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Introduction

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

I am delighted to report that the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria has experienced a remarkable year of progress and successful outcomes as a result of continued efforts towards improving our service and value to the community and all other stakeholders.

In July 2014, the Gardens participated in the internationally renowned Royal Horticultural Society, Hampton Court Palace Flower Show. Our horticultural excellence and contemporary landscape designs were celebrated on the international stage through the 'Essence of Australia' show garden. Combining Australian plants, Indigenous culture and new technology, the Essence of Australia presentation saw the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria achieve the highest accolade of Best in Show as well as a Gold Medal. The Essence of Australia received widespread media coverage, generating increased awareness of the Australian Garden at Cranbourne as well as inspiring an appreciation of Australian flora among gardening enthusiasts in the UK. The Melbourne and Cranbourne gardens are experiencing greater visitation from Europe and the UK as a result of our marketing efforts.

Scientists at the Gardens have again this year made a significant contribution to conserving threatened species and ecosystems and in the identification of plants. The establishment of the Orchid Conservation Project at Cranbourne Gardens has seen six federally threatened species of orchids prepared for re-introduction into the wild. Grassland conservation has continued to be a focus in 2014-15 with research continuing into four Victorian foundation grassland species. The Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology continued its role undertaking a number of nationally and internationally significant projects about conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria continued to excel in encouraging children of all ages to develop a deeper connection with nature. During the year, The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden was rejuvenated and expanded creating even more valuable space for unstructured imaginative play. Already we are seeing an increase in the number of visitors to the Children's Garden, which confirms just what an important space this is for Melbourne and Victoria. A major achievement during the year was the Disney Fairies Trail app, which used augmented reality technology to correspond with nature play activities and attracted an estimated 28,000 visitors to Melbourne Gardens during the year.

This year also saw the redevelopment of Fern Gully, one of the oldest and most precious areas of Melbourne Gardens. The new raised boardwalk and planting of more than 1,500 ferns has created an even more tranquil, cool and accessible space for the appreciation of ferns, palms, shrubs and ground covers, primarily from South Eastern Australia. The design stays true to the original concept of William Guilfoyle created in 1873 and now allows increased water flow from Guilfoyle's Volcano, making a contribution to the broader Working Wetlands water management system.

Perhaps one of the most visible transformations that took place during the past 12 months was the introduction of a new visual identity system to reflect the new name, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, and our new vision: Life is sustained and enriched by plants. The previous visual identity lasted 21 years and the new system has already made a significant impact by visually connecting all of our activities. It will be a valuable tool to support conversations with our visitors, peers and funders about the importance of plants and the environment.

The achievements outlined in this report would not have been possible without the considerable support of our many wonderful donors, Friends groups, volunteers and of course my colleagues on the Board and the Foundation. I would particularly like to note the passion and commitment demonstrated by the dedicated staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria who, in their various roles, help make the Gardens such a vibrant and respected organisation.

On behalf of the Board, I acknowledge the very valuable support provided by the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, the Hon. Lisa Neville and officers of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2015.



Ken Harrison
Chairman
Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria
18 August 2015

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 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 inspiration and meaning.

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.

Our Mission

Every interaction with us advances the understanding and appreciation of plants

Our mission is to use our two remarkable gardens, our innovative science, and our skills at sharing knowledge, to help the community understand and value plants. We will seek every opportunity to interact with people, from all walks of life and wherever they live. By engaging with our local communities, attracting visitors to our gardens and connecting with people online, we will achieve our vision.

In all our interactions we will be creative, open, brave and remarkable as we look for every opportunity in our roles to advance the understanding and appreciation of plants. Our values guide our decision-making and behaviour and determine how we will act as we achieve our vision.

Our Values

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 understand the importance of plants.

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, whatever the role we play. 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. We do things that are different and exciting, if they help us achieve our vision. We are proud of our past and we are passionate about our future.

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.

Definitions

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria is responsible to the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water. The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria is responsible for Melbourne Gardens, Cranbourne Gardens, the State Botanical Collection and the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology. Throughout this document the organisation will be referred to as follows:

Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria – refers to the body responsible for corporate governance

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria – refers to the whole organisation, including the sites at Melbourne and Cranbourne, State Botanical Collection, and the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology

Melbourne Gardens – refers to the site at Melbourne

Cranbourne Gardens – refers to the site at Cranbourne

State Botanical Collection – refers to the irreplaceable resource of approximately 1.5 million dried specimens and comprehensive botanical library held in the National Herbarium building at Melbourne Gardens

ARCUE – refers to the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology, whose research facilities are located at the Parkville campus of The University of Melbourne

Australian Garden – refers to the Australian Garden at Cranbourne Gardens.

Our Organisation

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria administers Melbourne Gardens, Cranbourne Gardens, the State Botanical Collection and the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology (ARCUE).

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria incorporates 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. It is also home to the State Botanical Collection (including 1.5 million preserved plants, algae and fungi) and is a regional hub for plant knowledge, with internationally recognised biodiversity, conservation and urban ecology research programs.



MELBOURNE GARDENS

Melbourne Gardens has been a treasured part of Melbourne's cultural life for 169 years – much loved by generations of Victorians, as well as by many visitors from interstate and overseas. It is a picturesque haven for recreation and an important resource for education, conservation, science and horticulture. Melbourne Gardens extends over 38 hectares and houses a collection of close to 10,000 species of plants 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.

At Melbourne Gardens visitors can enjoy a range of guided tours including the popular Aboriginal Heritage Walk, punting on the Ornamental Lake, seasonal walks and an extensive program of theatre, film and events during the summer season. Melbourne Gardens is home to the Melbourne Observatory, The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden, two cafes, two gift shops and a Visitor Centre located at Observatory Gate.

CRANBOURNE GARDENS

Cranbourne Gardens includes one of Victoria's most precious areas of remnant native bushland and offers visitors the chance to explore heathlands, wetlands and woodlands on the 363-hectare site. It is recognised as a site of State significance for flora and fauna conservation, with more than 25 species listed as endangered, threatened or at risk of extinction. Facilities in the bushland include over ten kilometres of walking tracks, six kilometres of cycling tracks, a lookout tower, picturesque shelters, barbecues and picnic tables.

The internationally recognised award-winning Australian Garden celebrates the beauty and diversity of Australian landscapes and features approximately 170,000 plants representing 1,700 different kinds. The innovative design of the Garden has been compared with Sydney's Opera House. Complementing the garden landscape are a visitor centre, café and kiosk, gift shop, community events space and interpretive displays.

STATE BOTANICAL COLLECTION

The State Botanical Collection was founded in 1853 and is housed in the National Herbarium of Victoria building at Melbourne Gardens. The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is the Victorian Government's major centre for botanical studies in plant identification, collection and classification.

The State Botanical Collection is an irreplaceable resource of approximately 1.5 million dried specimens of plants, fungi and algae from Australia and many other countries. One of the most historically significant and among the top few collections in the world, the State Botanical Collection is an international scientific research resource used by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria staff as well as visiting botanists. Research areas include biodiversity, classification, evolution, biogeography, molecular systematics, conservation and horticulture. In addition, the State Botanical Collection

contains the oldest and most comprehensive botanical library in Australia. 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.

ARCUE

ARCUE was created in 1998 to increase understanding of the ecology, restoration and management of biodiversity in urban and suburban areas throughout Australia and the world.

ARCUE's activities encompass basic and applied research; undergraduate and postgraduate training; long-term ecological studies; community education; policy and management advice to all levels of government; and consultancy services. In addition, ARCUE works closely with the School of BioSciences at The University of Melbourne (where it is located), and with the research and education programs at both Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens.

ARCUE continues to increase its environmental business activities in support of its research objectives.

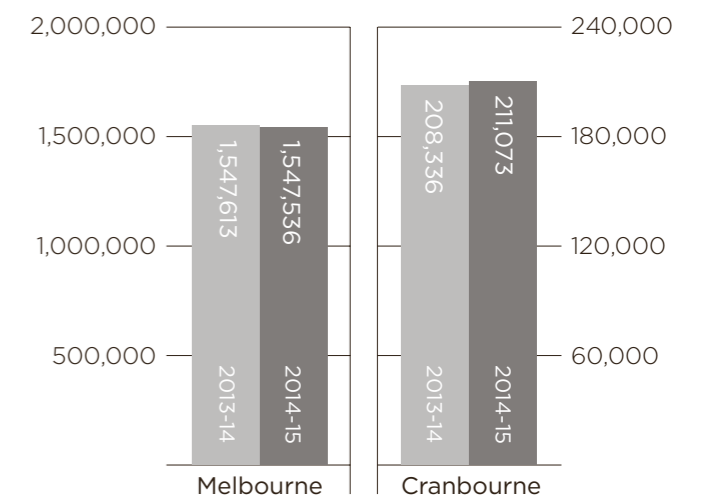
VISITOR NUMBERS

Attendance figures remained steady this year, with 1.75 million visitors to the Melbourne Gardens and the Cranbourne Gardens. The Children's Garden saw an increase of 13% from 2013-14 despite a longer winter closure than the previous year, and Cranbourne Gardens had its highest visitation on record.

Table 1: Visitor numbers

	2014-15
Cranbourne Gardens	211,073
Including Australian Garden visitors	161,050
Melbourne Gardens	1,547,536
Including The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden visitors	226,090
Total RBGV visitors (to both sites)	1,758,609

Figure 1: Melbourne Gardens & Cranbourne Gardens



GOVERNANCE

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria is a statutory authority established under the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991*. The Board is responsible to the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water for fulfilling its statutory obligations under the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991* and the Royal Botanic Gardens Regulations 2014. These make provision for the care, protection, management and improvement of Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens, the State Botanical Collection and ARCUE. The responsible Ministers during the 2014-15 reporting period were:

- the Hon. Ryan Smith MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change for the period from 1 July 2014 to 3 December 2014; and
- the Hon. Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water for the period 4 December 2014 to 30 June 2015.

The Board comprises seven members, including a Chairman and a Deputy Chairman, 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 management, business management, public administration and nature conservation. 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 the 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. A member of the Board who, either directly or indirectly, has a conflict of interest or duties, or a direct or pecuniary interest in any matter before the Board, must declare the nature of the interest or conflict at a meeting of the Board. The member must not take any further part in the discussion or voting on the matter to which the declaration relates. The Director and Chief Executive has responsibility for the day-to-day management and control of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

Board meetings are held at least seven times every year. The Director and Chief Executive attends every Board meeting and the Director, Corporate Resources is the Secretary to the Board. Directors attend at least one Board meeting each year to inform the Board of key issues and outputs relevant to their Division. This enhances the Board members' knowledge of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and its activities. The Board may also request external or independent advice on a particular matter.

Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria Members (as at 30 June 2015)

Mr Kenneth Harrison MBA, BBus, FCPA, FAICD
Chairman – appointed 10 December 2013
Appointed to the Board 9 April 2012

Mr Harrison is an accountant and investment banker, and specialises in commercial property, pastoral and agricultural pursuits as Chairman of Collinsbank Pty Ltd. Keenly interested in the philanthropic sector, he occupies fundraising roles with several key institutions.

Mr Graham Cunningham MBA, BEC
Deputy Chairman – appointed 9 April 2012
Appointed to the Board 9 April 2012

Mr Cunningham has an extensive background in finance and business and has served on a range of private and public sector boards. He is also Chairman of the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria.

Professor Tony Bacic FAA
Appointed to the Board 17 December 2013

Professor Bacic is a plant biologist with an extensive background in research and research training. His primary focus is on understanding plant growth and development with a view to ensuring a secure food supply and sustainable agriculture. He is currently Deputy Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Cell Walls, was a long serving member of the Maud Gibson Trust Advisory Committee, and was Director of the Bio21 Molecular Science & Biotechnology Institute until 31 December 2014.

Mrs Penny Fowler GAICD, BBus
Appointed to the Board 8 April 2014

With a background in business and marketing, Mrs Fowler is the Chairman of the Herald and Weekly Times Pty Ltd and the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. She is also a board member of the Australian Ballet, actively involved in a number of community organisations and an ambassador for Second-Bite.

Mr Martyn Kenneth Myer AO
Appointed to the Board 20 May 2014

Mr Myer has an engineering and financial services background and has been chairman of Cogstate Ltd, a health services software company, since 1999. He is currently a Member of the Council of the University of Melbourne, the Board of the Melbourne Theatre Company and the Board of the Royal Institution of Australia, President of The Myer Foundation and Chairman of the Myer Family Investments Pty Ltd and in June 2015 was elected as a Director to the Board of Metro Quarry Group Pty Ltd..

Ms Jennifer Wolcott, GAICD
Appointed to the Board 15 December 2009

Ms Wolcott is currently Executive Director Policy & Planning, Regional Development Victoria. Ms Wolcott has more than 20 years' experience in the Victorian public sector holding executive positions in Environment Protection Authority, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the Department of Primary Industries and Parks Victoria. She has been a member of the Victorian Coastal Council and led a number of major inquiries including the Independent Fiskville Investigation.

Ms Sarah Wrigley GAICD, BMS (NZ)
Appointed to the Board 9 April 2012

Ms Wrigley has high level experience in marketing and fundraising. She was Chairman of the Warrandyte Community Bank® until 31 December 2014 and has strong knowledge of community boards and valuable links to the community.

Table 2: Board attendance figures – from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Board Member	No. of meetings eligible to attend	No. of meetings attended
Kenneth Harrison	7	7
Graham Cunningham	7	5
Tony Bacic	7	6
Penny Fowler	7	7
Martyn Kenneth Myer	7	4
Jennifer Wolcott	7	6
Sarah Wrigley	7	7

Board Committees

Most Board members also participate in one or more Board Committees, which include:

- Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology Board of Management
- Finance and Audit Committee
- Remuneration Committee
- Risk Committee.

The committees may include Board members and other persons who bring special areas of expertise to the organisation.

Finance and Audit Committee

The Finance and Audit Committee consists of three independent members, appointed by the Board, usually for a term of three years. Under the Committee's Charter, the role of the Finance and Audit Committee is to oversee:

- the financial performance of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
- the financial reporting process
- the scope of work and performance of the internal and external auditors
- matters of accountability and internal control affecting the operations of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
- the effectiveness of management information systems and other systems of internal control, and
- the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's monitoring of compliance with laws and regulations.

Independent members of the Finance and Audit Committee in 2014-15 were Mr Graham Cunningham (Committee Chairman 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015), Mr Ken Harrison (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015) and Ms Sarah Wrigley (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015).

Remuneration Committee

Remuneration of Board members is fixed by the Governor-in-Council under Schedule 2 of the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991*. The Board appoints the Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and is responsible for the Director and Chief Executive's remuneration and performance, and for review of the Director and Chief Executive's decisions on Executive remuneration. Members of the Remuneration Committee in 2014-15 were Mr Graham Cunningham (Committee Chairman 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015), Mr Ken Harrison (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015) and Ms Sarah Wrigley (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015). Refer to the financial statements for further information regarding remuneration.

Risk Committee

The Risk Committee consists of three members, appointed by the Board, usually for a term of three years. Under the Committee's Charter, the role of the Risk Committee is to oversee:

- the operation and implementation of the risk management framework, and
- the development and maintenance of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's Risk Management Plan.

Members of the Risk Committee in 2014-15 were Ms Jennifer Wolcott (Committee Chairman 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015), Mrs Penny Fowler (21 August 2014 – 30 June 2015) and Mr Ken Harrison (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015).

Executive Team (as at 30 June 2015)

Director and Chief Executive (2013)

Professor Timothy J Entwisle PhD, BSc (Hons)

Leads and promotes the activities of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria including the Melbourne Gardens and the Cranbourne Gardens, the State Botanical Collection and the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology in order to achieve the highest standards in horticultural, scientific and financial management, and in 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 the 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. Professor Entwisle is an Honorary Professorial Fellow in the School of BioSciences at The University of Melbourne, and a regular contributor to print, radio, television and social media.

Chief Botanist and Director, Plant Sciences and Biodiversity (2006)

Professor David Cantrill PhD, BSc (Hons)

Responsible for scientific research into plant biodiversity and systematics, and management of the State Botanical Collection. As Chief Botanist, he holds 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 100 scientific articles; is an editor of *Grana*, an international journal for pollen studies; and sits on a number of 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 and is currently Treasurer for the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria and Chair of the international Steering Committee for the Global Plants Initiative.

Director, Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology (1998)

Associate Professor Mark McDonnell PhD, MSc, BA

Responsible for scientific studies of plant biodiversity and ecological processes in Australian cities and towns. Currently, his studies focus on applying ecological science to the management and preservation of biodiversity in urban and suburban environments in Victoria. Dr McDonnell is an Associate Professor with the School of BioSciences at The University of Melbourne.

Director, Corporate Resources (1992)

Jenny Steinicke BA, Grad Dip Bus

Responsible for initiating and co-ordinating projects to improve corporate governance and management, including financial management and planning, human resources, marketing and communications, information services, business development and implementation, and legal, legislative and contractual issues.

Ms Steinicke is also responsible for financial and project management of the Observatory Stage 2 project at Melbourne Gardens and the Integrated Water Management projects at Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens. She has over 20 years' experience in botanic gardens management, and previously held senior management positions in consumer affairs and education.

