant, equipment and vehicles						
Plant and equipment	2,941,641	3,057,192	-	-	2,941,641	3,057,192
Vehicles ^(b)	1,001,246	967,987	-	-	1,001,246	967,987
	3,942,887	4,025,179	-	-	3,942,887	4,025,179
Cultural assets						
Antiques and artwork	12,958,201	12,971,841	12,958,201	12,971,841	-	-
Specialised cultural assets	328,072,639	328,072,639	-	-	328,072,639	328,072,639
	341,030,840	341,044,480	12,958,201	12,971,841	328,072,639	328,072,639

Notes:

(a) Classified in accordance with the fair value hierarchy. The Board does not hold any assets classified as Level 1 assets for the reporting periods ended 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2021.

(b) Vehicles are categorised as Level 3 assets as fair value of the vehicles is estimated based on the current replacement cost.

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

Non-specialised antiques and artworks

Non-specialised antiques and artworks are valued using the market approach. Under this valuation method, valuation of the assets is determined by a comparison to similar examples of the artist's work in existence throughout Australia and research on prices paid for similar examples offered at auction or through art galleries in recent years. An independent valuation of antiques and artwork was undertaken by the Valuer-General Victoria to determine their fair value at 30 June 2021.

Specialised land and buildings

The market approach is also used for specialised land, although it is adjusted for the community service obligation (CSO) to reflect the specialised nature of the land being valued.

The CSO adjustment reflects the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that is also equally applicable to market participants. This approach is in light of the highest and best use consideration required for fair value measurement, and takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible, and financially feasible. As adjustments of CSO are considered as significant unobservable inputs, specialised land is classified as a Level 3 asset.

For the majority of the Board's specialised land and buildings, the current replacement cost method is used, adjusting for the associated depreciations. As depreciation adjustments are considered significant unobservable inputs in nature, specialised buildings are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

An independent valuation of the Board's specialised buildings was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2021.

Specialised cultural assets

Specialised cultural assets, including the State Botanical Collection, are valued using replacement cost method. Replacement costs are costs to replace the current service capacity of the asset. The method used calculates a unit cost per sample unit that is then scaled up to each collection.

An independent valuation of the Board's specialised cultural assets was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria. The valuation was performed using the replacement cost approach. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2021.

Infrastructure assets

Infrastructure assets are valued using the current replacement cost method. This cost represents the replacement cost of the building/component after applying depreciation rates on a useful life basis. Replacement costs are costs to replace the current service capacity of the asset.

Where it has not been possible to examine hidden works such as structural frames and floors, the use of reasonable materials and methods of construction have been assumed, bearing in mind the age and nature of the building. The estimated cost of reconstruction, including structural services and finishes, also factors in any heritage classifications as applicable.

An independent valuation of the Board's infrastructure assets was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria. The valuation was performed based on the current replacement cost of the assets. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2021.

Vehicles

Vehicles are valued using the current replacement cost method. The Board acquires new vehicles and at times disposes of them before the end of their economic life. The process of acquisition, use and disposal in the market is managed under finance leasing arrangements with DTF and Westpac Bank. Depreciation rates used reflect the utilisation of the vehicles.

Right-of-use assets

Right-of-use assets are revalued according to FRD 103 *Non-financial physical assets*. The Board applies the revaluation model to right-of-use assets. After initial recognition the right-of-use asset is carried at revalued amount, being its fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. The fair value of right-of-use assets are linked to the lease payments. The Board assesses the current lease payments under the lease contract to approximate current market rentals in comparison to equivalent properties that would be paid in the current market. The fair value of the leased assets are determined with reference to the amounts that will have to be paid to replace the current service capacity of the asset.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is held at fair value. When plant and equipment is specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the current replacement cost method.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2022.

For all assets measured at fair value, the current use is considered the highest and best use.

Significant valuation uncertainty

The Board's assets relating to property, plant and equipment were independently valued by the Valuer General Victoria (VGV) as at 30 June 2021. At this date, significant valuation uncertainty exists due to the on going impact the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and government response is having on markets used to value the Board's assets. This means the value of assets assessed at the balance date, may change significantly and unexpectedly over a relatively short period of time.

The reconciliation of Level 3 fair value is as follows:

2022	Specialised land \$	Buildings \$	Vehicles \$	Plant and equipment \$	Infrastructure \$	Specialised Cultural \$
Opening balance	491,100,000	35,782,773	967,987	3,057,192	68,135,428	328,072,639
Purchases/(sales)	-	2,535,887	253,118	459,900	431,339	-
<i>Gains or losses recognised in net result:</i>						
Depreciation	-	(946,874)	(219,859)	(575,451)	(1,719,242)	-
<i>Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income:</i>						
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closing balance	491,100,000	37,371,786	1,001,246	2,941,641	66,847,525	328,072,639

2021	Specialised land \$	Buildings \$	Vehicles \$	Plant and equipment \$	Infrastructure \$	Specialised Cultural \$
Opening balance	310,676,607	35,775,933	972,677	2,568,962	60,430,634	242,062,900
Purchases/(sales)	-	28,814	194,459	1,050,603	1,107,529	-
<i>Gains or losses recognised in net result:</i>						
Depreciation	-	(599,764)	(199,149)	(562,373)	(1,392,475)	-
<i>Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income:</i>						
Revaluations	180,423,393	577,790	-	-	7,989,740	86,009,739
Closing balance	491,100,000	35,782,773	967,987	3,057,192	68,135,428	328,072,639

A description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations is as follows:

Asset Category	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs	Range (weighted average)	Sensitivity of fair value measurement to changes in significant unobservable inputs
Specialised Land	• Market approach	Community Service Obligation (CSO) adjustment	70% ^(a)	A significant increase or decrease in the CSO adjustment would result in a significantly lower (higher) fair value.
Buildings (specialised and heritage)	• Current Replacement Cost	Useful life, remaining useful life and depreciation rate	\$5,300 - \$10,000,000 per unit (\$428,000 per unit)	A significant increase or decrease in direct cost per square metre adjustment would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value
		Useful life of buildings	5-100 years (62 years)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
Vehicles	• Current Replacement Cost	Cost per unit	\$500 - \$194,000 per unit (\$32,000 per unit)	A significant increase or decrease in direct cost per square metre adjustment would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value
		Useful life of vehicles	5 - 8 years (7 years)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
Plant and Equipment	• Current Replacement Cost	Cost per unit	\$180 - \$295,000 per unit (\$5,500 per unit)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
		Useful life of plant and equipment	5 - 50 years (6 years)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
Infrastructure (specialised and heritage)	• Current Replacement Cost ^(b)	Cost per unit	\$2,900 - \$4,600,000 per unit (\$373,000 per unit)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
		Useful life of infrastructure assets	10 to 50 years (50 years)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
Specialised Cultural Assets	• Current Replacement Cost ^(b)	Costs of reinstating the collection per unit	\$0 - \$67,000,000 per unit	A significant increase or decrease in the costs of replacement would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
		Size of collections	1,400,000 - 1,500,000	A significant increase or decrease in the size of the collection would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
Right-of-use assets	• Current Replacement Cost	Cost per unit	\$19,000 - \$94,000 per unit (\$44,400 per unit)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
		Useful life of right-of-use assets	5 - 8 years (7 years)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.

Notes:

(a) CSO adjustment of 70 per cent were applied to reduce the market approach value for the Royal Botanic Gardens specialised land.

(b) For some infrastructure heritage assets and specialised cultural assets, cost may be the reproduction cost of the asset rather than the replacement cost if their service potential could only be replaced by reproducing them with the same materials.

Significant unobservable inputs have remained unchanged since June 2021.

7.3 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet but are disclosed and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value.

Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity.

The Board has nil contingent assets at June 2022 (nil: June 2021)

Contingent liabilities

Contingent Liabilities are:

- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity: or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
 - it is probably that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligations; or
 - the amount of the obligations cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet and are classified as either quantifiable or non-quantifiable. If quantifiable, contingent liabilities are measured at nominal value inclusive of GST payable.