Director, Melbourne Gardens (2010)

Chris Cole Dip Hort (Kew)

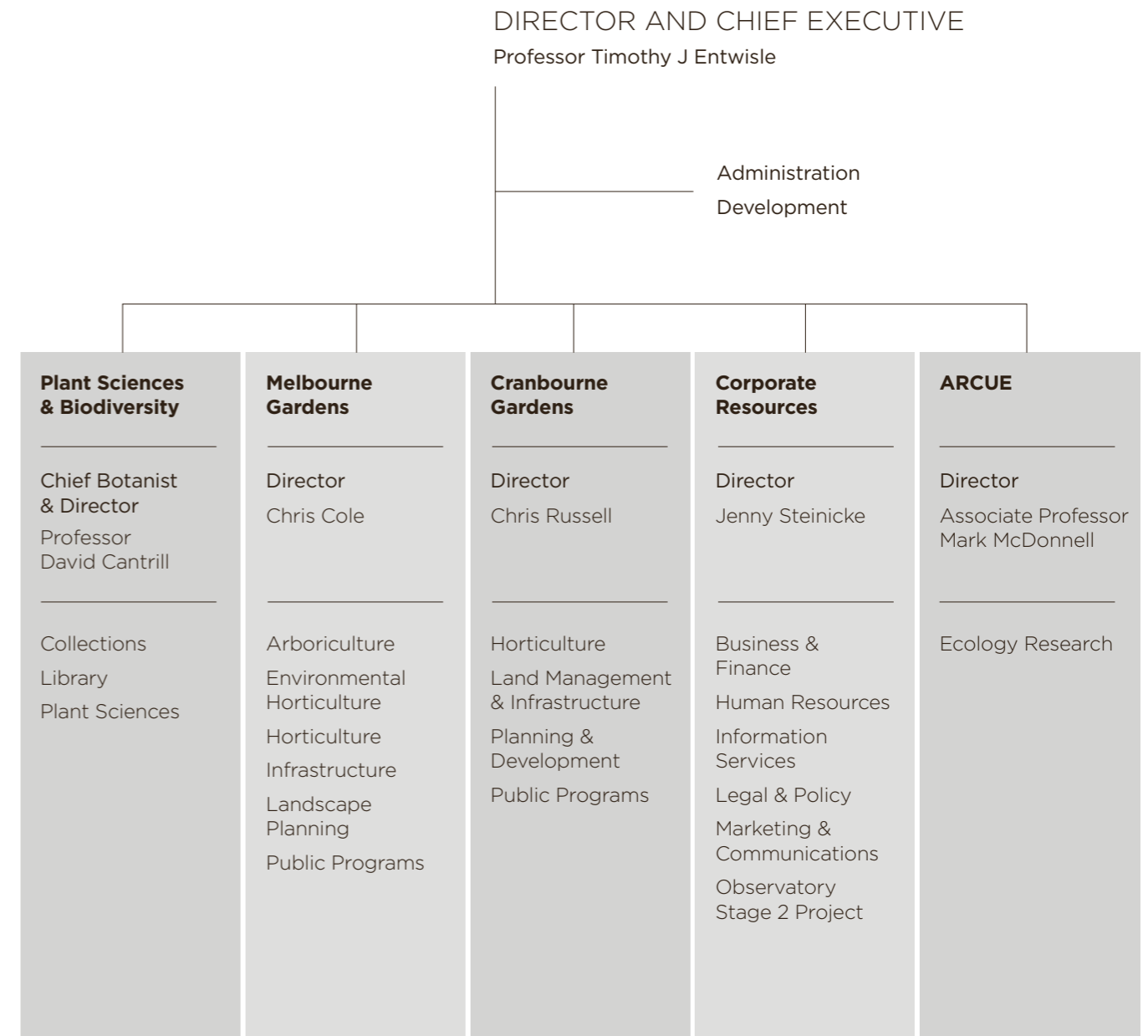
Responsible for horticultural planning and operations, including landscape planning, management and development of living plant collections, arboriculture, environmental horticulture and research, nursery operations, and management of site facilities and infrastructure at Melbourne Gardens. Provides direction for the development and delivery of public programs at Melbourne Gardens and is also responsible for managing the development and implementation of Integrated Water Management projects at Melbourne Gardens. Mr Cole has 15 years' experience in public and botanic gardens management and has worked at Hampton Court Palace, National Trust, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Townsville Botanic Gardens.

Director, Cranbourne Gardens (2001)

Chris Russell BSc (Hons), Grad Dip Land Rehab

Responsible for the management and operation of Cranbourne Gardens, including the Australian Garden, horticultural planning and operations, conservation research and management, development and delivery of public programs, and landscape and infrastructure development and management. Mr Russell is also responsible for strategic planning for future site use, input into land-use planning in the region surrounding the Cranbourne Gardens and delivery of capital works projects. Prior to joining the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Mr Russell had experience in environmental management and capital projects with Parks Victoria (formerly National Parks Service Victoria), the building industry, and scientific research.

Organisation Chart



Our Employees

Our work is transformational; it is also about people. It contributes to the lives of people and is healing, restorative, life-giving and even spiritual; a sense of being connected in some way to the patterns of life which transcend our own current lifetime. (Corporate Plan 2014–2019)

Ben Church, an Aboriginal Heritage Walk guide, shares his traditional knowledge of how plants were used for food, ceremony, medicine and tools with visitors and students.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria is committed to applying merit and equity principles when appointing employees. The selection processes ensure that applicants are assessed and evaluated fairly and equitably, on the basis of key selection criteria and other accountabilities, without discrimination.

Our employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections.

Notes to Table 4 below: All figures reflect employment levels during the last full pay period of June 2015.

Excluded are those employees on leave without pay or absent on secondment, or casuals who were not paid in the final pay period. If these employees were to be included, in June 2015 there would be 243 employees compared to 252 employees in June 2014.

Ongoing employees include people engaged on an open-ended contract of employment.

FTE means Full-time staff equivalent.

Table 3: Summary of employment levels as at June 2015 and June 2014

	Total headcount (includes ongoing, Fixed term, Fixed task & Casual)	Ongoing Employees				Fixed term, Fixed task & Casual	
		Number (headcount)	Full-time (headcount)	Part-time (headcount)	FTE	Headcount	FTE
June 2015	215	152	106	46	130.00	63	33.62
June 2014	226	146	110	36	138.89	80	34.03

Table 4: Details of employment levels re: gender, age and classification

	June 2015			June 2014		
	Total headcount (includes Ongoing, Fixed term, Fixed task & Casual)	Ongoing	Fixed term, fixed task & casual	Total headcount (includes Ongoing, Fixed term, Fixed task & Casual)	Ongoing	Fixed term, fixed task & casual
		Number (headcount)	Headcount		Number (headcount)	Headcount
	215			226		
Gender						
Male	92	75	17	100	72	28
Female	123	77	46	126	74	52
Age						
Under 25	0	0	0	3	1	2
25-34	23	10	13	20	9	11
35-44	68	49	19	69	50	19
45-54	72	57	15	74	54	20
55-64	43	32	11	46	29	17
Over 64	9	4	5	14	3	11
Classification						
Staff	164	107	57	177	105	72
Line Manager	32	32	0	29	27	2
Branch Manager	13	13	0	14	14	0
Executives	6	0	6	6	0	6

EMPLOYEE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria is committed to development of a skilled and professional workforce, and to providing safe and equitable working conditions for all. All new employees are provided with an induction pack upon commencement. The relevant Line Manager takes the employee through the induction pack and provides other support during their two-week orientation period.

The 2014-15 development program included face-to-face sessions in Equal Opportunity, Sunsmart, and Performance Review System Workshops. Employees also attended conferences, seminars, field-trips and technical training appropriate to their respective roles.

Topics covered by e-learning modules included Equal Opportunity, Protected Disclosure, Bullying and Harassment, Code of Conduct, Charter of Human Rights, Manual Handling, Duty of Care, Office Ergonomics, Risk Management, Job-specific modules (eg Hazardous Substances), Fraud Awareness and Information Privacy. All new employees complete the suite of existing e-learning modules within three months of commencement. All other employees complete e-learning modules on an annual basis.

Equal Opportunity (EO)

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria has an Equal Opportunity Committee that meets on an as needed basis, arranges EO training sessions, acts as Contact Officers for any EO issues and monitors compliance with the Victorian *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*.

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's OHS Working Group and OHS Committee continued to oversee development and implementation of OHS initiatives to ensure a healthy and safe workplace. During the year, OHS consultants Your Safety Partners (YSP) were engaged to review the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's OHS system and identify areas for improvement. This included a review of documentation (policies, procedures, forms) against legislative and regulatory requirements and was followed by site visits to both Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens to conduct workplace risk assessments. The purpose of the site visits was to identify physical site hazards, and to observe the extent of application of existing systems and documentation. The information gathered from the documentation review and site visits was used to develop a Safety Action Plan, to guide improvements to the OHS management system.

Workplace hazards continued to be managed through conduct of regular workplace hazard inspections involving facilities managers and Health and Safety Representatives. Safety Risk Assessment templates were reviewed to provide a more user-friendly and streamlined system and will be rolled out across the organisation early in 2015-16. The need for a hazard reporting metric was identified as part of the OHS System Review project, with a gap analysis and trial of existing maintenance management software conducted to determine its feasibility as a hazard tracking and reporting tool. Further refinement is required before implementing such a tool more broadly.

WorkCover Claims

WorkCover and data relating to claims lodged in 2014-15 and in the previous year are reported in Table 5. As at 30 June 2015, 14 new WorkCover claims had been received. The OHS Committee and Return to Work Co-ordinator continue to monitor all WorkCover claims and incidents.

Table 5: WorkCover claims for the past two years

	2014-15	2013-14
Minor Claims ¹	9	10
Standard Claims ²	5	9
Total all Claims	14	19
No. of Lost Time Standard Claims per 100 FTE	6.72	9.10
Average Cost per Claim RBGV ³ (\$)	1,150.46	1,249.02

- Minor Claims** - Less than 10 days' time lost and/or under \$660 medical and like expenses (non-recoverable).
- Standard Claims** - Greater than 10 days' time lost and/or greater than \$660 medical and like expenses. Some salary costs may be recoverable from insurers.
- Average cost per claim RBGV** - Claims costs paid by RBGV for less than 10 days' time lost and/or under \$660 medical and like expenses (ie non-recoverable from insurer).

On commencement, all new employees are provided with 'Return to Work Obligations' information sheets, and current Worksafe posters are visible on all notice boards.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Royal Botanic Gardens Enterprise Agreement 2010-2013

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria Enterprise Agreement (EA) 2010 nominally expired on 20 December 2013. Negotiations for the new EA commenced in October 2013. In principle agreement with the Community and Public Sector Union was reached on 1 November 2014 and documents submitted to Government for approval. As at 30 June 2015 Government approval to proceed had not been received.

Our Performance

We are more than beautiful sites; we are a place of knowledge. We help 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. (Corporate Plan 2014–2019)

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Revenue Generation and Budgetary Objectives

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's income is primarily annual recurrent 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.

The main budgetary objectives of the organisation are to:

- maintain and improve the two botanic gardens and curate their living collections
- pursue scientific research on the 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 implementation of the Integrated Water Management project at both Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens, and
- identify and implement new business opportunities building on the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's brand, while fostering expansion of current revenue sources.

Income from Government

During 2014–15, annual funding provided by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) was applied to achieve the Board's main budgetary objectives and also used to enable repair or replacement of the most urgent of those assets requiring attention, including the maintenance of garden paths and kerbs, storage for the increasing volume of book, journal and artwork collections, replacement of office and garden equipment and vehicles, repairs to the Long Island board walk, in addition to programmed maintenance painting and building works undertaken to improve safety. The addition of two new Garden Explorer vehicles to the Melbourne Gardens offers visitors an alternative and relaxing way to navigate the Gardens while learning more about its attractions.

Two major capital projects were commenced during the year, the Fern Gully Restoration project (Stage 1) and the Fire Protection System project. Works completed on the Fern Gully Restoration project involved installation of a new steel boardwalk, extending from the southern entrance of Fern Gully down to Central Lake, and five new timber bridges. Works completed on the Fire Protection System project included upgrade of existing underground pipes to improve access to water supplies near the Herbarium Building, the historic Gardens House and the heritage-listed Plant Craft Cottage, replacement of the old cement pipes with new underground high pressure polyethylene pipes, upgrade of existing fire hydrants and installation of new connections where required to meet current safety standards.

Risk-related minor asset funding was also received from DELWP during the year for works to be undertaken in 2015-16 for the Nursery and Works Yard element of the Fire Protection System project in Melbourne Gardens and for repairs to the Cranbourne Gardens Visitor Centre's timber ramp and stairs.

Table 6: Financial results for 2014–15

	2014–15 \$
Government funding	
State Government	
- Parks and Reserves Trust Account grants	14,536,099
- Other grants	631,346
Commonwealth Government	64,217
Sponsorship	1,771,407
General Revenue	5,285,075
Total Expenses	(22,749,249)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(461,105)

Comparison of Financial Performance and Position

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's operating result for the financial year ended 30 June 2015 was higher than the previous year, mainly due to the impact of terms and conditions in the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's new Enterprise Agreement relating to the 2014–15 financial year not being approved and finalised by 30 June 2015.

Other significant movements in Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's revenue and expenses include:

- an increase in Parks and Reserves Trust Account funding, mainly due to an annual increase in funding, partially offset by the inclusion of a higher amount of risk-related minor capital funding in the previous year's balance
- a decrease in sponsorship and donation income relating to the Fern Gully Restoration project and The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden Refurbishment project, and
- the inclusion of an impairment loss relating to the assets that were destroyed by fire in the previous year's balance.

With respect to the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's financial position, significant movements include an increase in cash and deposits balances as at 30 June 2015, mainly due to the funds related to the new Enterprise Agreement awaiting approval and finalisation, offset by a lower level of unspent project balances at the end of the 2014–15 financial year.

There were no events occurring after the balance date which may significantly affect the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's operations in subsequent reporting periods.

Table 7: Five-year comparison of financial results

	2014-15 \$	2013-14 \$	2012-13 \$	2011-12 \$	2010-11 \$
Government Funding					
State Government					
Parks and Reserves Trust Account grants	14,536,099	14,292,000	14,289,000	12,936,000	11,798,744
Other grants	631,346	378,450	426,892	831,781	676,537
Commonwealth Government	64,217	0	120,000	1,545,000	367,132
Sponsorship	1,771,407	1,882,990	1,371,924	1,768,237	4,004,471
General Revenue	5,285,075	5,308,180	5,292,853	5,855,568	6,239,663
Total Expenses	(22,749,249)	(22,733,521)	(22,034,830)	(20,437,812)	(19,552,693)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(461,105)	(871,901)	(534,161)	2,498,774	3,533,854
Net cash flow from operating activities	2,134,640	847,928	(1,623,215)	6,926,746	4,541,927
Total assets	421,812,214	421,799,557	422,753,073	426,432,783	425,853,534
Total liabilities	5,157,402	4,683,640	4,842,404	7,837,073	4,733,852

Consultancies

Table 8: Consultancies

Details of individual consultancies during the year are summarised as follows:

Consultant	Purpose of Consultancy	Start Date	End Date	Total Approved Fee (excl. GST)	Expenditure 2014-15 (excl. GST)	Future Expenditure (excl. GST)
VOTAR PARTNERS PTY LTD	To review the IT environment and propose a series of improvement initiatives, to be implemented over the next 5 years, which will align the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) strategy with the RBGV's organisational objectives and with Whole of Government IT Strategy initiatives, including an analysis of records management.	3/03/2015	6/07/2015	43,539	40,239	3,300
HURLY CONSULTING	To redesign the Human Resources branch structure to enable it to meet its strategic and operational objectives.	19/02/2015	30/07/2015	10,821	8,889	1,932
CATO BRAND PARTNERS PTY LTD	To facilitate the creation of a new visual identity for RBGV.	1/07/2014	31/07/2014	45,000	45,000	0
				99,360	94,129	5,232

In 2014-15, the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria engaged two consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were less than \$10,000, with a total expenditure of \$6,800 (excluding GST).

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria did not award any major contracts (valued at \$10 million or more) during 2014-15.

RISK MANAGEMENT ATTESTATION

Attestation for compliance with Victorian Risk Management Framework

Attestation for compliance with the Victorian Risk Management Framework

I, Kenneth Harrison certify that the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria has complied with the Ministerial Standing Direction 4.5.5 – Risk Management Framework and Processes. The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's Risk Committee verifies this.



Kenneth Harrison
Chairman
Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria

18 August 2015

RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's Risk Management Plan adopts and applies a systematic process to identify, analyse, assess, treat and monitor risk in the activities and functions of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria so that the risk inherent in those activities and functions is reduced. The Risk Management Plan meets the requirements of ISO 31000:2009 Risk management – Principles and guidelines. Risks are examined in the context of existing organisational controls, and the degree to which those controls are effective in managing the risk is assessed and related to the level and degree of oversight required. Results are reviewed quarterly by the Risk Committee.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria uses the Risk Management Plan along with other planning mechanisms to identify, understand and manage possible positive and negative outcomes.

There has been no material change in the overall risk profile of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. Upgrading of the Fire Protection System at Melbourne Gardens is in progress, with completion of the Herbarium, Gardens House and Plant Craft Cottage precincts. Upgrading of fire protection services for the Nursery and Works Yard will be completed in 2014-16.

Management continued to mitigate, to the extent possible, the ongoing effects of climate change and operational costs that continue to rise by amounts greater than CPI on an annual basis.

During 2014-15, Business Continuity Plans were updated for both Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens. In accordance with AS3745-2010, Planning for Emergencies in Facilities, a program of site-specific emergency response exercises and scenario training exercises was undertaken and an online Emergency Awareness Training program continued. During the year, regular meetings of the Critical Incident Planning Group took place to plan for responses to and recovery from critical incidents.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria intends to review its Risk Management Plan in 2015-16 to provide for compliance with the updated *Victorian Government Risk Management Framework* released in May 2015 and ensure its ongoing relevance to the organisation.

Our Achievements

The *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991* requires that the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria prepares a Corporate Plan outlining the strategies the Board intends to adopt to achieve the objectives of the Act and the priorities and targets of the Board. The *Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria Corporate Plan 2014-2019 - Sustaining life* - sets out the Board's long-term strategic focus and the four themes that inform the five-year planning cycle, as well as the strategic actions to be undertaken during this period to achieve the objectives of the Act.

Our strategic focus for the life of the Corporate Plan 2014-2019 is encapsulated in the four themes that support our vision and mission:

1. Discovery and sharing knowledge
2. Inspiring plant learning
3. Creating special places
4. Towards a sustainable future.

The Corporate Plan is a strategic planning document from which the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria Business Plan 2014-15 stems, adopting its structure of the four strategic themes and detailed specific actions for the reporting period.

The following section - Our Achievements - reports against the Specific Actions and Performance Measures identified in the 2014-15 Business Plan; it further reports against ongoing work that relates to the Corporate Plan Strategic Themes, including future initiatives. This financial year was the first year of the current corporate planning cycle.

Theme 1: Discovery and sharing knowledge

We will share our expertise and spread our influence beyond the gates of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, and contribute to the global scientific knowledge base through our science, research, conservation and by working with external parties. (Corporate Plan 2014-2019)



Above: Seaweed Subject II was featured in the Varley Seaweed Collection of prints created by the Designer Boys in partnership with Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. The Collection featured six different seaweed specimens that were donated to the Gardens by the Varley family. These precious specimens are now held in the State Botanical Collection.

AT A GLANCE

- 3,032 Australian and foreign vascular Type specimens were scanned or photographed as high resolution digital images for the GPI project; 1,823 images with associated metadata were delivered to JSTOR.
- 2,472 specimens from the foreign collection were databased as part of the Foreign Collection Project.
- 61 peer-reviewed papers, 19 book chapters, and theses were published by Plant Sciences and Biodiversity and ARCUE staff and students, of which 51 were published in Institute for Scientific Information (ISI)- or SCOPUS-listed journals.
- The new electronic *Flora of Victoria*, VicFlora, is online and provides the most up-to-date and authoritative listing of plant species and their conservation status. This year has seen the addition of a new glossary, explanatory text, plant checklist generator and identification keys.
- 50 talks and lectures (to students, the public, experts and academics) were given by science staff and students, and 36 presentations were made at national and international conferences or symposia, at network forums or as university public lectures.
- Professor Tim Entwisle delivered talks around the country to promote his CSIRO-published book *Sprinter and Sprummer: Australia's Changing Seasons*, arguing for a new seasonal system for the country.
- Senior Mycologist, Dr Tom May was awarded the prestigious 2014 Australian Natural History Medallion for his meritorious contribution to the understanding of Australian Natural History, including his crucial role in founding Fungimap.
- Director and Chief Executive, Professor Tim Entwisle was honoured with the naming of an alga, *Entwisleia bella*, after him. This rare seaweed from the Tasmanian coast is classified in its own family Entwisleiaiceae and order Entwisleales.
- ARCUE Director, Assoc Prof Mark McDonnell was appointed inaugural Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Urban Ecology*, published by Oxford University Press, and set up and started the journal.
- Dave Kendal was appointed by the Australian Government's Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN) to the AusPlots Technical Steering Committee, and to the Commonwealth Threatened Species Scientific Committee.

YEAR IN REVIEW

The total budget allocated to achieving Theme 1 in 2014-15 was more than \$4.8 million, which included funding for the core activities of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria that are related to this theme.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria achieved the following service delivery targets as set out in Budget Paper No. 3:

Table 9: Budget Paper No.3 – Service Delivery

Performance indicator	Threatened native species and communities for which specifically targeted conservation measures are in place at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
Unit of measure	number
2014-15 target	6
2014-15 actual	6
Variance %	0
Result	Achieved

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Plant Sciences

Research by Plant Sciences and Biodiversity scientists plays a key role in discovering and naming plants and fungi (taxonomy) and in elucidating their relationships and evolutionary history (systematics). Much of this research underpins a range of conservation and sustainability initiatives.

Research Collaborations

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is committed to attracting high-quality research staff and students and to working collaboratively with other key national and international scientific and academic institutions to maximise its research capacity. Research projects often extend over a number of years; in 2014-15 research on grassland species and salt tolerance received particular prominence.

Taxonomic and genetic research of grassland species

Research supported by the Australian Biological Resources Study's Bush Blitz program has used next generation sequencing data to gain new insights into the evolutionary history and naming of Australian *Poeae* grasses. Additionally, DNA barcoding data has been generated to investigate its use as an identification tool, which is particularly important given the economic importance of grass species, and the difficulty in identifying non-flowering material. Research continued into four Victorian grassland species in a project supported by Hanson Construction, with results being prepared for publication for Small Milkwort *Comesperma polygaloides* and *Ptilotus microcephalus*. Extensive sampling totalling 700 specimens, DNA isolation and preliminary sequencing of the foundation grassland species, *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass) will inform future grassland restoration programs. Collaboration with the Australian National University has allowed use of cutting-edge equipment that has facilitated processing of the large number of samples.

Salt tolerance in the Common Reed

Work has begun on the genetics of salt tolerance in the Common Reed, *Phragmites australis*. The Common Reed is a conspicuous wetland species that is found throughout temperate-subtropical regions. DNA has been isolated and quantified from historical herbarium specimens and from all field-collected material. Field collections were concentrated in the Gippsland Lakes, because of the area's ongoing problems with salinity, and issues with stability of the area's wetland systems. The project consists of three parts, all utilising a next-generation sequencing approach: 1) use of transcriptomes to identify genes associated with salinity tolerance using a small number of clonal samples; 2) population genetic analysis of all samples to identify single nucleotide polymorphism markers for salinity tolerance; 3) production of a genome scaffold for *Phragmites* to maximise data acquisition from the DNA sequencing of all samples. A pilot sequencing run has been completed and all samples are being prepared for sequencing.

Urban Ecology

ARCUE staff and students participated in 20 working groups and workshops within Australia and internationally to further the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. This included an ARC-funded workshop at the University of Queensland on 'Optimisation of planning of linear Infrastructure', a European Union-funded international collaborative workshop in Montreal, Canada to evaluate the effectiveness of wildlife mitigation on roads, a Threatened Species and Communities Working Group meeting, the Brigalow Belt Priority Threat Management Workshop (biodiversity benefit assessment) in Brisbane, a Golf Course Biodiversity Assessment Workshop in Clayton (Victoria), road ecology workshops in India and South Africa, TERN Ausplots-funded workshops on Ausplots Fauna Protocols field testing in South Australia and an Ausplots Woodlands Protocols expert workshop in Tasmania.

Meetings were also held with various Government agencies nationally and internationally, including Mark McDonnell's invited visit by The National Centre of Scientific Research (CNRS) and the University of Rennes, France, to serve as an international Chair of a developing research program focused on integrating ecological and social sciences in landscape and urban ecology studies in France, September 2014.

Research projects included the effects of roads on the Green and Golden Bell Frog, Squirrel Gliders and Leadbeater's Possum; management of urban wetlands and microbats (PhD research); management of Grey-headed Flying Foxes in Victoria and NSW; the impact of dogs on biodiversity in parks; communities' values for waterways and public land; large landowners' values for land and beliefs about native vegetation; and bushland and urban biodiversity in a changing climate.

Development of new research partnerships included collaborations with K2C (Kozciuszko to Coast), Glenelg Hopkins & Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, GHD Pty Ltd., University of Queensland, Cairns Regional Council and Lake Macquarie City Council.

In early 2015, Tanja Straka submitted her PhD, entitled 'The importance of waterbodies for microbats in urban areas', which found that waterbodies such as ponds and lakes are critical to the conservation of insectivorous bats in urban environments. Waterbodies provided foraging and drinking habitats for bats, and the vegetation around waterbodies provided denning and roosting opportunities. The research also included a social component, which found that many local residents were supportive of the conservation in suburban environments.

Publications

Research findings by Plant Sciences and Biodiversity staff culminated in publication of 41 peer-reviewed papers, and theses, 36 of which were in ISI-or SCOPUS-listed journals, and of these one was published as software rather than in a journal (ie May, T.W., Thiele, K., Dunk, C.W. & Lewis, S.H. (2014). *FunKey: an Interactive Guide to the Macrofungi of Australia. Key to Agarics*. Version 1. [USB.] Identic, Brisbane & ABRS, Canberra).

Published research included papers on chloroplast genome analysis of Australian eucalypts, fossil evidence of palaeoclimates, taxonomic treatments of orchids, green algae, fungi and daisies, description of weedy alien species new to Australia, conservation genetics of *Phragmites*, and phylogenetic and biogeographic studies of major plant groups such as wattles, Rutaceae (citrus family), *Astelia*, boabs and saltbushes.

A highlight was the publication of a paper in PLOS ONE of research on the Australian boab, investigating the role of human agency in its gene flow and geographical distribution. The research was undertaken by a collaborative research team, funded by an ARC Discovery grant to Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and Monash University. Baobabs, the genus *Adansonia*, are the iconic bottle trees of Africa and Madagascar. In northern Australia a single species, *Adansonia gregorii* also occurs, where it is known as the boab. Human mediated dispersal over millennia has been documented for African baobabs, but had not previously been hypothesised for the Australian species.

The research was carried out by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria botanical researchers, Dan Murphy, Karen Bell and Rachael Fowler, and David Baum from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who was based at the Gardens in the first half of 2015, plus geographers, Haripriya Rangan and Christian Kull, and linguists Patrick McConvell, Thomas Saunders and Stef Spronck. Their unique study combined evidence from indigenous languages and genetics to infer that humans have been primary controllers of boab distribution in Australia over the millennia since Aboriginal colonisation. In particular, humans probably played a critical role in dispersing boabs inland from now-submerged areas of northwest Australia during the dramatic sea-level rises at the end of the last glaciation.

In 2014-15, 20 peer-reviewed research papers, one book and 19 book chapters were published by ARCUE staff, of which 15 were published in ISI- or SCOPUS-listed journals.

Handbook of Road Ecology was published by Wiley in April 2015, of which ARCUE Deputy Director Rodney van der Ree was lead editor (with co-editors Daniel J. Smith and Clara Grilo) and who also co-authored 18 chapters in the 63 chapter book with 100 authors from 25 countries. The book brings together some of the world's leading researchers, academics, practitioners and transportation agency personnel to present the current status of the ecological sustainability of the linear infrastructure – primarily road, rail and utility easements – that dissect and fragment landscapes globally. It outlines the potential impacts, demonstrates how this infrastructure is being improved, and how broad ecological principles are applied to mitigate the impact of road networks on wildlife.

A major research contribution was 'Global patterns of diversity in the urban forest: Is there evidence to support the 10/20/30 rule?', by Dave Kendal of ARCUE (with Cynnamon Dobbs and Virginia I. Lohrca), published in the journal *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*. This showed that diversity in the urban forest is important as it reduces risks from pests and diseases and from climate change and improves resilience in the supply of ecosystem services. The study explored diversity and the relative abundance of the most common species, genus and family in 151 urban forest inventories from 108 different cities around the world. Patterns varied by both climate and land use. Diversity was consistently lower in Continental climates and in streetscapes, and higher in Temperate climates and in urban forests that spanned multiple land uses.

CONFERENCES AND FORUMS

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is committed to increasing awareness of its contributions to plant biodiversity research, plant conservation and urban ecology by increasing its national and international partnerships with the scientific community. Complementing this is a commitment to increasing community awareness of the role Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria has as a scientific institution vested with protecting our scientific heritage and promoting an understanding and awareness of the importance of plants to life.

Plant Sciences and Biodiversity staff presented their research findings at national and international conferences and meetings during 2014-15 including the 10th International Mycological Congress (Thailand); Genetics Society of Australasia meeting (Adelaide); Australasian Systematic Botany Society Conference (New Zealand); Australasian College for Emergency Medicine 31st Annual Scientific Meeting (Melbourne); 21st World Orchid Conference (South Africa); 8th International Conference on Mushroom Biology and Mushroom Products (India); The Second International Workshop on Ascomycete Systematics, CBS Symposium (The Netherlands); Fungimap 8 conference (Batemans Bay); and 29th Fungal foray and Colloquium (New Zealand).

ARCUE was the lead organiser of the inaugural conference for the Australasian Network for Ecology and Transportation (ANET), the peak world body for those involved in studying and mitigating the environmental effects of linear infrastructure. Assoc Prof Rodney van der Ree established ANET with support of other ARCUE staff and external partners and approximately 140 people participated in the ANET conference in Coffs Harbour, July 2014.

A Grasslands Symposium was hosted by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in May 2015 at the Melbourne Gardens to share much anticipated results from four collaborative research projects on native grasslands held over three years, funded by the Myer Foundation (over \$1.1 million), and to energise grassland conservation research and management. Almost 100 people attended the Symposium, from organisations ranging from universities to indigenous nurseries and native seed suppliers. ARCUE staff presented findings from their research 'Melbourne's Native Grasslands: Guiding Landscapes and Communities in Transition'.

ARCUE staff and students presented their research findings at national and international conferences during 2014-15 including the Australian Mammal Society conference (Melbourne); 4th International Conference of Urban Biodiversity and Design (URBIO2014) (Korea); Ecological Society of Australia (Alice Springs); 10th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference (Hobart); 6th Biodiversity Across the Borders Conference (Federation University, Mount Helen campus); the PSKLM International Expressway Conference and Exhibition (Malaysia); an Infra-Eco Network Europe road ecology conference (Sweden); and the inaugural VicRoads Environment Conference – for VicRoads staff, local Council delegates and VicRoads alliance partners (Pakenham).

RARE AND THREATENED SPECIES

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria staff contributed to the implementation of State, Territory and Federal Government management plans to further the conservation of plants and ecosystems by participating in working groups and recovery teams, and undertaking joint research projects with and on behalf of external corporate bodies and research institutions.

Plant Sciences and Biodiversity staff contributed to the work of recovery teams and working groups for the following species: the Helmeted Honeyeater, *Borya mirabilis*, *Pimelea spinescens*, *Grevillea infecunda*, *Swainsona recta*, *Ballantinia antipoda*, *Diuris frangrantissima* and other species in the Threatened Orchid Recovery Project.

Victorian Conservation Seedbank

The Victorian Conservation Seedbank continued to build on the store of seed from rare or threatened species or from species found only in Victoria (endemics) and lodged for long-term storage at Melbourne Gardens and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew's Millennium Seed Bank Project (MSBP) headquartered at Wakehurst Place in the United Kingdom. Collections were made from 61 new populations, including seed of 43 taxa new to the Victorian Conservation Seedbank. A shipment of duplicate seeds has been sent to Wakehurst Place. Of these, a total of 23 species are new to the Millennium Seed Bank. Funding is currently being sought to secure the ongoing operation of the Victorian Conservation Seedbank, which was established in 2005 under a three-way partnership with the MSBP and the then Department of Sustainability and Environment (now DELWP).

Australian Garden Research Plots

A research project into Australian alpine *Brachyscome* species was completed in the Research Garden at the Australian Garden. The project explored the potential adaptability of the species to climate change in varying environmental conditions, and the results are being prepared for publication. A project involving stress-testing of a range of alpine plant families was conducted by a Research Fellow from The University of Melbourne, Burnley, and results are being analysed for publication.

HERBARIUM COLLECTIONS

Collections Development

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria remains committed to developing the collections and curating and databasing the 1.5 million existing plant, algae and fungi specimens held within the State Botanical Collection. Development opportunities in 2014-15 included the acquisition of the algae type specimen collection (610 type sheets) from the G.T. Kraft Herbarium, and the purchase of part of the H.F. Jaubert (1798-1874) herbarium, a significant collection from the nineteenth century. Jaubert described many new species and these were published in *Illustrationes Plantarum Orientalium*. Within the Jaubert herbarium, there are specimens from collectors represented in the Otto Sonder herbarium purchased by Mueller in 1883.

The Foreign Collection project, funded for three years by the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation, begins to address the databasing of the remaining 300,000 foreign specimens. In its first year, 2,471 specimens have been databased and inclusive in this figure is the discovery of 280 new Type specimens.

Collections Access

During 2014-15, 59 visiting researchers accessed the herbarium specimen collection and spent 141 days working in the collections. In addition, 17,281 specimens were processed as part of the loans and exchange program and material was sent on loan to 34 institutions, 17 of which were overseas scientific institutions.

For a number of years loan material has been provided to the National Museum of Australia for their 'Landmarks: People and Places Across Australia' gallery. In 2014-15, twelve herbarium specimens (all 19th century Australian collections) were featured in the Landmarks exhibition gallery and included specimens collected by Hermann Beckler during the Victorian Exploring Expedition led by Burke and Wills, collections made by William Landsborough at Bowen Downs, and collections made by Julian Tenison-Woods at Robe. The first loan to the gallery was made in 2011 and the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria values this continuing opportunity to showcase specimens from the State Botanical Collection at the National Museum.

Atlas of Living Australia

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria continued to support the work of the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA). Staff fulfilled two key roles: as the liaison between ALA and the Australian plant collections community and in a development role to build programming capability into the community, interfacing with ALA programmers especially around the Australia's Virtual Herbaria (AVH) and other projects key to the collections community. Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's data is accessible to the wider community through AVH and ALA portals delivering information on plant distribution, seed bank holdings and in the future, the living collection. There are over 860,000 Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria records in the ALA/AVH, and these were used 90 million times by researchers around the world in 2014-15.

Global Plants Initiative

Work continued at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria to create digital images of Australian and foreign vascular Type specimens to be added to JSTOR, a world-wide scientific database (plants.jstor.org), as part of the Global Plants Initiative. In its fourth year, 3,032 Australian and foreign vascular Type specimens were imaged, and seven batches of images with associated metadata (totalling 1,823 images) were delivered to JSTOR. This brings the total number of type images from MEL on JSTOR to 17,678.

LOOKING AHEAD

VicFlora – To complement the existing species descriptions now available online, the first batch of images will be uploaded by December 2015, greatly assisting users to visually check their identifications.

Handbook of Road Ecology – following publication, efforts will be made to promote the research to a global audience.

Review – an external review of ARCUE is planned for 2015-16.

Global Plants Initiative – digital images of algae, bryophyte, fungi and lichen types held in the State Botanical Collection will be captured and delivered to JSTOR as part of the next stage in this project.

OVERVIEW OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Long-term Strategy 1.1: Consolidating and focussing scientific research

Specific actions	Progress against deliverables and performance measures
1.1.1 Complete the Plant Sciences and Biodiversity Division Master Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisionally delayed until March 2015 due to other commitments; exposure draft now circulated to Plant Sciences and Biodiversity Managers.

Long-term Strategy 1.2: Providing plant information to people where and how they want it

Specific actions	Progress against deliverables and performance measures
1.2.1 Develop and implement the first e-Flora of Victoria by 30 June 2015, to provide increased public accessibility to fundamental knowledge of Victoria's vascular flora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing species descriptions have been made available within VicFlora. Maps of geographic distribution have also been made available for all species. Image catalogue developed in Cumulus database. Existing plant identification keys implemented in VicFlora using KeyBase database and web application. Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria contributed \$20,000 to this project.

Long-term strategy 1.3: Making a major contribution to solving plant-related and ecological problems

Specific actions	Progress against deliverables and performance measures
1.3.1 Through BGANZ Victoria, explore RBGV leading the establishment of a multi-site regional botanic garden conservation collection with associated interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raised at BGANZ Victoria Executive meeting, May 2015. Action arising is to develop a conservation collection to be held in regional botanic gardens, with support from Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.
Appoint a Manager of commercial projects to maintain and expand ARCUE's consulting activities and revenue, thereby making an impact on the day-to-day planning and management of biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex Kutt, Manager, Commercial Projects, commenced on 13 October 2014.
Explore strategies to improve eligibility of ARCUE staff for competitive funding by improving relationships with The University of Melbourne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed; changes to ARC funding requirements have enabled ARCUE involvement in Discovery Grants, with three new proposals developed with University of Melbourne collaborators.

Long-term strategy 1.4: Restoring and unlocking the Herbarium's world collection

Specific actions	Progress against deliverables and performance measures
1.4.1 Mount, database and curate the non-Australian component of the Herbarium collection (rich in specimens of historic and scientific importance) by 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,471 foreign-collected specimens databased and 1,357 records edited from Cronquist families 1-76. Considerable time was invested in searching and updating current names, correcting protologue details for each specimen and confirming current Type status. While a lesser number of specimens were databased, the data quality is of a high standard. 14,109 specimens were mounted or curated from the State Botanical Collection.

Theme 2: Inspiring plant learning

We will build and expand the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's public programs, education and innovative communication role to help everyone understand and value the role of plants in their lives. (Corporate Plan 2014–2019)



Above: Seaweed Subject I was featured in the Varley Seaweed Collection of prints created by the Designer Boys in partnership with Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. The Collection featured six different seaweed specimens that were donated to the Gardens by the Varley family. These precious specimens are now held in the State Botanical Collection.

AT A GLANCE

- Visitation to the Australian Garden was 161,050 people in 2014–15, with whole-of-site visitation to Cranbourne Gardens reaching 211,073. This is the first time that site visitation has exceeded 210,000, marking an increase of 1.3 per cent on 2013–14 visitor numbers.
- *Disney Fairies Trail* at Melbourne Gardens was launched on 30 November 2014 and ran until 28 February 2015. The *Disney Fairies Trail* summer program was officially launched with 175 'fairies' and their families participating in fairy-themed activities.
- Melbourne Gardens commenced hosting Birthday Parties in January 2015, allowing 285 children and their families to enjoy the enclosed space of the new *Gathering Lawn* in The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden.
- A *Quercus coccoifera*, the first of 500 seedlings from the National Trust's (Victoria) Anzac Centenary Gallipoli Oaks commemorative project, was planted in the Melbourne Gardens by the Governor-General, His Excellency the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd).
- The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria welcomed more than 32,000 students to on-site programs at Cranbourne Gardens and Melbourne Gardens in 2014–15 compared with 38,000 students in 2013–14, representing a decrease of 15.8 per cent. The decrease in students participating in formal programs is attributed to a fluctuation in numbers, with no documented reason for the drop.
- On 25 October 2014, The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden reopened after rejuvenation works and celebrated its 10th birthday with a program of activities for children to enjoy and to celebrate this anniversary.