The Board has nil contingent liabilities at June 2022 (nil: June 2021)

8. OTHER DISCLOSURES

Introduction

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report.

Structure

8.1 Ex gratia expenses	81
8.2 Other economic flows included in net result	81
8.3 Reserves.....	82
8.4 Responsible persons.....	82
8.5 Remuneration of executives.....	82
8.6 Related parties.....	83
8.7 Remuneration of auditors.....	84
8.8 Subsequent events.....	84
8.9 Other accounting policies.....	84
8.10 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective.....	84
8.11 Glossary of technical terms.....	85
8.12 Style conventions.....	87

8.1 Ex gratia expenses

Ex gratia expenses are the voluntary payments of money or other non-monetary benefit (e.g. a write off) that is not made either to acquire goods, services or other benefits for the entity or to meet a legal liability, or to settle or resolve a possible legal liability of or claim against the entity.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Deed of release ex gratia payment ^(a)	8,878	-
Total ex gratia expenses ^(b)	8,878	-

Notes:

- (a) The total for ex gratia expenses is also presented in salaries and wages expenses of Note 3.1.1 Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement.
- (b) Includes ex gratia expense for an individual item that is greater than \$5,000.

8.2 Other economic flows included in net result

Other economic flows are changes in the volume or value of an asset or liability that do not result from transactions.

Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows include the gains or losses from:

- the revaluation of the present value of the long service leave liability due to changes in the bond interest rates
- write down of inventory.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets		
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, plant and equipment ^(a)	(2,223,466)	-
Write down of inventory	(1,475)	(3,255)
Total net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	(2,224,941)	(3,255)
Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows		
Net gain/(loss) arising from revaluation of long service leave liability ^(b)	(211,906)	(230,334)
Total other gains/(losses) from other economic flows	(211,906)	(230,334)

Notes:

- (a) Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment due to the write-off of funds held in Assets under construction relating to preliminary investigative works into the Nature and Science Precinct Project. At the time of recognition there was a high probability of future economic benefits relating to the project to be received by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. Recent budget outcomes from the Victorian Government has given direction on a different approach to this project, resulting in these funds no longer being required to be reported.
- (b) Revaluation gain/(loss) due to changes in bond rates.

8.3 Reserves

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Physical asset revaluation surplus ^(a)		
Balance at beginning of financial year	837,146,432	558,733,840
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	(18,340)	278,412,592
Balance at end of financial year	837,128,092	837,146,432
Net change in reserves	(18,340)	278,412,592

Note:

(a) The physical asset revaluation surplus arises on the revaluation of cultural assets, infrastructure, land and buildings.

8.4 Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994 (FMA)*, the following disclosures are made regarding responsible persons for the reporting period:

Names

The persons who held the positions of Minister, Governing Board and Accountable Officer of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board are as follows:

Minister

Minister for Environment and Climate Action	The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
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Governing Board

Chair	Ms Chris Trotman	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Deputy Chair	Mrs Penny Fowler	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Member	Professor Antony Bacic	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Member	Ms Gillian Hund OAM	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Member	Mr Tim Jacobs	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Member	Ms Susanne Williamson	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Member	Ms Christine Wyatt	30 November 2021 to 30 June 2022

Accountable Officer

Director and Chief Executive	Professor Tim Entwisle	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
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Responsible person

\$0-\$9,999		
\$10,000-\$19,999		

	2022 No.	2021 No.
	6	6
	1	1
	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

Remuneration received or receivable by the Director and Chief Executive in connection with the management of the Board during the reporting period was in the range of \$330,000 - \$339,999 (2021: \$310,000 - \$319,999).

8.5 Remuneration of executives

The number of executive officers, other than Ministers and accountable officers, and their total remuneration during the reporting period are shown in the table below. Total annualised employee equivalents provide a measure of full-time equivalent executive officers over the reporting period.

Remuneration comprises employee benefits (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) in all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by the entity, or on behalf of the entity, in exchange for services rendered. Accordingly, remuneration is determined on an accrual basis and is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Post-employment benefits include pensions and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment is ceased.

Other long-term benefits include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

Remuneration was paid to executives during the reporting period as follows:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	1,338,758	1,001,534
Post-employment benefits	119,608	89,308
Other long-term benefits	18,183	18,435
Total remuneration	1,476,549	1,109,277
Total number of executives	5	5
Total annualised employee equivalents ^(a)	5.0	5.0

Note (a): Annualised employee equivalent is based on the time fraction worked over the reporting period.

8.6 Related parties

The Board is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the State of Victoria.

Related parties of the Board include:

- all key management personnel and their close family members and personal business interests (controlled entities, joint ventures and entities they have significant influence over);
- all Cabinet Ministers and their close family members; and
- all Departments and public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of state consolidated financial statements.

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's-length basis.

Significant transactions with government-related entities

The Board received grant funding from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning of \$26.0 million (2021 - \$23.7 million) during the reporting period.

Key management personnel (KMP) of the Board include the Portfolio Minister, the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, the members of the governing board and the Director and Chief Executive.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The compensation detailed below excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Minister receives. The Minister's remuneration and allowances are set by the Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968 and reported within the State's Annual Financial Report.

	2022	2021
		\$
Short-term employee benefits	362,567	353,449
Post-employment benefits	29,316	27,469
Other long-term benefits	6,849	6,925
Total	398,732	387,843

Transactions and balances with key management personnel and other related parties

Given the breadth and depth of State government activities, related parties transact with the Victorian public sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public, e.g. stamp duty and other government fees and charges. Further employment of processes within the Victorian public sector occur on terms and conditions consistent with the *Public Administration Act 2004* and Codes of Conduct and Standards issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. Procurement processes occur on terms and conditions consistent with the Victorian Government Procurement Board requirements.

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the Board, there were no related party transactions that involved key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interests. No provision has been required, nor any expense recognised, for impairment of receivables from related parties.

No provision has been required, nor any expense recognised, for impairment of receivable from related parties.

8.7 Remuneration of auditors

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office		
Audit of the financial statements ^(a)	32,000	48,900
Total remuneration of auditors	32,000	48,900

Note:

(a): The Victorian Auditor-General's Office is prohibited from providing non-audit services.

8.8 Subsequent Events

There were no significant events occurring after the balance date which will have a material impact on the information disclosed in the financial statements.

8.9 Other accounting policies

Contribution by owners

Consistent with the requirements of AASB 1004 *Contributions*, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital and its repayment) are treated as equity transactions and, therefore, do not form part of the income and expenses of the Board.

Additions to net assets that have been designated as contributions by owners are recognised as contributed capital. Other transfers that are in the nature of contributions to or distributions by owners have also been designated as contributions by owners.

8.10 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

Certain new and revised accounting standards have been issued but are not effective for the 2021-22 reporting period. These accounting standards have not been applied to the Financial Statements. The Board is reviewing its existing policies and assessing the potential implications of these accounting standards which includes:

- *AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current*
This Standard amends AASB 101 to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current. A liability is classified as non-current if an entity has the right at the end of the reporting period to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. The meaning of settlement of a liability is also clarified.
- *AASB 2020-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current*
Deferral of Effective Date was issued in August 2020 and defers the effective date to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023 instead of 1 January 2022, with earlier application permitted.
The Board is in the process of analysing the impacts of this Standard. However, it is not anticipated to have a material impact. Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to future reporting periods, but are considered to have limited impact on the Board's reporting.
- *AASB 2020-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Annual Improvements 2018-2020 and Other Amendments.*
- *AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definitions of Accounting Estimates.*
- *AASB 2021-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction.*
- *AASB 2021-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards.*
- *AASB 2021-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128 and Editorial Corrections.*

8.11 Glossary of technical terms

The following is a summary of the major technical terms used in this report.

Borrowings refers to interest-bearing liabilities mainly from public borrowings raised through finance leases.

Commitments include those operating, capital and other outsourcing commitments arising from non-cancellable contractual or statutory sources.