YEAR IN REVIEW

The total budget allocated to achieving Theme 2 in 2014–15 was \$3.8 million, which included funding for the core activities of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria that are related to this Theme.

VISITOR PROGRAMS

As well as the many thousands of people who participated in formal programs at both the Cranbourne and Melbourne sites in 2014–15, many thousands more were engaged with the mission and vision of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria through informal interaction with Customer Service staff, Garden Ambassadors or Voluntary Guides while exploring the gardens at their own pace.

Year-round formal visitor and school holiday programs at both sites attracted almost 16,000 participants. These were complemented by featured public events including NAIDOC week celebrations at both sites, a Christmas Day Harp Concert and Open House Melbourne at Melbourne Gardens, and the annual Family Fun Day in January and fifth annual Woodlands Walk in April at Cranbourne Gardens.

The introduction of themed Birthday Parties with hosted nature-based activities on the new *Gathering Lawn* alongside the Children's Garden at Melbourne Gardens proved popular with 285 children and their families enjoying the enclosed space. National Science Week was celebrated at both sites with 116 visitors participating in free walks on *Conserving Rare and Threatened species*, *The Secret of Eucalypts*, *Hidden Treasures of the Herbarium*, *Greening the Gardens*, and *Bushland Biodiversity*. Other new programs at Melbourne Gardens included a *Chinese Moon Festival Lunar Tour* and *Dinosaur Gardens*, a popular school holiday program.

Events

In addition to new seasonal programs, a number of special events were held to attract new audiences to both gardens.

Disney Fairies app

The *Disney Fairies Trail* allowed children to discover Tinkerbell and her friends at eight 'fairy stops' around Melbourne Gardens using the *Disney Fairies Trail* app. The app used augmented reality technology corresponding to a nature play activity. Children could collect a free packet of seeds, supplied by the Diggers Club, encouraging plant literacy at an early age.

The trail was also held at Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, Mount Annan and Mount Tomah. It is estimated that the *Disney Fairies Trail* contributed to a 28,000 visitor-increase at Melbourne Gardens during summer 2014–15.

Disney Australia provided transportation funding for low socio-economic schools to participate in our Education Programs. This allowed 316 children from nine schools to visit.

Children's Garden 10th Birthday Celebrations

The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Gardens 10th birthday was celebrated on Saturday, 25 October 2014 with a program of free activities for children to enjoy including making mud pies, seed bombs, mandalas, boat racing in the Rill, ochre hand-printing on the Gorge wall and decorative calico squares expressing *Why I love the Children's Garden*. There were a total of 1,356 visitors, and much excitement that the Children's Garden had reopened.

Easter Hunt 2015

On Easter Saturday a Peter Rabbit-themed Easter Hunt was held in The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden. This inaugural event proved popular, with 201 children participating in 'hunting' and other Easter nature-based activities.

The Lie of the Land –

Lecture by Professor John Dixon Hunt

Eighty-four people enjoyed the lecture delivered by Professor Emeritus John Dixon Hunt from the University of Pennsylvania and the former Director of Studies in Landscape Architecture at Dumbarton Oaks. Held on 5 December 2014, the topic of the lecture was the Lie of the Land, it was supported by a partnership between the Sydney Intellectual History Network, the Melbourne School of Design at The University of Melbourne, the Australian Garden History Society, the Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) and Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

Bjarne K Dahl Trust National Eucalypt Day Dinner

One hundred and fifty supporters of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and Bjarne K Dahl Trust celebrated National Eucalypt Day on 23 March 2015 at a Dinner at Cranbourne Gardens. At this event the inaugural Bjarne K Dahl Medal was presented to Dean Nicolle of Currency Creek Arboretum in recognition of his contribution to the public understanding and conservation of the Eucalypts.

Australian Quilt and Textile Exhibition

Leesa Chandler of Chandler's Cottage, working in collaboration with the Friends of RBG Cranbourne and Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria mounted an Exhibition of Quilts and Textiles in the Visitor Centre at Cranbourne Gardens between 28 February and 9 March 2015. This is the third Australian Textile Exhibition at Cranbourne Gardens and attracted 6,889 visitors compared to 6,670 in 2014.

Indigenous Programs

In 2014–15, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria hosted a number of programs and events to allow visitors to explore Aboriginal history, culture and traditions.

On Sunday, 6 July 2014 NAIDOC celebrations were held at Melbourne Gardens, with free 45 minute *Spirit of the Land* walks offered. In association with this, The Gardens' gift shop offered discounts on the Aboriginal Heritage Walk range of products and Tobwabba Art postcards.

The popular Aboriginal Heritage Walk at Melbourne Gardens attracted more than 3,660 visitors during 2014–15.

At Cranbourne Gardens, public programs staff worked in partnership with Boon Wurrung Elder Aunty Fay Stewart Muir and the Casey and Cardinia Library Corporation to develop the Balee Koolin Bubup Bush Playgroup. The Indigenous playgroup focused on traditional culture and language associated with plants, and is funded by the City of Casey from the Department of Education and Training's Supported Playgroup Initiative.

In July 2014 the Australian Garden at Cranbourne Gardens provided a stunning setting for NAIDOC week celebrations where staff worked with a range of community support and local government groups to provide visitor activities focussed on the connection between Indigenous culture and Australian plants.

The strengthening of relationships as a result of the success of the inaugural Cranbourne Gardens celebration in 2013 meant that 1,227 members of our local Indigenous community attended the 2nd annual NAIDOC celebration in 2014.

NATURE PLAY AND LEARNING

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is committed to supporting schools, teachers, students and the broader school community with pedagogical developments in place-based learning. Increasingly, research is telling us that children are spending less time in the natural world – green time is rapidly being replaced with 'safe' screen time indoors. This is shown to have negative impacts on childhood wellbeing and learning outcomes. Self-directed play in the great outdoors, in backyards and gardens develops curiosity, builds skills in assessing risk and supports childhood development. Nature play and learning are important strategies for developing plant and environmental literacy in early childhood. Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is leading development in pedagogy around nature play and learning and forging key State and National partnerships in this emerging field.

At Melbourne Gardens, more than 22,563 students were welcomed to on-site education programs, and 415 teachers to on-site professional development programs. The most popular education programs are *Connecting to Country*, *Introduction to the Gardens*, and *Sustainable Gardening*.

Schools Partnership Programs

At Melbourne Gardens, a year-long partnership with The Baltara School commenced in February 2015. Baltara students are described as traumatised and require a high teacher-student ratio for support and supervision. These children greatly benefit from time in nature, and experiences that provide a structured, nurturing environment, where practical and personal development skills can develop and where children can grow in confidence. Baltara children visit fortnightly to explore and develop skills in both The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden and the wider Melbourne Gardens.

A partnership commenced with St Joseph's Primary School Collingwood in Term Two 2015. These children have little to no access to green space in the school or local environment and are from a culturally and linguistically diverse community. The next stage of this partnership will be for Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria staff to work at the school to support garden development and provide teacher professional development.

Early Childhood

On 14 April 2015 Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria worked in partnership with Kids in Nature Network to launch Nature Play Week 2015 at Malsmbury Botanical Gardens. The launch was attended by approximately 75 adults and 60 school students. The day involved a keynote address from Alison Lester, a children's book author and artist. Local community groups shared their works and projects related to nature play in the region. A variety of workshops were held, all with a nature-play theme, some led by local school children from Malmsbury Primary School and Newham Primary School. A free art workshop with Alison Lester was also provided for Grade One students from Malsmbury Primary School.

Nature Play Week activities were also held at both sites: at Cranbourne Gardens, 91 people attended the Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Seminar and 117 adults and 198 small children attended the 5th annual Woodlands Walk run; at Melbourne Gardens 20 parents participated in a Nature Play and Your Child workshop, and 300 children and parents attended a partnership event with Polyglot.

The Bush (or Garden) Kinder program based on the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework, and introduced in 2013–14, continued to grow in popularity with Cranbourne Gardens becoming a popular venue for individual kindergartens accessing the Bush Kinder program.

Sustained and Enriched by Plants

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria was again successful in receiving triennial funding from the Department of Education and Training to deliver the Sustained and Enriched by Plants education program. This program contains modules that cover the following topics and capabilities:

- **Nature Play and Learning:** plant and environmental literacy for the early years. Extending wellbeing.
- **Connecting to County:** understanding Indigenous perspectives and growing cross-cultural understandings.
- **Gardening for a resilient future:** global change, active citizenship and plant science. Ethical understanding, critical and creative thinking.

Sustained and Enriched by Plants provides experiences for students that are not achievable in a school setting. Students are able to intimately investigate plants and rich living landscapes through sensory, physical, emotional and social experiences, providing students with interactions with the natural world that are vital to students' learning and wellbeing.

Modules delivered through the *Sustained and Enriched by Plants* program link across the curriculum to Victorian Early Years Learning Development Framework (VEYLDF) and AusVELS. Modules cover priorities in Humanities, The Arts, Health and Physical Education, Civics and Citizenship and Interpersonal Development and are most strongly aligned with Science, Environment and Sustainability.

New programs

Health and Wellbeing in Nature

With the pressures of busy school schedules and lifestyles, it is important to remind ourselves of the importance of wellbeing in maintaining happy, healthy children.

Health and wellbeing are interconnected with time spent in natural environments. Being in nature reduces anger, fear, anxiety and stress and increases pleasant feelings. Exposure to nature not only makes you feel better emotionally, it contributes to your physical wellbeing, reducing blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension, and the production of stress hormones.

In this specially developed new program, students are invited to explore the physical, mental and emotional benefits of spending time outside. Participants will brainstorm and discuss the role of healthy foods, physical exercise and spending time outside in cultivating health and wellbeing. Through practice of mindfulness exercises, participants will learn to nurture their own self-awareness and greater awareness of others and the world.

Threatened Species – Southern Brown Bandicoot

The Southern Brown Bandicoot is a nationally threatened small mammal that is locally common at the Cranbourne Gardens due to a highly successful conservation program. This fieldwork-based program explores what bandicoots need to thrive in a heathland environment. Students discover what has been done to protect this remnant population and the landscapes they call home. Activities include a discovery walk, a simple fieldwork exercise (transect) and a fire ecology task. This program is also taught as a VCE Environmental Science Unit 3.

Australian Deserts

Deserts are challenging places for people, plants and animals to survive. They are environments of extremes where unpredictable change is normal. On this program students learn about how living things survive in hot, dry deserts and the causes of desertification. Students pot up a drought tolerant plant and examine the features that Australian plants have evolved to allow them to conserve water. Students explore the Arid Garden, the Red Sand Garden and the Dry River Beds of the Australian Garden and discover what makes Australian deserts unique.

Professional Development

Teacher Professional Development programs were delivered at both sites with 182 teachers participating in programs at Cranbourne Gardens and 415 teachers at Melbourne Gardens. Programs covered a range of topics including nature play, field work in the curriculum, bush kinder, sustainable gardening and indigenous programs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCESS

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria supported a number of groups throughout the year by providing access to venues and program assistance. The Gardens committed to providing equal access for all, as outlined in the Access Action Plan 2011–2015.

School Garden Awards 2014

On 27 November 2014 Melbourne Gardens hosted over 400 students from 50 schools as part of the *Victorian Schools Garden Awards 2014* celebration. The day included the official awards ceremony, roving performers, tours of The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden and student activities such as microscopes, leaf rubbings and art and craft activities using plant materials. The awards encourage school communities to come together and get involved in the development of green spaces within their school environments. These gardens provide spaces where children may learn about produce gardens, biodiversity and sustainable practices, as well as providing a way to engage students, teachers, parents and the broader community.

Peter Singer Partnership Event

The partnership event, *Peter Singer – The Point of View of the Universe* was held on Friday, 25 July 2014 at the Capitol Theatre to a packed audience of 500 people. Professor Tim Entwisle introduced Peter Singer, and various topics were discussed including climate change, animal rights, ethics, world poverty, human life and death issues. This was an opportunity to place the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria on a platform of contemporary debate, and to interact with a new audience. Holding an event off-site proved a success, as did working with the experienced event company, Sentient World Entertainment. Revenue raised from the event was contributed to the Working Wetlands Stage III project.

Chelsea Fringe Festival

As part of the UK's Chelsea Fringe Festival, there were unique new gardens popping up at the Melbourne and Cranbourne sites in May 2015: on the Pacific Dunlop Plaza in the Melbourne Gardens and on the Promenade Plaza in the Australian Garden. These 'art gardens' were created by students exploring the Gardens' vision – *Life is sustained and enriched by plants*.

The pop-up art gardens were mini-art exhibitions in crates inspired by a visit to the school by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria staff and the art ideas workshoped with students had a focus on inclusion for all. Artworks were created for Melbourne Gardens by St John Vianney's Primary School and Clonnard Secondary College and for Cranbourne Gardens by St Anthony's Parish Primary School, Glen Huntly and St Agatha's Parish Primary School, Cranbourne.

Pop-up Community Garden

Forty-eight clients from the City of Casey Home and Community Care Service participated in planting and taking care of a Pop-up Community Garden in the Northern Display Gardens during spring 2014. The Pop-up Garden created was enjoyed by many other visitors who explored this space in their own time.

Talking Plants

Over summer 2014–15 Professor Tim Entwisle hosted a six-part radio series on gardens and plants, *Talking Plants*, a first for ABC Radio National and building on his popular blog of the same name. Subsequently, Professor Entwisle has become a regular contributor to Radio National's weekly magazine show, *Blueprint for Living*.

A NEW VISUAL IDENTITY SYSTEM

During 2014–15, a new visual identity was created to connect the very diverse parts of our organisation. The new visual identity system creates an instantly recognisable connection across our retail, education and science and creates visual consistency across our on-site materials and signage at both sites. The new landmark incorporates many elements that reflect our vision: Life is sustained and enriched by plants. By incorporating the three key elements – plants, animals and people – our new visual identity acknowledges that plants are central to all life including us and our precious wildlife. The plants featured in the symbol include a wattle and eucalypt representing the native Australian plants typical of Cranbourne Gardens; the Moreton Bay Fig and an oak closely associated with Melbourne Gardens; birds and other animals that support and depend upon on plants, reinforcing the focus we have on urban ecology; and importantly people – representing the community and all of us who rely on plants for survival and enrichment.

The Gardens has been careful to minimise costs at every stage and roll-out the new brand in line with the regular maintenance and replacement schedule.

LOOKING AHEAD

Augmented Reality Project – Melbourne Gardens' Education team in partnership with Monash University is working on a project that uses new technology to expand our capacity to engage secondary school students on-site. The project will enhance capacity to deliver content that the Gardens currently specialises in, such as Climate Change, Indigenous education, habitat biodiversity and sustainable practice. Stage One roll-out is Melbourne Gardens, with Stage Two at Cranbourne Gardens. Content is being developed in 2015, with the aim of going live from early 2016.

QuestaGame partnership – Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is working in partnership with Questagame. QuestaGame has developed a mobile adventure game which aims to get young people outdoors, engaging with and learning about the environment – while at the same time gathering environmental information that feeds into the Atlas of Living Australia, helping document and protect biodiversity. Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens are developing plant quests, to be available on-site from spring 2015.

OVERVIEW OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Long-term strategy 2.1: More people knowing about us and visiting us, taking home our key messages and vision

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
2.1.1	Develop and commence implementing a Communications Strategy for the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria that reflects our new vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Communications Strategy for the organisation is currently being developed and will commence by 31 October 2015.
2.1.2	Implement a new visual identity system for the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria by 31 December 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new visual identity system was launched on 1 June 2015 with the first stage of the roll-out completed by 30 June 2015.
	Develop and submit Department of Education and Training Strategic Partnerships Program triennial funding bid to assist schools education delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed – successful bid achieved with funding awarded over the triennium amounting to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$165,000 to deliver education programs on the topics of: Gardening for a resilient future, Nature Play and Learning and Connecting to Country \$41,627 to deliver the Caring for Country – Gifted Indigenous Student Program.

Long-term strategy 2.2: Creating more opportunities for people to encounter our plants and landscapes

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
2.2.1	Develop and implement an Events Strategy to increase revenue and participation, and to raise our profile as a cultural space equal to museums and galleries by 30 June 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Events Strategy for the organisation is in preparation and will commence by 1 January 2016.
	Deliver the 'Essence of Australia' show garden display at RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show in London, in conjunction with project partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed – the Essence of Australia show garden was awarded Best in Show. The activity attracted considerable positive media for the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.
	Implement Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens Public Programs Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful programs were delivered across both sites including the introduction of a range of new programs and technologies to enhance visitor experiences.

Long-term strategy 2.3: Creating a science communication and promotion hub in Observatory Gate

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
2.3.1	Pilot 'Science Café' event at Melbourne Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Funding application for a 'Science Café' for Science Week 2015 was unsuccessful; different options are being assessed for 2015-16.

Long-term strategy 2.4: Encouraging horticultural learning and excellence

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
2.4.1	Establish a horticultural internship program by 30 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Working group formed and staff consultation meetings commenced.Pilot intern program launched on Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's website, with first intake expected in spring 2015.

Long-term strategy 2.5: Actively promoting plant happenings and discoveries

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
2.5.1	Develop and implement the Virtual Botanic Garden – apps, social media and better access to all our plant-related database information – by 30 June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In partnership with The Walt Disney Company (Australia), the 'Disney Fairies Trail', an augmented reality app, was launched on 30 November 2014.There were 15,000 app downloads with 45,000 gameplay across Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. It is estimated that the Disney Fairies Trail contributed to a 28,000 visitor increase at Melbourne Gardens.316 children from nine schools visited with financial assistance from The Walt Disney Company (Australia).

Theme 3: Creating special places

We will expand partnerships through sharing knowledge and expertise on how to build amazing experiences and places, and developing new gardens because when everyone connects more deeply with plants, our lives are improved. (Corporate Plan 2014-2019)



Above: Seaweed Subject III was featured in the Varley Seaweed Collection of prints created by the Designer Boys in partnership with Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. The Collection featured six different seaweed specimens that were donated to the Gardens by the Varley family. These precious specimens are now held in the State Botanical Collection.

AT A GLANCE

- The rejuvenation of The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden was completed in October 2014 ahead of the 10th anniversary of the Garden's opening. The work was completed with the help of a \$265,000 grant from The Ian Potter Foundation and saw the Garden extended by just over 1,000 square metres.
- Melbourne Gardens' Nursery staff succeeded in nurturing the third Titan Arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*) to bloom in as many years. The Titan Arum grew to 2.63 metres and was recorded as the tallest in Australia.
- Almost 16,000 people visited the Tropical Glasshouse over three days to view the Titan Arum in bloom. With the assistance of 25 Melbourne Gardens' volunteers and Friends, the Tropical Glasshouse was opened for extended hours while the Titan Arum was in bloom.
- Stage 1 of the Fern Gully renovation project was completed in April, when this popular precinct was reopened to the public with the addition of extensive hard-landscaping works including a raised 215-metre steel boardwalk and the planting of more than 1,500 new ferns throughout the area.
- On 20 December musician and author Nick Cave planted the first *Tilia henryana*, Henry's Lime, in the Melbourne Gardens. This species has been described as the most beautiful lime in China.
- In preparation for the Jardin Tan launch and reopening of the café at Observatory Gate, planters were planted out with robust species on the Pacific Dunlop Plaza to soften the surrounds of the Plaza and to provide greenery at the main entrance to the Visitor Centre.
- Cranbourne Gardens' staff worked closely with the Friends of RBG Cranbourne in establishing the new Growing Friends Nursery and Elliot Centre – a new headquarters for Friends' activities, which was opened by the then Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Alex Chernov, AC, QC.

YEAR IN REVIEW

The total budget allocated to achieving Theme 3 in 2014-15 was more than \$8.0 million, which included funding for the core activities of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria that are related to this Theme.

LIVING COLLECTIONS AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria maintains its sites and living collections to the highest curatorial standards, conserving biodiversity, landscape, horticultural and heritage values.

Living Collections Management

Collection Management and Action Plans set out the guiding principles and annual management of the living collections. At Melbourne Gardens, 31 Collection Action Plans were developed and reviewed, informing the annual work program for each of the collections. The development of Curatorial Management Plans at Cranbourne Gardens continued to guide the management of key Australian Garden precincts, with eight plans reviewed and implemented in the year in addition to the development of collection management plans for *Eremophila* and *Xanthorrhoea*.

Small Eucalypts for Home Gardens

Cranbourne Gardens' Public Programs and Horticulture staff prepared a list of 40 small Eucalypts that are well suited for small urban gardens. These plants will form the basis of a trail/tour being developed through the Australian Garden and is being supported by the Bjarne K Dahl Trust.

In conjunction with this work, a new plant label request module was developed that streamlines the process of plant label requests in Cranbourne Gardens. This module was completed and integrated into the Living Collections database. The module enables users to request different types of plant display labels and research plants' growing conditions for display labels such as 'Eucalypts for Home Gardens'.

Tropical Glasshouse - Titan Arum

Melbourne Gardens' Nursery staff succeeded in nurturing the third Titan Arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*) to bloom in as many years. The Titan Arum grew to 2.63 metres and was recorded as the tallest in Australia. Notoriously difficult to cultivate, it takes about six years for the underground tuber to grow to a size where it can produce one gigantic flower cluster. With the assistance of 25 Melbourne Gardens' volunteers and Friends, the Tropical Glasshouse was opened for extended hours providing almost 16,000 people with the opportunity to view this rare and fascinating plant. In a world first, the plant entertained and informed its 'followers' on its own Twitter account.

Biosecurity management

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Biosecurity Policy and Procedures outline 'the methods and practices for protection of living plant assets, natural habitat and industry from pests that may cause damage or disease'. This year, the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria continued to monitor host species for Myrtle Rust, an exotic plant disease with no known cure affecting plants of the Myrtaceae family.

Strategic Tree plan

Succession planning continued at Melbourne Gardens, with prioritised removal of 58 trees and replacement plantings in order to establish a mixed-age canopy. Among the trees removed was the Burr Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa* subsp. *Macrocarpa*) that had been planted on Oak Lawn in the early 1900s. It was determined that the roots were no longer strong enough to support the weight of the tree canopy. A Kermes Oak (*Quercus coccifera*) was planted as a succession for this tree.

A final assessment confirmed the historic Separation Tree, a 400 year old River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), was dying and a decision was taken in January to reduce the canopy of the tree. Despite extensive remedial work in the intervening years, the assessment confirmed that the tree was unable to produce callus and repair itself after it was vandalised by ringbarking on two separate occasions in 2010 and 2013. The canopy of the dead tree was further reduced later in the year and the wood stored and prepared for uses to commemorate the historical importance of this specimen.

Landscape Developments

Children's Garden rejuvenation

The rejuvenation of The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden was completed in October 2014 ahead of the 10th anniversary of the Garden's opening. With the help of a generous \$265,000 grant from The Ian Potter Foundation, the works saw the Children's Garden extended by just over 1,000 square metres. Landscape elements included turf renovation works, the addition of a new Desert Island, opening of the Gathering Lawn, extensive plantings and the inclusion of an art installation by Melbourne-based artist David Wong.

Fern Gully precinct

Stage 1 of the Fern Gully renovation project at Melbourne Gardens was completed in April, when this popular precinct was reopened to the public with the addition of a new raised 215-metre steel boardwalk, five steel bridges, and three wooden bench seats. Horticultural rejuvenation works included landscaping, irrigation installation, soil amelioration works, and the planting of more than 1,500 new ferns throughout the area. The upgrade is the first stage of a three-stage project designed to create a tranquil and accessible space to display, conserve and study ferns, palms, shrubs and ground covers, primarily from South Eastern Australia.

Australian Garden

Within the Australian Garden at Cranbourne Gardens, the Cultivar Garden was renovated with additional sub-surface drainage and a revised plant palette installed. A number of major bed renovations were undertaken on Howson Hill. The lawn in the Home Garden was replaced with massed meadow-style planting.

Eel Bridge Precinct

Overgrown, weedy and unwanted plant material at the Eel Bridge Precinct at Melbourne Gardens was removed as part of rejuvenation works. A new design in the gardenesque style has been developed with a range of plant forms and sizes that will enhance and frame water views and be suitable for future climatic conditions.

BOTANIC GARDENS CAPACITY BUILDING

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is committed to the highest standards of botanic gardens management as demonstrated through its management of both sites and its strong partnerships with regional botanic gardens. As well, the Gardens is committed to promoting sustainable resource management and efficient water usage and to learning from and sharing expertise with its regional, national and global partners.

In 2014-15, four Cranbourne Gardens Horticulture staff were the recipients of the Inaugural Elisabeth Murdoch Scholarship, made available by the Maud Gibson Trust. This involved study trips to botanic and public gardens in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Public Programs Managers from both sites attended the 9th BGCI Education Congress at Missouri Botanical Gardens from 26 April to 1 May 2015. The theme of the conference was 'Biodiversity for a better world: Wild ideas worth sharing'. At the congress, Sharon Willoughby, the Cranbourne Garden Public Programs Manager, was invited by BGCI to present as part of a panel on Education Strategy in Botanic Gardens and deliver a workshop on Interpretation Master Planning. Sharon also gave a paper on Bicultural Conservation *Words for Country* highlighting the Balee Koolin Bubup Bush Playgroup at Cranbourne Gardens as a case study. The Balee Koolin Bubup Bush Playgroup also was used as a case study in the new BGCI publication *Caring for your community: A Manual for Botanic Gardens*, April 2015, which highlighted this project as a model of socially inclusive practice in a botanic garden.

The Gardens was represented at the 29th International Horticultural Congress in Brisbane by the Director, Melbourne Gardens. The theme of the Congress was 'Sustaining Lives, Livelihoods and Landscapes', reflecting closely Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's vision.

Education Week Timor Leste

In July 2014, two Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria staff participated in an Environmental Education Week developed and organised by WithOneSeed (WOS), which ran a full week of education activities in the Sub-district of Baguia, Timor Leste. Dr Daniel Murphy (Molecular Systematist) and Mick Robertson (Education Co-ordinator, Cranbourne Gardens) delivered the program entitled 'Plants, People and Place'.

The objective of the education program was to work with school children, teachers and community members in Timor Leste to look more closely at plants in a scientific sense and to explore these ideas around the local (ethnobotanical) uses of plants. Over the five days of Environment Week, 440 students, 80 teachers and an additional 55 community members were engaged in the program.

Global Gardens of Peace

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria continued its international support of the Global Gardens of Peace (GGoP) project in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip by providing the expertise of two senior staff. In May 2015, Landscape Architect Andrew Laidlaw and Senior Curator Peter Symes joined a GGoP delegation to Israel, West Bank and Gaza Strip meeting with staff from Tel Aviv University Botanical Garden and Jerusalem Botanic Garden. At a formal launch in Khan Younis, Andrew presented the design concepts to NGOs working in Gaza, including representatives of the United Nations Development Program, as well as universities, the Mayor and council staff, and children and families who contributed to the design. Inspiration for the project is taken from The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden, which recognises the importance of green areas and natural play spaces for children.

Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand Inc. (BGANZ)

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria staff continue to support the work of BGANZ, with representation on the National Council, BGANZ Victoria Executive Committee and on special project groups.

Cranbourne Gardens' staff contributed to the BGANZ publication *THE BOTANIC GARDENER* with the following articles published: *Pulling together the threads: a curatorial management planning case study*, November 2014; *Bush Kinder: Making Space for Nature Play*, May 2015; *Sharing wild Ideas from BGCI Education Congress Missouri Botanical Gardens*, June 2015; and *Balancing Act: Wildlife in the Garden*, February 2015.

LOOKING AHEAD

Fern Gully Stage 2 - Design and documentation work to be completed for the restoration of Fern Gully Rest House, the installation of a viewing deck surrounding the Taxodium Tree and the refurbishment of the Guilfoyle Line Bed; commencement of work dependent on funding.

Australian Garden - Bed renovations are being planned to improve the growing conditions and health of the *Xanthorrhoea* collection, plus other improvements and additions to the overall landscape.

Research Garden project - The Research Garden at Cranbourne Gardens will be utilised for plant coppicing trials in support of the Woody Meadow Research Project, which is a collaboration between The University of Melbourne, the University of Sheffield (UK), the City of Melbourne and Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. The aim of this project is to explore using re-sprouting native shrubs to create resilient long flowering urban plant communities.

OVERVIEW OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Long-term strategy 3.1: Highlighting, circumscribing and promoting our key living collections

Specific actions	Progress against deliverables and performance measures
3.1.1	Develop a whole-of-site signage strategy for Melbourne Gardens
	Develop and deliver the 'Small Eucs for Home Gardens' project

Long-term strategy 3.2: Contributing to botanic gardens capacity building projects around the world

Specific actions	Progress against deliverables and performance measures
3.2.1	In partnership with WithOneSeed, contribute to reforestation capacity-building in Timor Leste
	Contribute to success of BGANZ Council, BGANZ Vic, Botanic Gardens Education Network and Botanic Gardens Records Officer Network forums

Long-term strategy 3.3: Completing the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne picture

Specific actions	Progress Against Deliverables and Performance Measures
3.3.1	Develop and commence implementing the full-site Master Plan for Cranbourne Gardens by 30 June 2016
	Complete development of Australian Garden Precinct Curatorial Plans

Long-term strategy 3.4: Developing the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria - Melbourne site

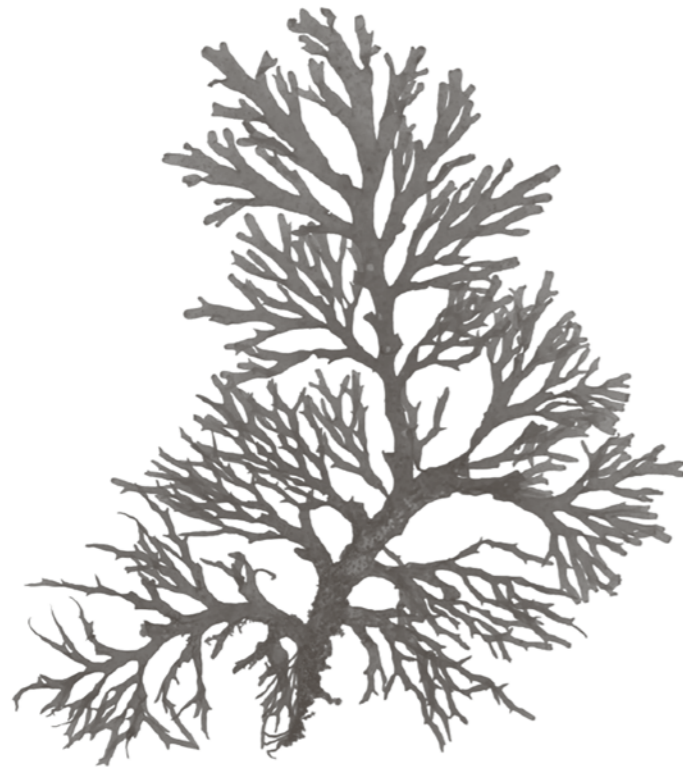
Specific actions	Progress Against Deliverables and Performance Measures
3.4.1	Confirm and complete future requirements for the new Herbarium
3.4.2	Prepare the site concept plan, which will guide the development of major structural elements (such as new Herbarium, Observatory Gate 2 and new glasshouse)

Long-term strategy 3.6: Landscapes, living collections and horticulture all of high quality and shared widely

Specific actions	Progress Against Deliverables and Performance Measures
3.6.1	Create new Fern Gully landscape at Melbourne Gardens to inspire and reinvigorate by 30 June 2019
3.6.2	Create new Arid Garden at Melbourne Gardens to demonstrate garden alternatives in a dry climate by 30 June 2019
3.6.3	Complete additions to and rejuvenation of The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden

Theme 4: Towards a sustainable future

We will demonstrate sustainable and environmentally responsible practices, living up to our new values and building the capacity to achieve our new vision and mission. (Corporate Plan 2014–2019)



Above: Seaweed Subject V was featured in the Varley Seaweed Collection of prints created by the Designer Boys in partnership with Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. The Collection featured six different seaweed specimens that were donated to the Gardens by the Varley family. These precious specimens are now held in the State Botanical Collection.

AT A GLANCE

- The Director's Circle program, which provides funding through the Foundation for Gardens' projects and helps build the Foundation capital base, continued to grow with membership increasing from 125 to 133.
- Bequests are a significant part of the fundraising program at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. A special event held to inform supporters about leaving a bequest to the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria attracted 90 people (our target was 30). The feedback was very positive with a number of people expressing interest in leaving a bequest to the Gardens.
- Funding was secured to join with The Diggers Club to encourage and invest in the next generation of horticulturists by offering a new joint apprenticeship for an aspiring horticulturist. The apprenticeship offers training within a professional, structured environment and the apprentice will finish the four year program with a Certificate III in Horticulture (Parks and Gardens).
- Work on the design and installation of an aquathermal heating and cooling system at the Cranbourne Gardens Visitor Centre progressed during the year, with the system due for completion in September 2015.
- Melbourne Gardens acquired a Garden Explorer vehicle in November following a successful funding campaign. Garden Explorer tours now operate at both sites with 13,763 people taking the tour at the Australian Garden in 2014–15, and 2,471 people using the service at Melbourne Gardens in the seven months since it started operating.
- A program using Conservation Volunteers Australia planted more than 2,500 wetland plants over two days as part of supplementary maintenance on the constructed and floating treatment wetlands at Melbourne Gardens.
- Designer Boys released first range of art prints - Varley Collection - based on Algae specimens donated to the State Botanical Collection by Anne Arnold, whose father Reginald Varley collected the specimens.

YEAR IN REVIEW

The total budget allocated to achieving Theme 4 in 2014–15 was more than \$4.2 million, which included funding for the core activities of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria that are related to this Theme.

DEVELOPMENT

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria continued to focus on its own fundraising and revenue generation to supplement Victorian Government support, providing a sustainable capital base to maintain and improve its assets, and to deliver a wide range of programs and projects. An active fundraising program in 2014–15 incorporated direct mail campaigns and targeted fundraising for specific projects, including submissions to philanthropic trusts and foundations as well as individuals. Greater promotion of the garden seat program delivered just under \$100,000.

Efforts were directed to identifying and securing funding partnerships for a number of projects. At Melbourne Gardens these projects included the Garden Explorer, delivery of the Cherry Ballart education program, the redevelopment of Fern Gully and the Native Grasslands project through the Plant Sciences and Biodiversity Division. Funding proposals were submitted to a number of individuals, the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc., the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation, the Feilman Family Foundation and The Ian Potter Foundation. Funding in excess of \$1.5 million was committed, which will see projects realised throughout the course of the next twelve months.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Information Systems are managed across both the Cranbourne and Melbourne sites and include finance and business systems as well as the management of extensive horticultural and botanical databases. The Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) conducted a Digital Dashboard performance audit in November 2014, which required input from a large number of staff over a three week period; no issues of concern were identified in the audit process.

ICT Strategy Development

In consultation with staff from across the organisation, Votar Partners Pty Ltd prepared an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategy for implementation to begin July 2015.

RETAIL PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Retail operations continued to generate income for the Gardens through outlets at both sites and online. New products were added to existing licensed products: two Artworks from the Eucalypt collection were selected for Christmas baubles and available in the Shop by 1 October (their success led to development of four further designs, which will arrive in September 2015); house number tiles, based on tiles from Veitri in Italy, were released as an addition to the Euphemia Collection. New product ranges were developed from the Varley Collection of Algae specimens held in the State Botanical Collection. This range will continue to be developed through new partnerships in 2015-16.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Environmental sustainability underscores the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's operations. To this end, the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria has in place a number of policies, including the Environmental Stewardship Policy and the Living Collections and Biosecurity Policy, and applies ecologically sustainable development principles in the planning and development of major infrastructure projects. The Environmental Stewardship Policy identifies three core areas where the organisation can contribute most to environmental stewardship: Biodiversity and Ecology, Community Engagement, and its Landscapes.

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria recorded data on domestic water and irrigation use, waste recycling and reuse, organic green waste processing and energy consumption, and remains committed to responsible resource use to minimise its carbon footprint.

Water and Irrigation

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria remains committed to reducing its use of mains water. Melbourne Gardens has achieved significant benefits from the Working Wetlands, with total water use in 2014-15 recorded at 123 ML compared to 114 ML for 2013-14.

About 31 ML of stormwater (saving \$93,000 in water costs) was used for irrigation in 2014-15 compared to 47 ML during 2013-14. This reduction was mostly due to below average rainfall during 2014-15. Only 431 mm of rainfall was recorded compared to 550 mm for 2013-14. Subsequently, stormwater inflows to Ornamental Lake were estimated at 41 ML for 2014-15 compared with 59 ML for 2013-14.

Compared to the baseline year of 1994-95 (251 ML), the combination of water efficiency initiatives, professional development and stormwater use have reduced potable water consumption for irrigation on average by about 170 ML per annum, or a reduction in current water costs of about \$500,000 per financial year.

The Working Wetlands project has also resulted in improved water quality in the lake system at Melbourne Gardens with a reduction in nutrient levels, and outbreaks of blue-green algae remain at low levels compared to the previous decade.

Water consumption at Cranbourne Gardens was recorded at 33,345 kilolitres, representing a 10 per cent increase in water consumption from 2013-14.

This additional water usage results from an 18 per cent reduction in overall rainfall from 2013-14 to 2014-15 and associated increased irrigation requirements. Annual water use equates to 158.3 litres per visitor.

Environmental Horticulture and the Horticulture Branch continued supplementary maintenance on the constructed and floating treatment wetlands at Melbourne Gardens to maintain water treatment performance. While vegetation establishment has improved, core maintenance is still demanding for what is effectively an increase of 3,500 m² in area. Steven Liu co-ordinated a successful program with Conservation Volunteers Australia to plant over 2,500 wetland plants over two days. An average 18 participants were involved for each day and comprised local and international students, and some local volunteers.