Comprehensive result is the amount included in the operating statement representing total change in net worth other than transactions with owners as owners.

Depreciation is an expense that arises from the consumption through wear or time of a produced physical asset. This expense is classified as a 'transaction' and so reduces the 'net result from transaction'.

Effective interest method is the method used to calculate the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected useful life of the financial asset or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Employee benefits expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, redundancy payments and defined benefit superannuation plans and defined contribution superannuation plans.

Ex gratia expenses mean the voluntary payment of money or other non-monetary benefit (e.g. a write off) that is not made either to acquire goods, services or other benefits for the entity or to meet a legal liability, or to settle or resolve a possible legal liability or claim against the entity.

Financial asset is any asset that is:

- cash;
- an equity instrument of another entity;
- a contractual right:
 - to receive cash or another financial asset from another entity; or
 - to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially favourable to the entity; or
- a contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments and is:
 - a non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to receive a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments; or
 - a derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments.

Financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

Finance lease is a lease that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an underlying asset.

Financial liability is any liability that is:

(a) a contractual obligation:

- to deliver cash or another financial asset to another entity; or
- to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially unfavourable to the entity.

(b) a contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments and is:

- a non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to deliver a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments; or
- a derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments. For this purpose, the entity's own equity instruments do not include instruments that are themselves contracts for the future receipt or delivery of the entity's own equity instruments.

Financial statements comprises:

- a balance sheet as at the end of the period;
- a comprehensive operating statement for the period;
- a statement of changes in equity for the period;
- a cash flow statement for the period;
- notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information;
- comparative information in respect of the preceding period as specified in paragraph 38 of AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*; and

- a statement of financial position as at the beginning of the preceding period when an entity applies an accounting policy retrospectively or makes a retrospective restatement of items in its financial statements, or when it reclassifies items in its financial statements in accordance with paragraph 41 of AASB 101.

General government sector comprises all government Boards, offices and other bodies engaged in providing services free of charge or at prices significantly below their cost of production. General government services include those that are mainly non-market in nature, those that are largely for collective consumption by the community and those that involve the transfer or redistribution of income. These services are financed mainly through taxes, or other compulsory levies and user charges.

Infrastructure systems provide essential services used in the delivery of final services or products. They are generally a complex interconnected network of individual assets and mainly include sewage systems and water storage and supply systems.

Interest expense represents costs incurred in connection with borrowings. It includes interest on loans and interest components of finance lease repayments.

Interest income includes interest received on bank term deposits and other investments.

Leases are rights conveyed in a contract, or part of a contract, the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

Net acquisition of non-financial assets (from transactions) are purchases (and other acquisitions) of non-financial assets less sales (or disposals) of non-financial assets less depreciation plus changes in inventories and other movements in non-financial assets. Includes only those increases or decreases in non-financial assets resulting from transactions and therefore excludes write-offs, impairment write-downs and revaluations.

Net financial worth is equal to financial assets minus liabilities. It is a broader measure than net debt as it incorporates provisions made (such as superannuation, but excluding depreciation and bad debts) as well as holdings of equity. Net financial worth includes all classes of financial assets and liabilities, only some of which are included in net debt.

Net operating balance or **net result from transactions** is a key fiscal aggregate and is revenue from transactions minus expenses from transactions. It is a summary measure of the ongoing sustainability of operations. It excludes gains and losses resulting from changes in price levels and other changes in the volume of assets. It is the component of the change in net worth that is due to transactions and can be attributed directly to government policies.

Net result is a measure of financial performance of the operations for the period. It is the net result of items of revenue, gains and expenses (including losses) recognised for the period, excluding those classified as 'other non-owner movements in equity'.

Net worth is calculated as assets less liabilities, which is an economic measure of wealth.

Non-financial assets are all assets that are not financial assets. It includes inventories, land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment, and cultural and heritage assets.

Operating result is a measure of financial performance of the operations for the period. It is the net result of items of revenue, gains and expenses (including losses) recognised for the period, excluding those that are classified as 'other non-owner movements in equity'. Refer also to 'net result'.

Other economic flows included in net result are changes in the volume or value of an asset or liability that do not result from transactions. In simple terms, other economic flows are changes arising from market re-measurements. They include gains and losses from disposals, revaluations and impairments of non-current physical and intangible assets; fair value changes of financial instruments and agricultural assets; and depletion of natural assets (non-produced) from their use or removal.

Other economic flows – other comprehensive income comprises items (including reclassification adjustments) that are not recognised in net result as required or permitted by other Australian Accounting Standards. They include changes in physical asset revaluation surplus.

Payables includes short and long-term trade debt and accounts payable, grants, taxes and interest payable.

Receivables include amounts owing from short and long-term trade credit and accounts receivable and interest receivable.

Sale of goods and services refers to income from the direct provision of goods and services and includes fees and charges for services rendered and sales of goods and services.

Supplies and services generally represent cost of goods sold and the day-to-day running costs, including maintenance costs, incurred in the normal operations of the Board.

Transactions are those economic flows that are considered to arise as a result of policy decisions, usually an interaction between two entities by mutual agreement. They also include flows within an entity such as depreciation where the owner is simultaneously acting as the owner of the depreciating asset and as the consumer of the service provided by the asset. Taxation is regarded as mutually agreed interactions between the government and taxpayers. Transactions can be in kind (e.g. assets provided/given free of charge or for nominal consideration) or where the final consideration is cash. In simple terms, transactions arise from the policy decisions of the Government.

8.12 Style conventions

Figures in the tables and in the text have been rounded. Discrepancies in tables between totals and sums of components reflect rounding. Percentage variations in all tables are based on the underlying unrounded amounts.

The notation used in the tables is as follows:

-	zero, or
(xxx)	negative
200x	year
200x-0x	year period.

The financial statements and notes are presented based on the illustration in the 2021-22 Model Report for Victorian Government Boards. The presentation of other disclosures is generally consistent with the other disclosures made in earlier publications of the Board's annual reports.

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board (the authority) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2022 • comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • cash flow statement for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies • declaration in the financial statements. <p>In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2022 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the authority in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Board's responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Board of the authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 authority's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
4 October 2022



Paul Martin
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Our people



Public sector values and employment principles

Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria adopts policies and practices that are consistent with the *Public Administration Act 2004*. The organisation is committed to applying merit and equity principles when appointing employees. The Gardens' policies and practices are consistent with the Victorian Public Sector Commission's (VPSC) employment standards and provide for fair treatment, career opportunities and the early resolution of workplace issues. The organisation has advised its employees about how to avoid conflicts of interest, how to respond to offers of gifts, benefits and hospitality, how to manage misconduct and information regarding Public Interest Disclosures. Employees also receive training in workplace behaviour which focuses on supporting a workplace free from discrimination, harassment and bullying along with the VPSC Code of Conduct and expectations of being a Public Sector Employee.

Strategy and Direction

RBGV actively engages with staff and stakeholders to develop a robust and contemporary platform for the wellbeing of staff and volunteers. We commit to best practice for wellbeing, inclusion and recognising diversity through the following plans:

- Development of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's first Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan
- Launch of the Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)
- Ongoing commitment as a Child Safe organisation
- Publishing of the first Gender Equality Action Plan
- Publishing of RBGV's first Mental Health and Wellbeing Charter
- Draft of the first Occupational Violence and Aggression Framework
- Development of the Occupational Health and Safety Strategy 2022–24
- A consultative approach to development of the 2022–23 Business Plan

Leadership skills and behaviours

- Mental Health and Wellbeing training delivered for leaders to better understand mental health and explore their obligations and responsibilities.
- Conduct of 360-degree feedback surveys at Executive level to raise awareness and positive action regarding personal impact on culture and performance
- Positive Duty Training for managers to highlight the legislative requirement to take preventative strategic action to identify and prevent as well as eliminate both potential and existing inappropriate workplace and work-related behaviour
- Ongoing Executive Performance Planning processes to reflect the Gardens' commitment to leadership.