Waste Management

Waste minimisation and management programs are in place at both Cranbourne Gardens and Melbourne Gardens and included green organic processing, co-mingled waste and paper and cardboard recycling, with a proportion of waste also going to landfill.

At Cranbourne Gardens, 55.56 tonnes of green waste and 4.25 tonnes of co-mingled waste, paper and cardboard were recycled. Approximately 600 kilograms of organic waste from the staff lunchroom was processed and converted to compost.

At Melbourne Gardens, 124 tonnes of co-mingled waste and 3.6 tonnes of cardboard and paper were recycled, and 1,400 cubic metres of green waste were processed. A further 240 tonnes (of public and gardens waste) went to landfill.

Energy Management

Data on energy use at both sites was formally recorded for the first time, with Cranbourne Gardens using 343,167 kilowatt hours and Melbourne Gardens recording usage of 730,362 kilowatt hours.

For 2014-15, the total energy consumption of operating Working Wetlands' infrastructure (irrigation pump station, water treatment and recirculation pumps) was estimated at 113 megawatt hours (MWh). Photovoltaic supply to the grid was measured at 78 MWh or about a 69% offset of Working Wetlands' electrical power consumption.

Gas consumption at Melbourne Gardens was recorded at 4,280,435 megajoules. More than half of this is used for heating glasshouses, with the balance used for heating other main buildings.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria maintains and improves its assets for current and future generations. Building and infrastructure assets recorded on the Asset Register were valued at \$414 million, and include historically significant buildings at Melbourne Gardens as well as elements of the Australian Garden at Cranbourne Gardens.

A Maintenance Management System continued to operate at Cranbourne Gardens to track assets, maintain schedules and manage active work orders. At Melbourne Gardens the same Maintenance Management System was introduced to also manage its work requests, and schedule and track maintenance work.

LOOKING AHEAD

Algae Collection - In August 2015, a new collection of fashion accessories will be launched in partnership with Henry Bucks. The range features designs inspired by algae specimens housed in the State Botanical Collection, transformed by textile artist Tamara Schneider into an elegant design for application to luxury handmade Italian silk. Algae designs will also feature on a new pewter homeware range and a range of ceramics by artist Samantha Robinson.

Euphemia Collection - A range of mugs, plates, coasters and placements featuring the designs of Euphemia Henderson will also be released in partnership with Maxwell and Williams in September 2015.

OVERVIEW OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Long-term strategy 4.1: Developing an organisational structure and culture to meet our vision

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
4.1.1	Review our support organisations and stakeholder groups to maximise their contribution to our vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives from key support groups participated in a number of RBGV planning activities in order to better align their activities to the goals of the organisation.
4.1.2	Review organisational structures to best deliver the Corporate Plan objectives, and to fulfil our new vision and mission by 30 June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A process for reviewing the structure of the organisation has commenced and will continue through the 2015-16 financial year.
	Obtain final approval of Enterprise Agreement (EA) 2014 and implement its outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-principle agreement reached on 1 November 2014. Documents lodged with Government for approval; as at 30 June 2015 Government approval of EA not received.

Long-term strategy 4.2: Creating sustainable landscapes

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
4.2.2	Achieve 100% recycled water for irrigation on both sites by 31 December 2018, pending funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed - Business Case submitted as required on 15 December 2014. Submission was unsuccessful for 2015-16 funding round and will be resubmitted in December 2015 for 2016-17.
4.2.3	Implement key priorities of Melbourne Gardens' Landscape Succession Plan by 30 June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Landscape Succession Strategy was finalised after extensive consultation within the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. Preliminary results of a PhD project have provided some comparative data to assist with the audit of landscape spaces.

Long-term strategy 4.3: Developing a sustainable business

Specific actions		Progress against deliverables and performance measures
4.3.1	Develop an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of Interest and subsequent Request for Quote completed. Votar Partners Pty Ltd engaged to produce the ICT Strategy.
	Deliver a Garden Explorer tour at Melbourne Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed - Funding for two vehicles was identified. The tour start date was dependent upon delivery of a vehicle, with the Garden Explorer tour commencing from 10 November 2014.
	Develop a whole-of-organisation fundraising campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Campaign strategy is being finalised and will be rolled out during 2016.
	Tender lease opportunity currently held by Blake's Feast at each of Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender processes for both lease opportunities have been completed and at 30 June 2015 are pending approval by Governor-in-Council.

Our Supporters

'We at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria are custodians of a significant cultural and scientific organisation. With collections, expertise and trust amassed over nearly 170 years, we have the capacity, and the responsibility, to bring a world of plant knowledge and inspiration to our visitors. It is only with the support of those around us that we can achieve positive change in thinking whereby the vital role of plants will be understood and appreciated by the community.' - Professor Tim Entwisle

GENEROUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria sincerely thanks the individuals, businesses, community groups, government entities and philanthropic trusts and foundations that generously supported its work in 2014-15.

The financial support received by Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria plays an important role in helping the organisation achieve its strategic priorities. Ongoing support from our committed donors has been particularly critical for the significant gardens development, water sustainability and scientific projects that have been in progress during 2014-15.

Donations received during the year went to projects including the Fern Gully restoration project, the Glasshouse project, and various smaller science, horticulture and education projects.

Further to this, organisations that provided research grants are acknowledged on page 48 of this report.

This list records contributions of \$1,000 and over in the 2014-15 financial year, excluding those made through the Director's Circle program (see page 47).

Anonymous (2)
Mr John Armstrong
Australian Flora Foundation Inc.
Australian Garden History Society National
Australian Garden History Society Victorian Branch
Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc
The Australian Orchid Foundation
Ms Judy Backhouse
Bosisto's Eucalyptus
C & T Park Endowment CEF Management Account
Calvert-Jones Foundation
Charles and Cornelia Goode Foundation
CSL Limited
Cybec Foundation
Feilman Family Foundation
The Fern Society of Victoria Inc.
Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne Inc
Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.
Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Trust Fund
Ms Lorraine Hatton
The Ian Potter Foundation
Leukaemia Foundation
Lindisfarne Foundation Pty Limited
Mr Brian Little
Maud Gibson Trust
The Myer Foundation
Nell & Hermon Slade Trust
Philip and Vivien Brass Charitable Foundation
Betsy and Ollie Polasek Endowment
Reece Pty Ltd
Mrs Margaret Ross AM and Dr Ian Ross
Sally Browne Fund
The Stuart Leslie Trust
NS & JS Turnbull
The Walt Disney Company (Australia) Pty Limited
Yulgilbar Foundation

Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation Victoria

The Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation was established in May 2001, with the goal of providing the Royal Botanic Gardens with a secure source of future income from the investment of bequests, seat sponsorships, Director's Circle donations and general donations.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation has Deductible Gift Recipient (Item 2) status and is endorsed as an Income Tax Exempt Fund.

During the year, the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation continued to manage its capital base and enhance its capacity to provide long-term financial support to the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. While continuing to build its capacity, during the year the Foundation was able to make larger distributions to more projects because of the continued growth of the capital base.

The support of our donors makes it possible to provide grants towards the following projects: the Fern Gully restoration project, a second people mover for Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens, research to aid in conservation of threatened grasslands in Western Victoria, a four year joint horticulture apprenticeship with the Diggers Club and numerous other smaller projects across the Gardens.

The Foundation greatly values and appreciates the commitment and contributions of all of its supporters. In addition to all those listed on the previous page under Generous Financial Support, the Foundation wishes to acknowledge the following people and their significant contributions during 2014-15:

Anonymous (2)
Mrs Meg Bentley
Mr Tony Berger and Ms Marita Quinn
Mr Clive Blazey and Mrs Penny Blazey
Mr John Carpenter and Mrs Janice Carpenter
Lady Patricia Connelly
Dr Philippa Currie and Mr Peter Currie
Ms Debbie Dadon
Mrs Joan Darling
Mr Gerard Dieters
Mr Rob Grant and Mr Murray Collins
Mr Peter Greenham and Mrs Anne Greenham
Mrs Joan Grigg and Mr John Grigg
Ms Virginia Henry
The Estate of The Late Mr Charles Arthur George Hill
Mr Frank Mahlab and Mrs Eve Mahlab AO
Dr Alan McPhate and Mrs Maureen McPhate
Mrs Janet Michelmores
Mrs Anne Miller
Dr Philip Moors AO and Dr Debbie Moors
Mr Dennis Nassau
Ms Wendy Olenick
Ms Nancy Price
The Estate of The Late Mr Jack Reid

Mr Michael Renzella
Dr Max Richards AM and Mrs Maggie Richards
Mr Tim Scarborough and Mrs Adelaide Scarborough
The Estate of The Late Mrs Barbara Shearer
Mrs Merrill Shulkes and Prof Arthur Shulkes
Ms Carol Sisson
Mr Geoff Steinicke and Mrs Judy Steinicke
Mr Adrian Turley
Mr Frank Van Straten OAM
Dr Elizabeth Xipell

Perennial Gardeners

The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria gratefully acknowledges the following individuals who have included the Gardens in their estate plans:

Anonymous (29)
Mrs Tamara Boldiston and
Mr Mark Boldiston (Lord Coconut)
Dr Edward Brentnall and Mrs Hazel Brentnall
Ms Sally Browne
Mr Douglas Butler
Mrs Elsie Carter
Mrs Lorna Downey
Mr Richard A Farrar
The Late Grace Ella Fraser
Mr Rob Grant and Mr Murray Collins
Mr Andrew Grummet and Mrs Margaret Grummet
The Late Arno Herpe
The Late Charles A G Hill
Mr Peter J Jopling AM QC
The Late Elena Keown
The Late Athol Laphorne and Mrs Millie Laphorne
Janet Lilley
Ms Patrice Raselli Marriott
The Late Michael Mavrogordato
Mrs Anne Miller
Dr Philip Moors AO
Ms Rosemary O'Brien
Ms Misha Prusa
Estate Late Jack MacDonald Reid
Mrs Lisa Robertson and Mr Damian Robertson
Estate Late Peter and Barbera Shearer
Mrs Merrill Shulkes and Prof Arthur Shulkes
The Late Evelyn Siracusa
The Late Judy Ann Stewart
Mr John Webb and Mrs Pat Webb

Seat Sponsorship

Dr Susan Blackburn
Mr Daniel Bokser
Mrs Cindy Borschman
Mrs Nellie Castan
Mr Allan Dabscheck
Mrs Margot Dorum
Mrs Gillian Hund
Ms Tracy Keeton
Mr Chris Lants
Mrs Erika Leonard
Mr Greg Lyndon
Mrs Carol Majernik
Mrs Maree Moscato
Ms Mima Piccolo
Mrs Lee Pinkus
Mrs Anna Priestler
Professor John Roberts
Mrs Geraldine Rohan
Mr Leigh Russell

Director's Circle

The Director's Circle Program is a vehicle for some of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's closest supporters to pledge their annual, unrestricted contributions to help protect the Gardens for future generations, through the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation. Director's Circle gifts support vital projects that improve the landscapes, collections, research, and educational programs at the Gardens.

The Director's Circle secured a record 135 members during 2014-15 contributing over \$230,000 to the Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation.

The Royal Botanic Gardens sincerely thanks the following Director's Circle supporters for their vision and continuing generosity.

Patron

Professor Timothy J Entwisle
Anonymous (4)
Mr David Adam and Mrs Judy Adam
Sir David Akers-Jones GBM KBE CMG
Mrs Betty Amsden AO DSJ
Mrs Jan Anderson and Mr Robert Anderson
Mr Duncan Andrews and Ms Jan Andrews
Mr Graeme Baker and Mrs Lee Baker
Mr Ben Batters and Mrs Sunday Batters
Mr Michael Begg and Mrs Judy Begg
Mr Marc Besen AO and Mrs Eva Besen AO
Mr Ian Beynon and Mrs Beth Beynon
Mr Clive Blazey and Mrs Penny Blazey
Mr Russell Board and Ms Narelle Ivers
Ms Sally Browne
Mr James Calvert-Jones
Mr John Calvert-Jones AM and
Mrs Janet Calvert-Jones AO
Mrs Krystyna Campbell-Pretty and
the Campbell-Pretty family
Mr Peter Canet and Mrs Ivanka Canet
Ms Elaine Canty AM and Mr Roy Masters AM
Mr Nic Capp
Mrs Susan Chandler and Professor David Chandler
The Honourable Alex Chernov AC, QC and
Mrs Elizabeth Chernov
Mr Sandy Clark and Ms Marie McDonald
Mr Richard Clarke and Mrs Margaret Clarke
Mr Leigh Clifford AO and Mrs Sue Clifford

Dr Robin Collier OAM and Prof Neil Collier
Mr John Collingwood and Mrs Chris Collingwood
Mr Graham Cunningham and Mrs Ann Cunningham
Sir Daryl Dawson AC KBE CB QC and
Lady Lou Dawson
Mr Peter De Campo
Mr Bruce Echberg and Mrs Kerry Echberg
Mr Rodger Elliot AM and Mrs Gwen Elliot AM
Mr Ian Endersby
Professor Tim Entwisle and Ms Lynda Entwisle
Mr Paul Evans
Ms Jane Fenton AM and Mr David Miles
Dr Helen Ferguson
Mrs Robin Ferry OAM
Mr Anthony Fitzwilliams Hyde and
Mrs Chloe Fitzwilliams Hyde
Mr Mike Fogarty and Mrs Deb Fogarty
Mr Grant Fowler and Mrs Penny Fowler
Mr Geoffrey Freeman and Mrs Lesley Freeman
Mrs Lindy Freeman
The Garnaut Family
Mrs Jennifer Gold and Family
Mr Robert Green and Mrs Jan Green
Mr Peter Greenham and Mrs Anne Greenham
Mrs Lesley Griffin
Mr Peter Griffin AM and Ms Terry Swann
Mrs Joan Grigg and Mr John Grigg
Mr Andrew Grummet AM and Mrs Margaret Grummet
Mrs Sarah Guest and Mr James Guest
Mr Andrew Guild and Mrs Ai-gul Guild
The Hon David Habersberger QC and
Mrs Pam Habersberger
Mrs Jean Hedges
Mr Brian Hamersfeld and Mrs Natalie Hamersfeld
Mr Michael Hamson and Mrs Susie Hamson
Mr Ken Harrison and Mrs Jill Harrison
Mrs Barbara Haynes and Mr David Johnston
Mrs Maria Jo Herpe
Ms Virginia Heywood
Mr Jim Higgins and Mrs Barbara Higgins
Mr Graeme Holt and Mrs Judy Holt
Mr Frank Hook and Mrs Sheryl Hook
Mrs Roni Hubay and Mr Gaby Hubay
Mrs Gillian Hund and Mr Michael Hund
Mr Greg Ireton and Ms Kate Taylor
Mr William Jones and Mr Kyu Wan Choi
Mr Peter Kelly and Mrs Liz Kelly
Mr Craig Kimberley OAM and Mrs Connie Kimberley
Ms Zara Kimpton OAM
Mrs Lori Kravos
Mrs Millie Laphorne
Mr Tom Latham and Mrs Marianne Latham
Mrs Diana Lempriere
Mrs Alison Leslie

Mr Bill Leslie
Mr Mark Lewis and Mrs Bronwyn Lewis
Mrs Janet Limb
Mr George Littlewood and Mrs Ann Littlewood
Mr Pieter Los and Mrs Maryclare Los
Mr Peter Lovell and Mr Michael Jan
Mr Phil Lukies and Ms Janet Whiting
Mr Robert McKay and Mrs Sarah McKay
Mr Ian McNaughton and Mrs Libby McNaughton
Mr Ross Milne-Pott and Mrs Judy Milne-Pott
Dr Philip Moors AO and Dr Debbie Moors
Mrs Diana Morgan
Mrs Susan Morgan
Mr Hugh Morgan AC and Mrs Libby Morgan
Mr Baillieu Myer AC and Mrs Sarah Myer
Mr Stephen Newton AO
Ms Wendy Olenick
Mr Richard Oliver AM
Mr Martin Owen and Mrs Susan Owen
Ms Adele Palmer
Mr George Pappas and Mrs Jillian Pappas
Mr Tom Park and Mrs Cathy Park
Mr Bruce Parncutt and Ms Robin Campbell
Ms Elizabeth Paton
Mr John Patrick and Mrs Bridget Patrick
Mrs Lee Pinkus
Mr Rob Pitt
Lady Potter AC
Mr John Prescott AC and Mrs Jennifer Prescott
Mr John Ralph AC and Mrs Barbara Ralph
Mrs Carolyn Rayner and the Late Mark Rayner
Mrs Julie Reid and Mr Ian Reid
Mr Damian Robertson and Mrs Lisa Robertson
Mr Ken Roche and Mrs Gail Roche
Mrs Margaret Ross AM and Dr Ian Ross
Mrs Maria Ryan and Mr Martin Ryan
Mr Stephen Salerno and Dr Helen Maroulis
Mr Tim Scarborough and Mrs Adelaide Scarborough
Ms Elizabeth Sevier
Mr Greg Shalit and Ms Miriam Faine
Ms Jennifer Shaw
Mrs Diana Sher and Mr Jeffrey Sher
Professor Richard Smallwood AO
and Mrs Carol Smallwood
Mr Brian Snape AM and Mrs Diana Snape
Mr Geoff Steinicke and Mrs Judy Steinicke
The Late Mrs Judy Ann Stewart
Dr Gregory Tilley and Mrs Jacqueline Tilley
Mr Colin Trumble
Mr David Valentine
Mrs Susan Vaughan and Mr Ian Vaughan

Mr Ralph Ward-Ambler AM and
Mrs Barbara Ward-Ambler
Mr Peter Wetenhall and Ms Jo Horgan
Mr Paul Wheelton OAM
Ms Linda White
Dr Philip Williams AM and Mrs Elizabeth Williams
Mr John Wyld and Mrs Anne Wyld
Dr Elizabeth Xipell
Mr Harrison Young

Research Grants

We gratefully acknowledge the following organisations for providing grants for research in 2014-15:

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Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (Global Plants Initiative)
Animex Fencing
Australian Network for Plant Conservation
Australian Research Council - Linkage Grants
Australian Seed Bank Partnership
(Millennium Seed Bank)
Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS)
Biosis Ecology Scholarship
Chinese Academy of Transportation
Cybec Foundation
Department of Environment, Australian Government
Department of Environment Land Water and Planning,
Victorian Government
EcoKare International
Florida Wildlife Federation
Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.
Gippsland Lakes Ministerial Advisory Committee
Graeme Caughley Travel Fellowship
Hanson Construction
Holsworth Wildlife Research Endowment
Maud Gibson Trust
Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute (MSSI)
The Myer Foundation
Nell and Hermon Slade Trust
NSW Roads and Maritime Services
Office of Environment and Heritage
Royal Botanic Gardens Foundation
Swedish Roads Administration
Swiss Federal Roads Office
Wet Tropics Management Authority

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne Inc

The Friends have had a most successful and rewarding year in 2014-15 with significant highlights. The first of these took place on 1 February when the then Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Alex Chernov AO, QC accompanied by his wife Elizabeth Chernov officially opened the Friends Elliot Centre and the new Growing Friends Nursery. About 200 Friends and staff attended. Another highlight was Senator Kay Patterson's launching of a book entitled *Banksia Lady - the biography of Celia Rosser* written by Carolyn Landon. Celia attended the function in conjunction with family, Monash University Press and some 250 Friends and guests. A talk by Carolyn about Celia was so successful, it was repeated on a further two occasions. A third highlight was arranging a tour for 20 people to Lord Howe Island for a week that grew into three consecutive tours of 20 to this World Heritage Island!