Comparative Workforce Data

Summary of employment levels, as at June 2021 and June 2022

	Ongoing Employees				Fixed term, Fixed task and Casual		
	Total Headcount (includes Ongoing, Fixed term, Fixed task & Casual)	Number (Headcount)	Full-time (Headcount)	Part-time (Headcount)	FTE	Headcount	FTE
June 2021	255	195	134	61	171.20	60	39.15
June 2022	244	174	125	49	156.01	70	47.70

Details of employment levels re: gender, age and classification

	June 2022			June 2021		
	Total Headcount (includes Ongoing, Fixed term, Fixed task & Casual)	Ongoing	Fixed term, fixed task and casual	Total Headcount (Includes Ongoing, Fixed term, Fixed task & Casual)	Ongoing Number (Headcount)	Fixed term, fixed task and casual Headcount
	244			255		
Gender						
Men	95	76	19	105	85	20
Women	146	98	48	148	110	38
Self-Described	3	0	3	2		
Age						
Under 25	4	2	2	9	3	6
25–34	47	20	27	51	27	24
35–44	61	43	18	69	57	12
45–54	72	58	14	66	58	8
55–64	48	42	6	49	43	6
Over 64	12	9	3	11	7	4
Classification						
Staff	185	123	62	192	140	52
Line Manager	38	36	2	44	42	2
Branch Manager	15	15	0	13	13	0
Executives	6	0	6	6	0	6

Notes:

- All figures reflect employment levels and FTE count during the last full pay period in June of each year.
- Excluded are those employees on leave without pay or absent on secondment, or casuals who were not paid in the final pay period. Ongoing employees include people engaged on an open-ended contract of employment.
- FTE means Full-time staff equivalent.
- Classification is based on previous years reporting and is as follows:
 - Staff includes all employees other than those who have line management responsibilities.
 - Line manager refers to an employee who supervises staff but does not manage a Branch function.
 - Branch Manager is responsible for a function within an organisational division.
 - Executives are employed under the VPSC PEER policy.

Executive Officer Data

Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994 (FMA)*, the following disclosures are made regarding responsible persons for the reporting period:

Names

The persons who held the positions of Minister, Governing Board and Accountable Officer of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria are as follows:

Minister		
Minister for Environment and Climate Action (formerly Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change)	The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Governing Board		
Chairperson	Ms Chris Trotman	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Deputy Chairperson	Mrs Penny Fowler	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Member	Professor Antony Bacic	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Member	Ms Gillian Hund OAM	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Member	Mr Tim Jacobs	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Member	Ms Susanne Williamson	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022
Member	Ms Christine Wyatt	30 Nov 2021 to 30 June 2022
Accountable Officer		
Director and Chief Executive	Professor Tim Entwisle	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

An executive is defined as a person employed as an executive under Part 3 of the PAA or a person to whom the Victorian Government's *Public Entity Executive Remuneration Policy* applies. All figures reflect employment levels

at the last full pay period in June of the current and corresponding previous reporting year. The following table discloses the SES of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria for 30 June 2022 broken down by gender.

Total number of SES for Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, broken down into gender

Class	All		Women		Men		Self-described	
	No.	Var.	No.	Var.	No.	Var.	No.	Var.
SES 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	n	n
SES 2	1	0	0	0	1	0	n	n
SES 1	5	0	2	0	3	0	n	n
Total	6	0	2	0	4	0	n	n

The number of executives in the report of operations is based on the number of executive positions that are occupied at the end of the financial year.

Workforce Inclusion Policy & Equal opportunities

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria has policies and procedures in place and activities underway to meet its obligations and support a diverse and inclusive workplace. This year we developed and published the *Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan 2021–22* which outlines our respect and commitment to First Peoples' culture, self-determination and equality. In addition, our *Gender Equality Action Plan* was developed through employee and union consultation and incorporates a range of initiatives to support employees of all genders and intersectional disadvantage to achieve equally in all aspects of employment. Our *Disability and Inclusion Access Plan* is also under development with a view to roll out during 2022 – 23.

Reconciliation Action Plan

In November 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens launched its first *Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan 2021–22* focused on Reconciliation Australia's pillars of relationships, respect, opportunities and governance. This 12-month plan outlines 43 deliverables, 30 of which have been met during the reporting period.

Key achievements include:

- Victorian Traditional Owner focused cultural training and surveys of 165 staff by Mirriyu Cultural Consultant, Bonnie Chew during National Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June)
- Additional strategic meetings with Mirriyu Cultural Consultant and the Garden's Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group members and senior staff towards the formation of organisational related guidelines and processes
- RBG Cranbourne hosted a Bushfood live stream on-line event, 'Koolin-ik ba Kirripbuluk (Friends and Family)' by RBGV's two Aboriginal Learning Facilitators for NAIDOC week 2021 (3 –11 July) 'Heal Country'

- Numerous internal and external communication initiatives were developed and implemented for key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island dates (NAIDOC week, National Close the Gap Day, Reconciliation Week, National Sorry Day)
- Increased understanding of, and engagement with Victorian Traditional Owners across the Garden's five divisions, reflected in various meetings and / or specific projects with five separate Victorian Traditional Owner Groups (Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Bunurong, Boon Wurrung, Wadawurrung and Gunditjmarra).

Occupational Health and Safety

As in the previous financial year, the strong focus on managing the risks presented by the COVID-19 pandemic continued through 2021–22. This included timely and appropriate responses to the changing situation as documented in a regularly updated COVIDSafe Plan aligned with government restrictions. By the third quarter of the financial year, most of the administration and operational staff were back working on site, coinciding with increased visitor numbers and program offering. All staff on site have been vaccinated (at least 2 doses) to meet the government requirement for attending workplaces.

All RBGV employees are required to complete a suite of on-line modules focused on safe work practices, specific to the breadth of activities across both garden sites.

RBGV is committed to promoting a mentally healthy and safe workplace and introduced a Mental Health and Wellbeing Charter during the reporting period.

Incident Management

The financial year 2021–22 incident reporting now also includes workplace mental health (psychosocial) related incidents. The total number of incidents reported on the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria sites was 227 compared to 260 in 2020–21.

There were three Lost Time Injuries reported in 2021–22 compared to seven in 2020–21, which is a 57% improvement. Managers, team leaders and supervisors have been actively providing the injured employee support in returning to work safely and/or while they were on restricted duties. This has helped employees recover back to full capacity earlier. There was one Medical Time Injury reported in 2021–22 compared to two in 2020–21.

There were 25 First Aid Injuries relating to employees reported in 2021–22 compared to 24 in 2020–21. 2021–22 includes Workplace Mental Injury as an injury category, with two workplace mental injuries reported.

The number of Worker Injury Claims for 2021–22 is 3 compared to 11 claims in 2020–21. Table and data below provided by the WorkSafe Agent (Xchanging Pty Ltd) for RBGV summary report. (Summary of table provided is up to the end of May 2022).

Claim Year	Total Claims	Total Incurred Cost	Average Incurred Cost	Time Lost Claims	Time Lost Claims Incurred Cost	Time Lost Claims Average Incurred Cost
2017/18	4	\$147,505.30	\$36,876.33	4	\$147,505.30	\$36,876.33
2018/19	5	\$13,726.57	\$2,745.31	4	\$10,376.14	\$2,594.04
2019/20	2	\$19,877.32	\$9,938.66	1	\$7,485.54	\$7,485.54
2020/21	11	\$95,304.11	\$8,664.01	7	\$68,300.06	\$9,757.15
2021/22	3	\$21,284.55	\$7,094.85	1	\$0.00	\$0.00

Please note: Any claims received or changed from minor to standard in previous 3 months will not have an SCE calculated, therefore incurred costs may be understated.

Standard claim still open = one (1) Minor claim still open = nil

There was a total of eight (8) WorkSafe Victoria notifiable incidents reported in 2021–22 compared to two (2) in the 2020–21.

Six (6) notifiable incidents were for COVID–19 related illness reported by employees. These were reported to WorkSafe Victoria immediately in accordance with WorkSafe COVID–19 reportable incidents requirements. COVID–19 WorkSafe Victoria reporting is no longer required (ceased 14 January 2022).

One (1) notifiable incident was reported for an incident in RBG Cranbourne when a visitor fell off their push bike and was an inpatient in hospital for a day. One (1) notifiable was for a fatality in the RBG Cranbourne carpark where the driver had died in the vehicle while in the carpark. Investigations and report details are with the Victorian Police (Cranbourne). WorkSafe did not record this as a work incident but required the notification as it happened on the premises of RBG Cranbourne.

All notifiable incidents were reported to WorkSafe within the required period for reporting. All notifiable incidents have been closed with no further investigations required by WorkSafe Victoria. Conduct of hazard hunts is ongoing and all branches have been actively completing their hazard hunt activities and schedules. Planned hazard hunts at RBG Melbourne open spaces (public areas) for 2021–22 have been completed with corrective actions identified and scheduled.

The presence of mould was identified in some buildings during audit inspections across both Cranbourne and Melbourne Garden sites. Further testing and assessment provided a clearer understanding of location and risk category of the hazard. Corrective actions were taken with staff in buildings with high–risk detection relocated and mechanical filtration installed in some buildings. Specialised contractors were engaged to provide a thorough remediation plan and to safely remove the hazard, with some works continuing into 2022–23. Affected employees were consulted throughout.

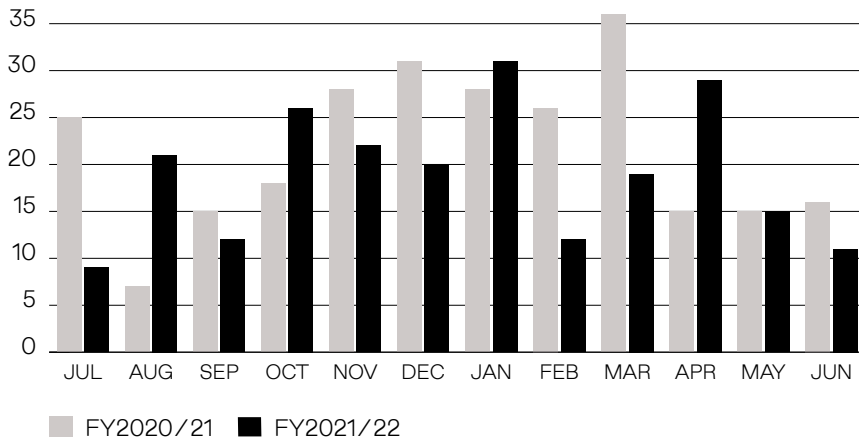
All First Aid Officer certifications are current and up to date. First Aid Officers who left the organisation were replaced with new first aiders.

We had two new Health and Safety Representatives (HSR), replacing those who had resigned from their voluntary duties. The new HSRs have satisfactorily completed their five day training.

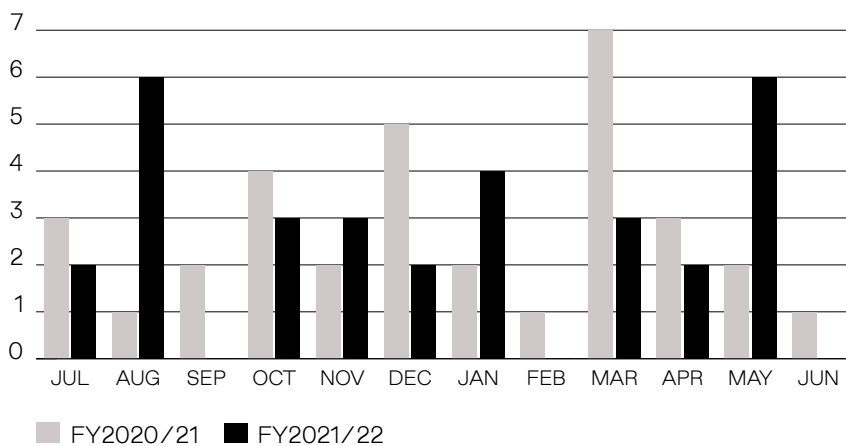
Child Safety

Child safety was a top priority at the Gardens this year. At end June 2022, 97.5% of staff and volunteers had completed all elements of the RBGV Child Safe Program, a fantastic result. All incidents relating to the safety or wellbeing of children and young people were overseen and managed through the Child Safety inbox and this led to ongoing improvements throughout the year. No formal investigation was required or launched in this first full year of the Child Safe Program.

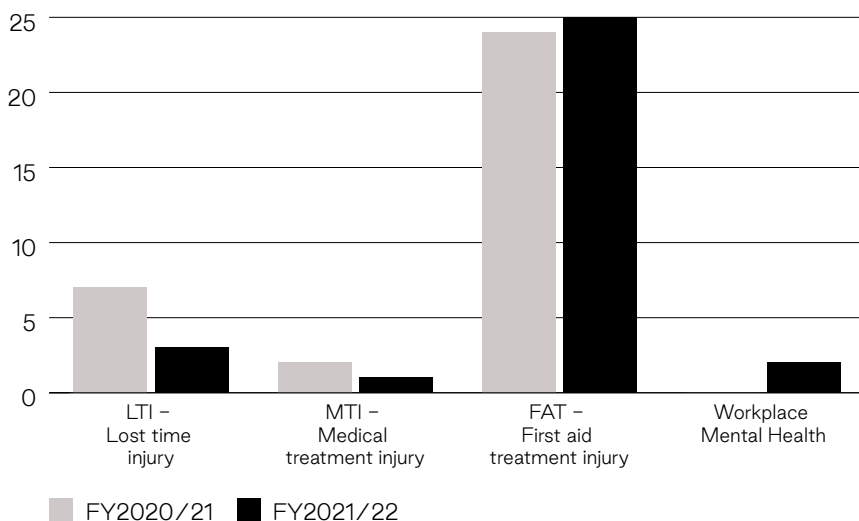
Total (all) incidents reported last 2 financial years



Total employee only incidents reported last 2 financial years



Employee injury by category – full year totals last 2 years



Definitions

Lost Time Injuries (LTI)

A lost-time injury is defined as an occurrence that resulted in a fatality, permanent disability or time lost from work of one day/shift or more (SafeWork Australia).

Medical Time Injuries (MTI)

Medical Time Injury is work related injury or illness which results in the worker seeking medical attention from a health professional (e.g. doctor) without losing time off work for the whole day.

First Aid Treatment Injury (FAT)

A First Aid Treatment Injury (FAT) is an injury that requires a single first aid treatment involving only minor injuries, for example minor scratches, burns, cuts and so forth, which do not ordinarily require medical care.

Lost time injuries (more significant injury)

21/22 total

Lost Time Injuries (LTI's)

An injury that results in one day/shift or more taken off from work.

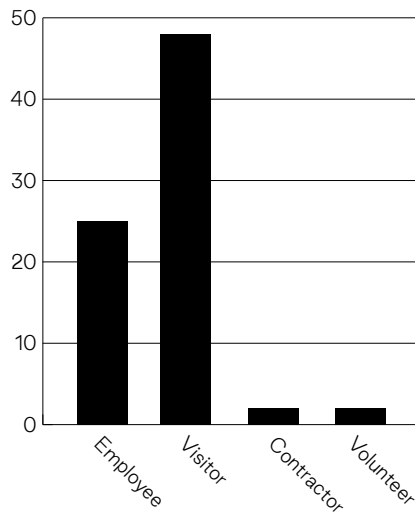
3

Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR)

Represents the number of lost time injuries per million hours worked during the reporting period. The LTIFR is used to benchmark against other like organisations as an indicator of our safety/injury prevention performance. * Exposure times taken from last FY totals

8.63

**First aid injury administered
FY21/22 by groups**



**Employee injury and compensation
submission in the FY21/22**

Areas of injury submitted with Worker Injury Claims includes the strains and sprains to hand/finger, shoulder and lower back.

1 claim is for lower back strain. 1 claim is for shoulder strain.