Fundraising during the year saw record results and has enabled the Friends to sponsor the leasing of two new Garden Explorers for three years; provide funds for building a possum proof covering for the Cranbourne Gardens nursery and provide air conditioning plant for the Orchid Conservation Project building. Final payments for the construction of the Growing Friends Nursery and the Elliot Centre were made. With the move by the Herbarium Collectors into the Elliot Centre in February, all Friends groups and activities are centralised into one location. Meanwhile, the Friends continue to organise and run a wide range of activities that continue to raise funds to support the Gardens.

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

One of the highlights of the year was the completion of the first stage of the restoration of Fern Gully. The Friends are delighted that their major contribution of \$245,000 (total commitment \$300,000) since May 2013 has helped bring about such a successful and rewarding outcome.

During the past financial year, the Friends were pleased to make grants to the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria in excess of \$140,000. These included contributions to the Fern Gully Boardwalk Project totalling \$101,425 and \$18,950 for the Friends' Helen McLellan Research Grant awarded to Daniel Murphy and Frank Udovicic. A total of \$8,985 was awarded through the Friends' Scholarship Scheme for Gardens' staff to Russell Gibb, Leanne Adams and Kylie Regester.

Classes in botanical illustration, held seven days a week, continued to be very well attended, as were the four-day beginners' workshops held during the term breaks. Specialty workshops taught by a variety of tutors were also popular. The Friends' twelfth biennial 'Art of Botanical Illustration' exhibition, held in Domain House during October and November, raised more than \$16,500. A grant of \$5,000 was made to allow the Gardens to purchase works from the exhibition for the State Botanical Collection.

The Growing Friends group held two successful weekend public plant sales during autumn and spring and monthly nursery sales for members only. Together, these sales raised over \$49,000.

Membership figures remained stable at approximately 2,400 during the year. The Friends' quarterly program of events, including school holiday workshops at the Plant Craft Cottage, illustrated talks in Mueller Hall and Domain House, guided walks and self-drive garden visits, was well attended, generating funds and providing interesting and enjoyable activities for members and guests.

Maud Gibson Trust

The Maud Gibson Trust was established in 1945 with a donation from Miss Maud Gibson for the maintenance, development, or otherwise for the benefit of the Botanic Gardens. The Trust facilitated the initial purchase of land to establish Cranbourne Gardens and has continued to take an influential role in the development of that site, including the creation of the multi-award-winning Australian Garden. It has also encouraged and supported botanical research and educational programs for many years at Melbourne Gardens.

In November 2014 the Maud Gibson Trust approved a proposal to establish an annual scholarship fund of between \$10,000 and \$12,000 in honour of the Late Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE, to support professional development opportunities for study trips to other botanic gardens and associated horticultural institutions, field trips and collection trips for horticulturists from both Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria sites.

The inaugural scholarship was shared between four staff at Cranbourne Gardens - Mandy Thomson, Sturt Gibbs, Trevor Seppings and Cali Salzmann. It is expected that the scholarship will be advertised in the second half of 2015.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Herbarium Volunteers

The Herbarium Volunteers continued to assist with conservation research and with curating and documenting the herbaria and library collections of the State Botanical Collection.

In 2014-15, volunteers added over 14,109 mounted and/or curated specimens to the State Botanical Collection and 755 specimens to the MELISR database. They also contributed more than 10,270 hours of work to the Plant Sciences and Biodiversity Division on many different projects including:

- Preparing text and images for the eFlora version of the Horticultural flora for south-eastern Australia.
- Assisting with *Fungimap* including providing administrative support with a range of office functions and data entry support, and developing an FDU wiki for the creation of educational materials for the second edition of *Fungi Down Under*.
- Collecting, cleaning, counting and photographing seeds and establishing germination trials and data entry for the Victorian Conservation Seedbank.
- Collections projects including scanning the handwriting files to add to Specify records, matching Melaleuca collections with the AVH website and work on the Beauglehole algae and Filson Lichen Collections.
- Continuing mounting, completing six families, of the Foreign Collection.
- Continuing to remount or repair Australian vascular Type specimens, prior to scanning for the Global Plants Initiative (GPI) Project.
- Collection assessment in preparation for renovation of the rare books storage facility.
- Continuing project work on Library databases and catalogues, including work on the Ron Jeffs slide collection, and the Bill Woelkerling collection of algal reprints and databasing and digitising the Historic Photograph collection and the Library's botanical slide collection.
- Working on the Orchid Conservation project of the Victorian Orchid Conservation Programme assisting in the propagation of 16 federally threatened terrestrial species and in the field with surveys and species re-introductions.

Carlin Ainsley
Marina Albert
Eve Almond
Neil Anderton
Wendy Bedgood
Jenepher Beudel
Sally Bufe
John Carpenter
Wendy Cook
Heather Eather
Alwynne Fairweather
Francis Faul
Katherine Flynn
Paul George
Margaret Gordon
Christine Graunas
Mary Gregory
Chelsea Guilliland
Robert Hare
Nayyer Haseeb
Leanne Hayton
Travis Heafield
Mary Hills
Jessica Hood
Elizabeth Howcroft
Vicki Jaeger
Tom Jeavons
Meran Jennings
Kerry Jolly
Libby Kerr
Mirini Lang
Anne Lawson
Geoffrey Lay
Jannie Lay
Geoffrey Le Page
Gary Leete
Sue Lesser
Anna Long
Jennifer Lund
Rita Macheda
Anne McLachlan

Ainslee Meredith
Angela Mitchell
Brian Monger
Pauline Morrison
Tom Morton
Margaret Murfett
Gillian Newnham
Hannah Noorda
Sam Panter
Graham Patterson
Beau Picking
Diana Plant
Lynsey Poore
Laraine Proctor
Megan Rixon
Lisa Roberton
Sara Romberg
Jennifer Ross
David Sambrooks
Johanna Slijkerman
Catherine Taylor
Joan Thomas
Ian Thompson
Ivy Tran
Peter Wallace
Ann Walsham
Mary Ward
Jacinta Wehbe
Monica Wells
Mike Wicks
Jessye Woowin-McGregor
Charles Young

Cranbourne Gardens volunteers

At Cranbourne Gardens, 60 Garden Ambassadors contributed 4,796 hours during the past year. Garden Ambassadors provide an extremely important contribution to the experience of visitors to the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria at Cranbourne. In addition to this, 22 Land Management Volunteers contributed 1,585 hours, 7 Horticulture Volunteers contributed 584 hours, and 7 Bird Survey Group Volunteers contributed 252 hours to a range of important activities at Cranbourne Gardens. In some instances, individuals volunteer in more than one capacity.

Garden Ambassadors

Anne Adams
Amy Akers
Robin Allison
John Armstrong
Margaret Barnes
Pamela Binks
Trevor Blake
Annette Blazé
Margaret Brookes
Margaret Clarke
Brian Cole
Erin Cosgriff
Ron Deane
Johan de Bree
Derek de Korte
Ron Deane
Peter Edwards
David Elias
Mack Fenwick
Carol Ferguson
Chloe Foster
Barrie Gallacher
Ralph Henger
Faye Hobby
Lynette Hosking
Elspeth Jacobs
Martin Holzapfel
Marie Kehoe
Helen Kennedy
Sue Keon-Cohen
Christine Kenyon
Eva Kowal
Linda Lee
Nancy Leonard
Jennifer Lewis
Mary Macdermid
Judy Mallinson
Don Matthews
Peter McGrath
Lauris McInerney
Mark Nelson
Paula Nicholas
Sally Randall
David Redfern
Verena Reich
Charles Saffroy
Marj Seaton
Alex Smart
Sue Spicer
Laurie Stephens
John Steward
Bernadette Swanson
Sue Tatton
Gaye Townsend
Ray Turner
Jean Wallis
Kate Walsh
Roger Watts
Kathy White
Charles Young

Land Management Volunteers

Ralph Angst
Bianca Carnovale
Dave Cundall
Stephen Elstree
Jason Gedling
Ian Hawkins
Lauren Kinsey
Meeka Lewis
Justine Lund
Brigette Mace
Callum Martin
Lachlan Martin
Liam Martin
Thomas Naismith
Dawn Neylan
Jarrod Parr
Mike Paterson
Bronwyn Schoer
Nick Swinton
Claire Taylor
Sarah Thoonan
Jason Wallis

Horticulture Volunteers

Brian Cole
Andrew Dille
Mary Garry
Sue Keon-Cohen
Pamela Meier
Marcelle Ostermeyer
Laurie Stephens
Bird Survey Group Volunteers
Pat Bingham
Sue Charles
Liz Gower
Peter Gower
Ken Harris
David McCarthy
Bob Rogers

Melbourne Gardens Volunteers

At Melbourne Gardens, 92 volunteers contributed 6,326 hours during the past year, in some instances volunteering their time and skills in more than one capacity. The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria gratefully acknowledges and values the work of all volunteers and looks forward to their continuing support.

E Gate Lodge Helping Hands

Sam Amo
Rosemary Cotter
Sue Hoare
Geoffrey Kneebone

Eastern Lodge Helping Hands

Annie Carter
Judith Gallagher
Kay Howden
Janet Moritz

Gate Lodge Helping Hands

Geoffrey Kneebone

Garden Ambassadors

Ann Beasley
Frances Coffey
Dianne Costelloe
Rosemary Cotter
Helen Creedon
Berys Dixon
Veronica Harrison
Wendy Hopkins
Julie Jones
Anne Krelle
Susan Langley
Gail Latchford
Leanora Levy
Alasdair Macdonald
Jan McAvoy
Marian McLean
Gloria Minter
Eddie Natt
Angela O'Shaughnessy
Jadzia Rae
Ann Scott
Libby Tronson
Max Watson
Mali Wilson

The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden volunteers

Anne Ada
Moira Bainbridge
Mary Becker
Angela Bentley
Lorraine Brock
Jan Brown
Stephanie Campbell
Gabb
Billie De Bondi
Jenni Eaton
Leanora Levy
Anna Priester
Elia Schulz
Margaret Smith
Sue Smith
Maggie Troup
Kate Welsh

Voluntary Guides

Jill Bartlett
Susan Broadbent
Pamela Carder
Susan Chandler
Rosemary Cotter
Anna Denton
Caroline Durre
Kate Grinter
Kay Hall
Jenny Happell
Ross Harris
Ruth Harris
Virginia Heywood
Nora Hunt
Marlies Johnson
David Johnston
Scott Kerr
Jenny Lang
Terence Lennon
Julianne Lewis
Margaret Mann
Christine Mitchell
Georgina Mountford
Gary Nelson
Jenny Nicholas
John Nicholas
Rosemary O'Brien
Brian O'Halloran
Donna Osbourne
David Plant
Ian Polmear
Margaret Polmear
Lynsey Poore
Faye Retchford
Jayne Salmon
Helen Smyth
Carole Spillane
Lucia Suarez
Geraldine Wade
Marge Watson
Max Watson
Linda Wilkins
Jill Williams
Mail Wilson
Judy Woodfull

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 re-appointment by mutual agreement.

Honorary Associates are individuals who possess expertise in areas that supplement or complement our Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria employees. They contribute greatly to the achievements of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria through their research on various angiosperm plant families and bryophytes, fungi, lichens and algae, through studies in urban ecology, or by curating the specimens held in the State Botanical Collection. Others add to the value of 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 a number of Honorary Associates to the Mueller Correspondence Project.

Dr Peter Adams, School of BioSciences,
The University of Melbourne

Ms Barbara Archer, Norsemann, Western Australia
Professor David Baum, School of Botany, Wisconsin

Dr Austin Brown, Glen Waverley, Victoria

Dr Fiona Caryl, Natural Power, Stirling, United Kingdom

Dr Michelle Casanova, Westmere, Victoria

Mr Ian Clarke, Bentleigh, Victoria

Dr Thomas Darragh, Department of History and
Philosophy of Science, The University of Melbourne

Professor Rod Home, School of Philosophy,
The University of Melbourne

Dr Christopher Ives, School of Global,
Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University

Dr Gerry Kraft, School of BioSciences,
The University of Melbourne

Professor Pauline Ladiges, School of BioSciences,
The University of Melbourne

Dr Sheryl Lawson, Mt Evelyn, Victoria

Dr Graeme Lorimer, Biosphere Pty Ltd

Dr Sara Maroske, Department of History and
Philosophy of Science, The University of Melbourne

Mrs Enid Mayfield, Geelong, Victoria

Dr Michael McCarthy, School of BioSciences,
The University of Melbourne

Ms Mali Moir, Mt Evelyn, Victoria

Dr John Morgan, Department of Botany,
Latrobe University

Dr Kirsten Parris, School of BioSciences,
The University of Melbourne

Mr Kevin Rule, Nunawading, Victoria

Ms Katrina Syme, Denmark, Western Australia

Dr Caragh Threlfall,
The University of Melbourne, Burnley

Mr Rick Tudor, South Yarra, Victoria

Ms Anneke Veenstra, Deakin University,
Melbourne Campus

Dr Nicholas Williams, Burnley Campus,
The University of Melbourne

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Accountable officer's, chief finance officer's and Board's declaration

The attached financial statements for the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria (the Board) have been prepared in accordance with Standing Direction 4.2 of 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 2015 and financial position of the Board at 30 June 2015.

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 18 August 2015.




Ken Harrison
Chairman
Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria

Melbourne
18 August 2015



Lola Makdissi
Chief Finance Officer
Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria

Melbourne
18 August 2015



Prof Tim Entwisle
Director and Chief Executive
Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria

Melbourne
18 August 2015

Comprehensive operating statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Income from transactions			
Grants	2(a)	15,231,662	14,670,450
Sponsorships and donations	2(b)	1,771,407	1,882,990
Sales of goods and services	2(c)	2,690,202	3,022,314
Fair value of assets and services received free of charge or for nominal consideration	2(d)	829,864	919,464
Interest	2(e)	241,707	206,980
Other income	2(f)	1,523,302	1,159,422
Total income from transactions		22,288,144	21,861,620
Expenses from transactions			
Employee expenses	3(a)	(13,783,622)	(13,702,409)
Depreciation	3(b)	(1,995,751)	(1,940,964)
Interest expense	3(c)	(25,543)	(31,125)
Other operating expenses ⁽ⁱ⁾	3(d)	(6,906,112)	(6,818,276)
Total expenses from transactions		(22,711,028)	(22,492,774)
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		(422,884)	(631,154)
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	4(a)	86,386	(201,422)
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	4(b)	(1,497)	(1,367)
Other gains/(losses) from economic flows	4(c)	(123,110)	(37,958)
Total other economic flows included in net result		(38,221)	(240,747)
Net result		(461,105)	(871,901)
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net result			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	17(a)	-	-
Total other economic flows - other comprehensive income		-	-
Comprehensive result		(461,105)	(871,901)

This comprehensive operating statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Notes:

- (i) 'Other operating expenses' include bad debts from transactions that are mutually agreed - refer to definition of 'transactions' in Note 21.
- (ii) 'Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets' includes impairments and disposals of all physical assets, except where these are taken through the asset revaluation surplus.
- (iii) 'Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments' includes bad and doubtful debts from other economic flows, unrealised and realised gains/(losses) from revaluations and impairments and reversals of impairments.

**Balance sheet
as at 30 June 2015**

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	15, 16	5,861,002	5,594,368
Receivables	5, 15	929,749	1,029,316
Total financial assets		6,790,751	6,623,684
Non-financial assets			
Inventories	6	230,303	280,123
Prepayments		25,592	25,448
Property, plant and equipment	7	414,765,568	414,870,302
Total non-financial assets		415,021,463	415,175,873
Total assets		421,812,214	421,799,557
Liabilities			
Payables	8, 15	540,593	463,557
Borrowings	9, 15	460,154	531,616
Provisions	10	4,156,655	3,688,467
Total liabilities		5,157,402	4,683,640
Net assets		416,654,812	417,115,917
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		24,166,900	24,628,005
Physical asset revaluation surplus	17	307,062,183	307,062,183
Contributed capital		85,425,729	85,425,729
Net worth		416,654,812	417,115,917
Commitments for expenditure	13		
Contingent liabilities	14		

This balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**Statement of changes in equity
for the financial year ended 30 June 2015**

	Physical Asset Revaluation Surplus	Accumulated Surplus	Contributions By Owner	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2013	307,062,183	25,499,906	85,359,729	417,921,818
Net result for the year	-	(871,901)	-	(871,901)
Capital contributions	-	-	66,000	66,000
Balance at 30 June 2014	307,062,183	24,628,005	85,425,729	417,115,917
Net result for the year	-	(461,105)	-	(461,105)
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2015	307,062,183	24,166,900	85,425,729	416,654,812

This statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Cash flow statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from Government		16,625,291	16,025,904
Receipts from other entities		6,685,495	6,133,328
Interest received		239,868	202,797
Total receipts		23,550,654	22,362,029
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and employees		(20,151,235)	(20,491,361)
Goods and Services Tax paid to the ATO ⁽ⁱ⁾		(1,239,236)	(991,615)
Interest and other costs of finance paid		(25,543)	(31,125)
Total payments		(21,416,014)	(21,514,101)
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	16(b)	2,134,640	847,928
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of non-financial assets		13,114	18,828
Payments for non-financial assets		(1,739,341)	(1,907,907)
Net cash flows from/(used in) investing activities		(1,726,227)	(1,889,079)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Owners contributions by State Government		-	66,000
Repayment of finance leases		(142,873)	(127,868)
Net cash flows from/(used in) financing activities		(142,873)	(61,868)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		265,540	(1,103,019)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of financial year		5,594,368	6,697,528
Effect of exchange rate fluctuations on cash held in foreign currency		1,094	(141)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of financial year	16(a)	5,861,002	5,594,368

This cash flow statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Note (i): Goods and Services Tax paid to the ATO is presented on a net basis.

Notes to the financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1. Summary of accounting policies

These annual financial statements represent the audited general purpose financial statements for the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria (the Board) for the period ending 30 June 2015. The purpose of the report is to provide users with information about the Board's stewardship of resources entrusted to it.

(a) Statement of compliance

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA) and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). In particular, they are presented in a manner consistent with the requirements of the AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

Where appropriate, those AAS paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied.

The accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures 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.

To gain a better understanding of the terminology used in this report, a glossary of terms and style conventions can be found at Note 21.

These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Chairman of the Board on 18 August 2015.