1 claim for hand / finger strain.

All employees have returned to work on full capacity.

**FY 21/22 WorkCover Claims
(by body location)**

Head/Eye = 0

Neck = 0

Shoulder = 1

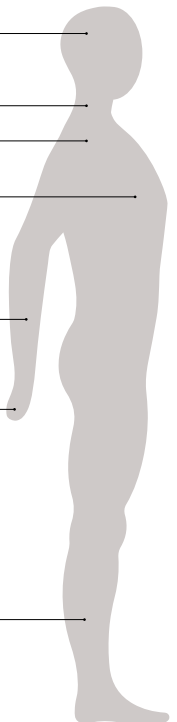
Chest / abdomen = 0

Back = 1

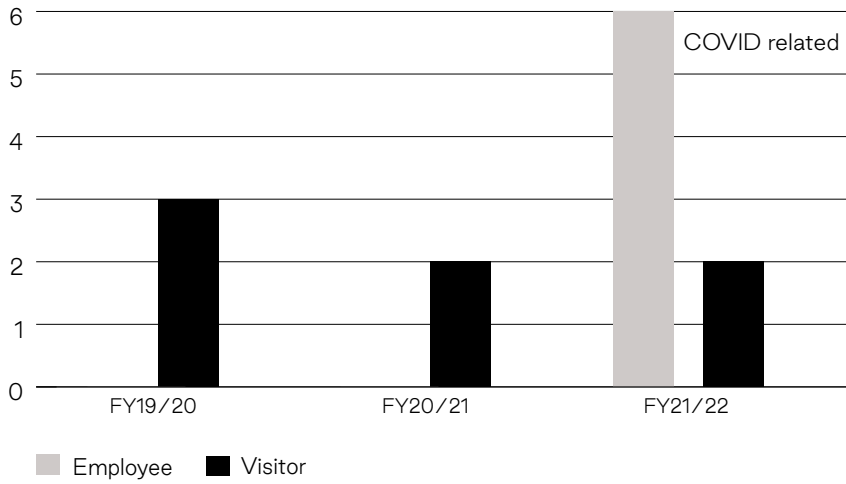
Hand = 1

Lower limbs = 0

Psychological = 0



Total notifiable incidents FY19/20 to FY21/22 YTD



Lead indicators		
Planning and Consultation (FY 2021/22)	Planned	Held
OHS Committee meetings	4	4
OHS Working Group (management) meetings	8	8



Other disclosures



Government advertising expenditure

Nil reports

Consultancy expenditure

In 2021–22 there were five consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2021–22 in relation to these consultancies was \$369,837 (excl. GST).

Details of Individual consultancies:

In 2021–22 no consultants were engaged where the total fees payable to individual consultants were less than \$10,000.

Consultant	Purpose of Consultancy	Start Date	End Date	Total Approved Fee (exc. GST)	Expenditure 2021–22 (excl. GST)	Future Expenditure (excl. GST)
Aspect Studios	Landscape architectural services associated with the Nature and Science Precinct Plan for the Melbourne Gardens	04-01-2021	30-09-2021	238,020	95,841	
Development Victoria	Engagement of Advisory Services to develop the Nature and Science Precinct business case	31-08-2021	01-02-2022	135,000	135,000	
Future Foods	Development of a Food and Event Strategy	15-03-2022	19-10-2022	29,000	8,700	20,300
Frontier Economics Pty Ltd	Delivery of options to secure Financial Sustainability	01-08-2021	25-10-2021	48,864	48,864	
Greenshoot Consulting	Cultural and Historical Mapping and Traditional Owner Consulting	01-04-2022	31-08-2022	90,480	81,432	9,048
Total				541,364	369,837	29,348

Information and communication technology expenditure

For the 2021–22 reporting period, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria had a total ICT Expenditure of \$1,947,000.

All operational ICT expenditure	ICT expenditure related to projects to create or enhance ICT capabilities		
Business as Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure	Non-Business as Usual (non-BAU) ICT expenditure	Operational Expenditure	Capital Expenditure
(Total)	(Total = Operational expenditure and capital expenditure)		
\$1,947,000	\$128,000	\$58,000	\$70,000

Major Contracts

During 2021–22, RBGV did not enter into any contracts valued at over \$10 million.

Local Jobs First – Victorian Industry Participation Policy statement

The *Local Jobs First Act 2003* introduced in August 2018 brings together the Victorian Industry Participation Policy (VIPPP) and Major Project Skills Guarantee (MPSG) policy which were previously administered separately.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is required to apply the Local Jobs first policy in all projects valued at \$3 million or more in Metropolitan Melbourne or for statewide projects, or \$1 million or more for projects in regional Victoria.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria had no projects valued at \$3 million or more in Metropolitan Melbourne or for statewide projects, or \$1 million or more for projects in regional Victoria during the reporting period.



Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Financial Management Compliance Attestation Statement

I, Chris Trotman, on behalf of the Responsible Body, certify that the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria has no Material Compliance Deficiency with respect to the applicable Standing Directions under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Trotman".

**Chris Trotman
Chairperson
Royal Botanic Gardens Board**

16 September 2022

Establishing Legislation

The *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991* was not amended in 2021–22.

Legislative Compliance

Financial Management Act 1994

Full details of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's compliance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* are outlined in the section 'Financial Management' and in the Disclosure Index.

Freedom of Information

Freedom of Information Act 1982

In 2017, the Victorian Government amended the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) to create the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC) as a primary regulator and source of independent advice to both the community and the Victorian Government about how the public sector collects, uses, and shares information. OVIC commenced operating on 1 September 2017 and comprises the functions that previously sat with the Offices of the Freedom of Information Commissioner and the Commissioner for Privacy and Data Protection.

Principal Officer: Professor Timothy Entwisle, Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

Authorised officer: Seela Dushyanthen, Freedom of Information Officer.

The FOI Officer is responsible for ensuring that Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria meets its obligations under the FOI Act. The Freedom of Information Officer operates under delegation from the Director and Chief Executive (the Principal Officer).

The FOI Act allows the public a right of access to documents held by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. The purpose of the FOI Act is to extend as far as possible the right of the community to access information in the possession of the Victorian Government and its various departments and authorities.

Under the FOI Act any person can request access to documents held by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria relating to their personal affairs or

to information about Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria activities.

Categories of Documents

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria maintained a corporate records management hard copy filing system, until end of October 2018. In November 2018 Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria successfully migrated into a fully Electronic Document Records Management System (EDRMS) called Content Manager (CM9.2) Version 3.

Access

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria has a FOI Officer to process and coordinate action on requests.

Requests

In 2021–22 there were zero (nil) requests. FOI requests are made in writing describing all documents requested and including payment of a \$30.10 application fee. FOI fees and charges are not subject to GST.

Requests should be sent to:

Freedom of Information Officer
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
Private Bag 2000, South Yarra,
VIC 3141.

Competitive Neutrality Policy

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to remove any advantage arising solely from their government ownership if it is not in the public interest where services compete, or potentially compete with the private sector. Government businesses are required to cost and price these services as if they were privately owned.

Competitive neutrality policy supports fair competition between public and private businesses and provides government businesses with a tool to enhance decisions on resource allocation. This policy does not override other policy objectives of government and focuses on efficiency in the provision of service. Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria continues to comply with the requirements of the Competitive Neutrality Policy.

DataVic Access Policy

Consistent with the DataVic Access Policy issued by the Victorian Government in 2012, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria will make available relevant data sets at www.data.vic.gov.au in electronic readable format.

Compliance with the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* protects people who report improper conduct and corruption in the Victorian public sector (whistle-blowers). Those protections include keeping the identity of the person reporting improper conduct confidential and protecting them from reprisals including bullying, harassment or legal action.

What is a 'Public Interest Disclosure'?

A public interest disclosure is a complaint or allegation of corrupt or improper conduct or detrimental action by a public officer or a public body. The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria is a 'public body' for the purposes of the Act.

What is 'Improper or Corrupt Conduct' and detrimental action?

Improper conduct is defined in the Act to mean:

- Corrupt conduct, or conduct of a public officer or body that constitutes: a criminal offence
- Serious professional misconduct
- Dishonest performance of public functions
- Intentional or reckless breach of public trust
- Intentional or reckless misuse of information
- Substantial mismanagement of public resources
- Substantial risk to the health or safety of one or more persons, or
- Substantial risk to the environment.

'Improper conduct' might also be the conduct of any person that adversely affects the honest performance by a public officer or body of their functions, or is intended to adversely affect the effective performance by a public officer or body of their functions for the benefit of the other person (for example resulting in the other person obtaining a licence, permit or approval, appointment, financial benefit or other direct or indirect monetary or proprietary gain). The conduct must be serious. Less serious or trivial conduct is excluded from the definition of 'improper conduct'.

Detrimental action or reprisal means action taken against a person who has made a Public Interest Disclosure and includes action causing injury, loss or damage, intimidation or harassment and discrimination, disadvantage or adverse treatment in relation to a person's employment, career, profession, trade or business. It includes the taking of disciplinary action.

How do I make a 'Public Interest Disclosure'?

A public interest disclosure about the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria or its board members, officers or employees can be made by contacting the Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission on the contact details provided on this page. The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria, or any of its officers are not able to receive public interest disclosures.

How can I access the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action?

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure about the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria or its employees. Access the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's procedures at its website www.rbg.vic.gov.au/privacy/

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Email: see the website above for
the secure email disclosure process,
which also provides for anonymous
disclosures.

Social Procurement Framework

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is fully committed to supporting the Government's directions under the Social Procurement Framework and we recognise that we play a key role in advancing social and sustainable outcomes for Victorians.

During 2021-22, the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria developed a draft *Social Procurement Strategy 2022-25* (SPS) to enable a strategic, agencywide approach to how it will deliver social and sustainable outcomes through our procurement in accordance with the Social Procurement Framework and beyond. Committing to the implementation of this Strategy addresses key actions in our *Corporate Plan 2021-2024* and *Annual Business Plan 2021-2022*, notably to:

1. Invest in Aboriginal culture, representation, employment, and procurement.
2. Grow diversity and improve access and inclusion for all, [notably for women, people with disability and various cultural and socio-economic backgrounds].
3. Strengthen our climate response, resilience, and conservation action.

To align with the above priorities, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria has prioritised to focus on seven of the eight pre-identified social and sustainable procurement focus areas, including:

- Opportunities for Victorian Aboriginal people
- Opportunities for Victorians with disability
- Women's equality and safety
- Opportunities for disadvantaged Victorians
- Supporting safe and fair workplaces
- Sustainable Victorian social enterprises and Aboriginal business sectors
- Environmentally sustainable outputs

Achievements

The following activities have been conducted to support Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's *Social Procurement Strategy*, with a number of these activities conducted over a two-year period, including 2021-22:

- On-going employment of five Aboriginal staff.
- Payment to 28 Aboriginal suppliers during this reporting period, of which:
 - 11 were Aboriginal owned businesses, eight Supply Nation or/ and Kinaway certified and five Traditional Owner individuals or corporations for the Gardens two sites
 - 17 Aboriginal businesses from the total were paid indirectly via larger contractors
 - 10 of the total were engaged mainly for the Garden's *Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-22* related initiatives and the remaining 18 for purchasing of goods for the Garden's two retail shops.
- Establishment of appropriate governance, reporting and budget frameworks to adequately resource, prioritise and implement actions within *Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan 2011-22*.

- Development of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's first Gender Equality Action Plan.
- Continual contribution to the protection of Victoria's biodiversity, rare and threatened plant species and communities and post bushfire regeneration recovery efforts.
- On-going leadership and delivery of the Global Botanic Gardens Climate Change Alliance and the Global Tree Collections Climate Risk Framework.
- Continual improvement of environmental sustainability FRD24E Victorian Government reporting guidelines.

Office based environmental impacts

Environmental Sustainability Reporting Context

RBGV is committed to continuing to improve environmental sustainability practices in all aspects of our work, including our reporting methodologies.

This year is the second year in a row that environmental sustainability reporting has been undertaken in line with Departmental standards and methodologies for office-based environmental impacts FRD24D. The following tables capture data from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 and 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 which capture data beyond office-based impacts. This year's reporting contains an additional 'transport' indicator category as well as upgrades to how and what we measure.

Baseline and COVID-19

COVID-19 has impacted on consumption across several environmental indicators, making it an atypical situation to be able to make meaningful comparisons between last year and this year. The almost doubling of Greenhouse Gas emissions this year from the previous year can mainly be attributed to the emissions generated from general waste disposal at our RBG Melbourne. This is mainly associated with an increase of visitors to the site by more than 20% and resumption of large events such as

Moonlight Cinema. The additional 'Transport' vehicle and air travel indicator, together with improvements to environmental sustainability reporting, has also increased overall Greenhouse Gas emission baseline figures for this reporting period.

Environmental Performance Report

Energy

Despite the increase in the consumption of some indicators, this year's Greenhouse Gas emissions from Stationary energy consumption was down by 3.9% compared to the previous year. This can be attributed to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, ongoing in-part working from home arrangements and an increase in solar generated power.

	2020-21	2021-22
E1. Total Stationary energy usage segmented by primary source (MJ)	10,420,115	10,787,763
E2 Greenhouse gas emissions from Stationary energy consumption (tonnes CO ₂ -e)	1,510	1,451
E4. Units of energy used per visitor	7.1	6.1
Cumulative installed solar Photo Voltaic systems (kW)	145	145

Recent Achievements

- Based on last year's figures, the 270 panels installed at the end of 2020 at RBG Cranbourne are estimated to have produced more than 230,000 MJ of Solar PV generated power for the 2021-22 reporting period. Accurate data has not been able to be attained this year due to technical issues.
- RBG Melbourne produced 177,437 MJ of solar generated power for 2021-22 which is a significant increase from last year's 33 MW. This is due to the Visitor Centre and Herbarium solar systems being brought back online.
- A significant new art installation Red Energy project *Lightscape* at RBG Melbourne was powered by an accredited GreenPower electricity product. The project started on the 24 of June 2022, scheduled to 4 August 2022, so will be reported on in the next financial year.
- Melbourne Site has switched approximately 30% of its lights to LED and Cranbourne Site approximately 70% on a replace needs basis.

Water

Water quality and water conservation continue to be a high priority across RBGV both sites. Though total portable water use figures in 2021-22 were higher this year, the use of stormwater for landscape irrigation remained consistent.

	2020-21	2021-22
W1. Total water consumption (kilolitres)	150,374	187,916
Total Mains Potable Water consumption (kL)	97,771	133,682
Stormwater consumption (kL)	52,603	54,234
Recycled water consumed (kl)	-	8,537
W3. Units of water used per visitor (kilolitres/visitor)	0.10	0.11

Recent Achievements

- At RBG Melbourne this year 54 million litres (54,234KL) of stormwater used for landscape irrigation provided a 41% offset and \$186,061 direct savings in potable-sourced (municipal) water. Comparatively in 2020-21, 53 million litres (52,603KL) provided a 44.7% offset and \$176,520 direct savings.
- At RBG Cranbourne, the new recycled water irrigation project was officially opened on 18 February 2022 and underwent a four-month commissioning and testing period. A new 'Recycled water consumed (kl)' sub-indicator shows that 11% of water used for irrigation was recycled this year. Higher recycled water offset figures are envisaged for the following year as the system is expected to run at full capacity.

Transport

The number of vehicles across both sites indicates some shift away from Petrol (14) and Diesel (15) vehicles to Hybrid (1) and Electric (5) vehicles.

	2021-22 ¹
T1. Total energy consumption by fleet vehicles (MJ)	1,171,467
Diesel	926,014
Petrol (gasoline)	245,453
Total number of vehicles	35
Electric	5
Hybrid	1
Diesel	15
Petrol (gasoline)	14
Air Travel - Total distance travelled by aeroplane (km)	156,462

1. new reporting requirement

Waste

General waste figures and associated emissions are up this year, and recycling rate figures down due to the ease of COVID-19 restrictions as previously mentioned.

	2020-21	2021-22
Ws1. Total units of waste disposed of by destination (tonnes)	917	1,462
General Waste (tonnes)	157	689
Comingled recycling (tonnes)	13	57
Cardboard and Paper (tonnes)	5	17
Soil (tonnes)	132	165
Green Waste converted to mulch (tonnes)	582	473
Public Waste (to Landfill) (tonnes)	29	61
Ws3. Recycling rate (%)	65%	37%

Recent Achievements

- A policy on the ban of single use plastic was rolled out in February 2022 applying to staff, suppliers, and tenants.
- An estimated 710 kg IT related e-waste across both sites, such as computers, phones, and cables, was recycled and at RBG Cranbourne approximately 480 kgs of land management, infrastructure and office produced e-waste was recycled.
- Approximately 10,000 kgs of scrap metal from infrastructure was recycled at RBG Cranbourne this year.
- Staff kitchen minimum waste, composting and recycling continues and includes recycling of RBGV uniforms, toner cartridge (16.40 kgs) and batteries.

Paper

Office paper consumption continues to be low this year due to working from home arrangements and changed working patterns.

	2020-21	2021-22
P1. Total units of A4 equivalent copy paper purchased (reams)	280	245
P2. Units of A4 equivalent copy paper used per FTE (reams/FTE)	1.3	1.2

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse Gas emissions are higher for most indicators this year compared to last year as per explanation in Baseline and Covid sub-section.

	2020-21	2021-22
Total Greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO ₂ -e)	1,806.0	2,300.7
G1 Total greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy use (tonnes CO ₂ -e)	1,510	1,451
G2 Total greenhouse gas emissions associated with vehicle fleet (tonnes CO ₂ -e)	-	82
G3 Total greenhouse gas emissions associated with air travel (tonnes CO ₂ -e)	-	17
G4 Total greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste disposal (tonnes CO ₂ -e)	297	750

Compliance with the Building Act 1993

Melbourne Gardens

The following works have been completed:

- Irrigation system communication and electrical supply renewal
- South Equatorial House Complex Remedial Works
- Temple of the Winds step and podium restoration

- Paths upgrade from D Gate to Guilfoyles Volcano and in the Australian Forest Walk

The following works have commenced:

- Great Melbourne Telescope House Pillar Reinstallation
- Changing Places Facility design
- Rose Pavilion remedial works assessment and Permit preparation
- Design and permits for C-Gate renewal
- Preparation for perimeter fence and gates refurbishment
- Security camera upgrade
- Preparation for E-Gate Lodge restoration
- The Terrace roof repairs and interiors upgrade
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage upgrades

Cranbourne Gardens

The following works have been completed:

- Carpark sealed with accessibility improvements
- Cycle tracks resurfaced
- Café and gardens shop internal upgrades
- Rockpool Pavilion refurbished

The following works have commenced:

- Arid Garden and Dry Riverbed landscape renewal projects
- Visitor Centre refurbishment and access lift improvements
- Woodland Picnic Area nature-based playground
- Planning and design for new Western Entry
- Planning and design for Ian Potter Kiosk shade and shelter extensions
- Planning and design for other Eco-Tourism improvement projects including boardwalk upgrades, East entry improvements, and Tourism signage
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage upgrades

Maintenance Works

The following infrastructure and facilities management practices were carried out at both Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens:

- Routine and scheduled maintenance audits and reporting
- Ongoing routine responsiveness servicing and repair
- All essential safety measure inspections undertaken by a registered Building Surveyor with compliance being responded to and progressed as required.

Permits and Emergency and Building Orders

Disclosure about buildings owned or controlled by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria:

- Building permits issued: two (2) at Melbourne Gardens, two (2) at Cranbourne Gardens
- Occupancy permits/final certification of compliance issues: two (2) at Melbourne Gardens, one (1) at Cranbourne Gardens.
- Emergency and building orders: None for either site.

Conformity

Three Melbourne Gardens buildings were required to be brought into conformity, for which Building Permits and Performance Solutions are currently being obtained:

- The Tropical Glasshouse has a closed causeway that exceeds exit thresholds
- The Gardens House has a ramp that does not comply with National Construction Code and AS1428 – Design for Access and Mobility
- The Herbarium has storage within 500mm of sprinkler heads on cabinets obstructing sprinklers within.

With respect to the identified presence of mould in buildings, RBGV:

- Have spotted the potential of the hazard through a building defect audit.
- Have assessed the risk through a series of mould tests and building reports.
- Are fixing the problem by installing air purification machines, direct mould clean ups, and/or by undertaking building remediation works to either repair damaged building materials and fix points of moisture ingress or improve building ventilation.
- Evaluated the results through a Mould Control Group and/or by the relevant Infrastructure and Facilities Branch.

Additional information available on request FRD221

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance, details in respect of the items listed below have been retained by RBGV and are available in full on request, subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1982:

- a. Details of publications produced by RBGV about itself, and how these can be obtained
- b. Details of any major external reviews carried out on RBGV
- c. Details of major research and development activities undertaken by RBGV
- d. Details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by RBGV to develop community awareness of the entity and its services
- e. Details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged
- f. A statement on industrial relations within RBGV
- g. A statement of completion of declarations of pecuniary interests by relevant officers
- h. All contractors engaged, services provided, and expenditure committed for each engagement (in addition to the information included in RBGV's annual report)

The information is available on request from:

Freedom of Information Officer
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
Phone: (03) 9252 2300
e-mail: info@rbg.vic.gov.au

Additional information included in annual report

Details in respect to the following items have been included in RBGV's annual report on pages indicated below:

- i. Assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees.
- j. A list of of RBGV's major committees and the purpose of each committee.
- k. Details of overseas visits undertaken by senior officers.

Information that is not applicable to Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria:

- l. A declaration of shares held by senior officers (no shares have been issued in Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria).



Disclosure index



Legislation	Requirement	Page
Declaration in Report of Operations		
SD 5.2.3	Responsible Body Declaration	2
Part 1: Year in Review		
	Chairperson's report	2
MRO	Vision, Mission, Values	5
FRD 22	Manner of establishment and responsible Minister (s)	13
FRD 22	Nature and range of services provided	10
FRD 22	Objectives, functions, powers and duties	11
Performance reporting (non-financial)		
FRD 22, FRD 27	Achievements, operational performance, key Initiatives	18-31
Performance Reporting (Financial)		
FRD 22	Five-year financial summary	45
MRO, FRD 22, FRD 27	Significant changes in financial position	44
	Summary of performance against budgetary objectives	43
	Significant changes or factors affecting performance	44
Part 2: Governance and Organisational structure		
FRD 22	Organisational structure and corporate governance	17
FRD 22	Governing body	14
FRD 22, SD 3.2.1	Audit and Risk committee membership and roles	15
FRD 22H	Board committees	15
FRD 22H	Occupational health and safety	94
Part 3. Workforce data		
FRD 22	Public Sector values and employment principles	91
FRD 22, FRD 29	Workforce Data	91
FRD 22H	Workforce Inclusion Policy	94
FRD 15	Executive Officer data	93

Part 4: Other Disclosures

FRD 25	Local Jobs first	102
SPF Reporting Guidelines	Social Procurement Framework	105
FRD 22	Government advertising expenditure	101
FRD 22	Consultancy expenditure	101
FRD 22	ICT expenditure	102
FRD 12	Major contracts	102
FRD 22	Freedom of information	104
FRD 22	Building Act 1993	109
FRD 22	Competitive Neutrality Policy	104
PD Act, FRD 22H	Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012	104
FRD 24C	Office-based environmental impacts	106
MRO	DataVic access policy	104
FRD 22H	Additional information available on request	110
SD 5.1.2	Financial management compliance attestation	103

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