(b) Basis of preparation

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in the preparation of 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.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The 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. Judgments and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant, equipment and vehicles (refer Note 1(j));
- superannuation expense (refer Note 1(f)); and
- actuarial assumptions for employee benefit provisions based on likely tenure of existing staff, patterns of leave claims, future salary movements and future discount rates (refer Note 1(k)).

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, and prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for non-financial physical assets, which, subsequent to acquisition, are measured at a revalued amount being their fair value at the date of the revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent impairment losses. Revaluations are made with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amounts do not materially differ from their fair value.

Consistent with *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement*, the Board determines the policies and procedures for both recurring fair value measurements such as property, plant and equipment and financial instruments and for non-recurring fair value measurements such as non-financial physical assets held for sale, in accordance with the requirements of AASB 13 and the relevant Financial Reporting Directions.

Note 1. Summary of accounting policies (continued)

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

- Level 1 - Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 - Valuation techniques 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.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, the Board has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, the Board determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing 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. The Board, in conjunction with VGV, monitors changes in the fair value of each asset and liability through relevant data sources to determine whether revaluation is required.

(c) Reporting entity

The Board is established under the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991*. Its principal address is:
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
Birdwood Avenue
Melbourne VIC 3004.

The financial statements cover the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria (the Board) as an individual reporting entity which administers the operations of the Melbourne Gardens, the Cranbourne Gardens and the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology.

With effect from 1 June 2015, the Board's trading names of Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne changed to Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

(d) Scope and presentation of financial statements

Comprehensive operating statement

The comprehensive operating statement comprises three components, being 'net result from transactions' (or termed as 'net operating balance'), 'other economic flows included in net result', as well as 'other economic flows – other comprehensive income'. The sum of the former two, together with the net result from discontinued operations, represents the net result.

The net result is equivalent to profit or loss derived in accordance with AASs.

This classification is consistent with the whole of government reporting format and is allowed under *AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements*. (Refer to Note 21 Glossary for the definitions of 'net result from transactions', 'other economic flows included in net result' and 'other economic flows – other comprehensive income'.)

Balance sheet

Assets and liabilities are presented in liquidity order, with assets aggregated into financial assets and non-financial assets.

Current and non-current assets and liabilities (non-current being those expected to be recovered or settled more than 12 months after the reporting period) are disclosed in the notes, where relevant.

Cash flow statement

Cash flows are classified according to whether or not they arise from operating, investing, or financing activities. This classification is consistent with requirements under *AASB 107 Statement of cash flows*.

Note 1. Summary of accounting policies (continued)

Statement of changes in equity

The statement of changes in equity presents reconciliations of each non-owner and owner equity opening balance at the beginning of the reporting period to the closing balance at the end of the reporting period. It also shows separately changes due to amounts recognised in the 'Comprehensive result' and amounts recognised in 'Other economic flows-other movements in equity' related to 'Transactions with owner in its capacity as owner'.

Rounding

Amounts in the financial statements (including the notes) have been rounded to the nearest dollar, unless otherwise stated. Figures in the financial statements may not equate due to rounding. Please refer to the end of Note 21 for a style convention explaining that minor discrepancies result from rounding.

(e) Income from transactions

Income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity and the income can be reliably measured at fair value.

Grants

Income from grants (other than contributions by owners) is recognised when the Board gains control over the contribution.

For reciprocal grants (ie equal value is given back by the Board to the provider), the Board is deemed to have assumed control when the Board is satisfied its performance obligations under the terms of the grant have been met. For non-reciprocal grants, the Board is deemed to have assumed control when the grant is receivable or received. Conditional grants may be reciprocal or non-reciprocal depending on the terms of the grant.

Parks and Reserves Trust Account grant

The Parks and Reserves Trust Account funding is a 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 (refer Note 2).

Sales of Goods and Services

Income from the supply of services

Income from the supply of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion basis. The income is recognised when:

- the amount of the income, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Board.

Under the stage of completion method, income is recognised by reference to labour hours supplied or to labour hours supplied as a percentage of total services to be performed in each annual reporting period.

Income from sale of goods

Income from the sale of goods is recognised when:

- the Board no longer has any of the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods transferred to the buyer;
- the Board no longer has continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership, nor effective control over the goods sold;
- the amount of income, and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be reliably measured; and
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Board.

Sponsorships and donations

Sponsorships and donations are non-reciprocal in nature and the Board is deemed to have control when the monies are received from the provider.

Note 1. Summary of accounting policies (continued)

Fair value of assets and services received free of charge or for nominal consideration

Contributions of resources received free of charge or for nominal consideration are recognised at fair value when control is obtained over them, irrespective of whether these contributions are subject to restrictions or conditions over their use. 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 received as a donation.

Interest

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

Net realised and unrealised gains and losses on the revaluation of investments do not form part of income from transactions, but are reported as part of income from other economic flows in the net result or as unrealised gains and losses taken directly to equity, forming part of the total change in net worth in the comprehensive result.

Other income

Amounts disclosed as income are, where applicable, net of returns, allowances and duties and taxes. Income is recognised for each of the Board's major activities as follows:

Rental income

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

Royalty income

Royalty income is recognised when received or receivable in accordance with the substance of the licensing agreement.

(f) Expenses from transactions

Expenses from transactions are recognised as they are incurred, and reported in the financial year to which they relate.

Employee expenses

Refer to the section in Note 1(k) regarding employee benefits.

These expenses include all costs related to employment (other than superannuation which is accounted for separately) including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, redundancy payments and WorkCover premiums.

Superannuation

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to employer contributions for members of both defined benefit and defined contribution superannuation plans represents the Board's contributions that are paid or payable to these plans during the reporting period.

The Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) in its Annual Financial Statements discloses on behalf of the State, as the sponsoring employer, the net defined benefit cost related to the members of these plans as an administered liability. Refer to DTF's Annual Financial Statements for more disclosures in relation to these plans.

Depreciation

All infrastructure assets, buildings, plant, equipment and vehicles and other non-financial physical assets (excluding items under operating leases, assets held for sale, cultural assets and land) that have a limited useful life are depreciated. 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.

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

Note 1. Summary of accounting policies (continued)

The following are typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for both the current and prior years:

Asset class	Useful life
Buildings	4 to 100 years
Infrastructure	5 to 100 years
Plant, equipment and vehicles	4 to 10 years

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

Interest expense

Interest expense represents costs incurred in connection with finance lease repayments and are recognised in the period in which they are incurred. Refer to *Glossary of terms and style conventions* in Note 21 for an explanation of interest expense items.

Other operating expenses

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

Supplies and Services

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

Bad and doubtful debts

Refer to Note 1(i) *Impairment of financial assets*.

(g) Other economic flows included in net result

Other economic flows measure the change in volume or value of assets or liabilities that do not result from transactions.

Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets

Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets and liabilities includes realised and unrealised gains and losses as follows:

Revaluation gains/(losses) of non-financial physical assets

Refer to Note 1(j) *Revaluations of non-financial physical assets*.

Disposal of non-financial assets

Any gain or loss on the sale of non-financial assets is recognised at the date that control of the asset is passed to the buyer and is determined after deducting from the proceeds the carrying value of the asset at that time.

Gain/(loss) arising from transactions in foreign exchange

Refer to Note 1(q) *Foreign currency*.

Impairment of non-financial assets

All assets are assessed annually for indications of impairment except for:

- inventories (refer Note 1(j));
- non-financial physical assets held for sale (refer Note 1(j)); and
- assets arising from construction contracts (refer Note 1(j)).

If there is an indication of impairment, the assets concerned are tested as to whether their carrying value exceeds their possible recoverable amount. Where an asset's carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount, the difference is written off by a charge to the operating statement except to the extent that the write-down can be debited to an asset revaluation reserve amount applicable to that class of asset.

Note 1. Summary of accounting policies (continued)

If there is an indication that there has been a change in the estimate of an asset's recoverable amount since the last impairment loss was recognised, the carrying amount shall be increased to its recoverable amount. This reversal of the impairment loss occurs only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised in prior years.

It is deemed that, in the event of the loss of an asset, the future economic benefits arising from the use of the asset will be replaced unless a specific decision to the contrary has been made. The recoverable amount for most assets is measured at the higher of depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Recoverable amounts for assets held primarily to generate net cash inflows is measured at the higher of the present value of future cash flows expected to be obtained from the asset and fair value less costs to sell.

Refer to Note 1(j) in relation to the recognition and measurement of non-financial assets.

Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments

Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments includes impairment and reversal of impairment of financial instruments measured at amortised cost and disposals of financial assets.

Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows

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; and
- transfer of amounts from the reserves and/or accumulated surplus to net result due to disposal or derecognition or reclassification.

(h) Financial instruments

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. Such financial assets and financial liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments in AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*. For example, statutory receivables arising from taxes, fines and penalties do not meet the definition of financial instruments as they do not arise under contract.

Where relevant, for note disclosure purposes, a distinction is made between those financial assets and financial liabilities that meet the definition of financial instruments in accordance with AASB 132 and those that do not.

The following refers to financial instruments unless otherwise stated.

Categories of non-derivative financial instruments

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are financial instrument assets with fixed and determinable payments that are not quoted on an active market. These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

The loans and receivables category includes cash and deposits (refer to Note 1(i)), term deposits with maturity greater than three months, trade receivables, loans and other receivables, but not statutory receivables.

Financial liabilities at amortised cost

Financial instrument liabilities 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 method (refer to Note 21).

Financial instrument liabilities measured at amortised cost include all of the Board's contractual payables, deposits held and advances received, and interest bearing arrangements.

Note 1. Summary of accounting policies (continued)

(i) Financial assets

Cash and deposits

Cash and deposits recognised on the balance sheet 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 readily convertible to known amounts of cash with an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Receivables

Receivables consist of:

- contractual receivables, which includes debtors in relation to goods and services and accrued interest income; and
- statutory receivables, which predominantly include GST input tax credits recoverable.

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as loans and receivables (refer to Note 1(h) for recognition and measurement). Statutory receivables are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment), but are not classified as financial instruments because they do not arise from a contract.

Receivables are subject to impairment testing as described below. A provision for doubtful receivables is recognised when there is objective evidence that the debts may not be collected, and bad debts are written off when identified.

Investments

Investments are classified in the following categories:

- financial assets at fair value through profit and loss; and
- loans and receivables.

The classification depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition.

Any interest earned on the financial asset is recognised in the consolidated comprehensive operating statement as a transaction.

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 its rights to receive cash flows from the asset and either:
 - (a) has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, or
 - (b) 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.

Impairment of financial assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Board assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. All financial assets are subject to annual review for impairment.

Receivables are assessed for bad and doubtful debts on a regular basis. Those debts considered as written off by mutual consent are classified as a transaction expense. Those written off unilaterally, and the allowance for doubtful receivables, are classified as other economic flows.

The amount of the allowance is the difference between the financial asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate.

Note 1. Summary of accounting policies (continued)

In assessing impairment of statutory (non-contractual) financial assets which are not financial instruments, professional judgement is applied in assessing the materiality and uses estimates, averages and computational shortcuts in accordance with AASB 136 *Impairment of assets*.

(j) Non-financial assets

Inventories

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.

The cost of inventory is measured on the basis of weighted average cost. Where inventories are acquired for no cost or nominal consideration, they are measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

Non-financial physical assets classified as held for sale, including disposal group assets

Non-financial physical assets (including disposal group assets) are treated as current and classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use.

This condition is regarded as met only when:

- the asset is available for immediate use in the current condition; and
- the sale is highly probable and the asset's sale is expected to be completed within twelve months from the date of classification.

These non-financial physical assets, related liabilities and financial assets are measured at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell, and are not subject to depreciation or amortisation.

Property, plant and equipment

All non-current physical assets are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Where an asset is received for no or nominal consideration, the cost is the asset's fair value at the date of acquisition.

The initial cost for non-financial physical assets under a finance lease (refer to Note 1(l)) is measured at amounts equal to the fair value of the leased asset or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments, each determined at the inception of the lease.

Non-financial physical assets such as Crown land and heritage assets are measured at fair value with regard to the property's highest and best use after due consideration is made for any legal or constructive restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset. Theoretical opportunities that may be available in relation to the asset are not taken into account until it is virtually certain that the restrictions will no longer apply.

The fair value of infrastructure systems and plant, equipment and vehicles, is normally determined by reference to the asset's depreciated replacement cost. For plant, equipment and vehicles, existing depreciated historical cost is generally a reasonable proxy for depreciated replacement cost because of the short lives of the assets concerned.

Certain assets are acquired under finance leases. Refer to Note 1(l) *Leases*.

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

Where an asset is received for no or nominal consideration, the cost is the asset's fair value at the date of acquisition.

Although the value of the Crown land located at Melbourne and Cranbourne has been included in the balance sheet, it should be noted that under the provisions of the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991*, the Board is only responsible for the management of the land and does not own these properties.

Note 1. Summary of accounting policies (continued)

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

For the accounting policy on impairment of non-financial physical assets, refer to impairment of non-financial assets under Note 1(g) *Impairment of non-financial assets*.

Restrictive nature of cultural, collections and heritage assets, Crown land and infrastructure assets

The Board holds a number of cultural assets, collections, heritage assets, and other non financial physical assets (including Crown land and infrastructure assets) that the Board intends to preserve because of their unique historical, cultural or environmental attributes.

In general, the fair value of those assets is measured at the replacement cost of the asset less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation (calculated on the basis of such cost to reflect the already consumed or expired future economic benefits of the asset) and any accumulated impairment. The limitations and restrictions imposed on use and/or disposal of these assets are also taken into account in determining their fair value.

Revaluations of non-financial physical assets

Non-financial physical assets are measured at fair value on a cyclical basis in accordance with Financial Reporting Directions (FRDs) issued by the Minister for Finance. A full revaluation normally occurs every five years, based on the asset's government purpose classification, but may occur more frequently if fair value assessments indicate material changes in values. Independent valuers are used to conduct these scheduled revaluations. Certain infrastructure assets are revalued using specialised advisors. Any interim revaluations are determined in accordance with the requirements of the FRDs.

Revaluation increases or decreases arise from differences between an asset's carrying value and fair value.

Net revaluation increases (where the carrying amount of a class of assets is increased as a result of a revaluation) are recognised in 'Other economic flows – other movements in equity' and accumulated in equity under the asset revaluation surplus. However, the net revaluation increase is recognised in the net result to the extent that it reverses a net revaluation decrease in respect of the same class of property, plant and equipment previously recognised as an expense (other economic flows) in the net result.

Net revaluation decreases are recognised immediately as other economic flows in the net result, except that the net revaluation decrease is recognised in 'other economic flows – other movements in equity' to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of property, plant and equipment. The net revaluation decrease recognised in 'other economic flows – other movements in equity' reduces the amount accumulated in equity under the asset revaluation surplus.

Revaluation increases and decreases relating to individual assets within a class of property, plant and equipment, are offset against one another within that class but are not offset in respect of assets in different classes. Any asset revaluation surplus is not normally transferred to accumulated funds on derecognition of the relevant asset.

Prepayments

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

(k) Liabilities

Payables

Payables consist of:

- contractual payments, such as accounts payable and unearned income. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Board prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid, and arise when the Board becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of those goods and services; and
- statutory payables, such as goods and services tax and fringe benefits tax payables.

Note 1. Summary of accounting policies (continued)

Contractual payables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as financial liabilities at amortised cost (refer to Note 1(h)). Statutory payables 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 a contract.

Borrowings

Borrowings are initially measured at fair value, being the cost of the borrowings, net of transaction costs (refer also to Note 1(l) Leases).

Subsequent to initial recognition, borrowings are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in net result over the period of the borrowing using the effective interest method.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Board has a present obligation, the future sacrifice of economic benefits is probable, and the amount of the provision can be measured reliably.

The amount recognised as a liability is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at reporting date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. Where a provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, its carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows, using a discount rate that reflects the time value of money and risks specific to the provision.

When some or all of the economic benefits required to settle a provision are expected to be received from a third party, the receivable is recognised as an asset if it is virtually certain that recovery will be received and the amount of the receivable can be measured reliably.

Employee benefits

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave for services rendered to the reporting date.

(i) Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave, are all recognised in the provision for employee benefits as 'current liabilities', because the Board does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities.

Depending on the expectation of the timing of settlement, liabilities for wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave 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.

(ii) Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits.

Unconditional LSL is disclosed in the notes to the financial statements 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; and
- present value if the Board does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Note 1. Summary of accounting policies (continued)

Conditional LSL is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. This non-current LSL liability 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, which is then recognised as an 'other economic flow' (refer to Note 1(g)).

On-costs

Provisions for on-costs such as payroll tax, workers compensation and superannuation are recognised separately from the provision for employee benefits.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

(l) Leases

A lease is a right to use an asset for an agreed period of time in exchange for payment.

Leases are classified at their inception as either operating or finance leases based on the economic substance of the agreement so as to reflect the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. Leases of property, plant and equipment are classified as finance leases whenever the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Finance leases

At the commencement of the lease term, finance leases are initially recognised as assets and liabilities at amounts equal to the fair value of the lease property or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payment, each determined at the inception of the lease. The leased asset is depreciated over the shorter of the estimated useful life of the asset or the term of the lease.

Minimum finance lease payments are apportioned between reduction of the outstanding lease liability and periodic finance expense, which is calculated using the interest rate implicit in the lease and charged directly to the comprehensive operating statement. Contingent rentals associated with finance leases are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

Operating leases

Board as Lessor

Rental income from operating leases is recognised when received or receivable in accordance with the substance of the licensing agreements.

All incentives for the agreement of a new or renewed operating lease are recognised as an integral part of the net consideration agreed for the use of the leased asset, irrespective of the incentive's nature or form or the timing of payments.

In the event that lease incentives are received to enter into operating leases, the aggregate cost of incentives is recognised as a reduction of rental expense over the lease term on a straight line basis, unless another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the leased asset are consumed.

Board as Lessee

Operating lease payments, including any contingent rentals, are recognised as an expense in the comprehensive operating statement 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. The leased asset is not recognised in the balance sheet.

Note 1. Summary of accounting policies (continued)

(m) Equity - contributions by owners

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 or distributions have also been designated as contributions by owners.

(n) Commitments

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and capital commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are disclosed by way of a note (refer to Note 14) at their nominal value and inclusive of the goods and services tax (GST) payable. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

Commitments and contingent assets and liabilities are also stated inclusive of GST.

(o) Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

(p) Accounting for Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, except where GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case, the GST payable is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities, which are recoverable from or payable to the taxation authority, are presented as operating cash flow.

(q) Foreign currency

All foreign currency transactions during the financial year are brought to account using the exchange rate in effect at the date of the transaction. Foreign monetary items existing at the end of the reporting period are translated at the closing rate at the date of the end of the reporting period.

Foreign currency translation differences are recognised in other economic flows and accumulated in a separate component of equity, in the period in which they arise.

(r) Events after reporting date

Assets, liabilities, income or expenses arise from past transactions or other past events. Where the transactions result from an agreement between the Board and other parties, the transactions are only recognised when the agreement is irrevocable at or before balance date. Adjustments are made to amounts recognised in the financial statements for events which occur after the reporting date and before the date the statements are authorised for issue, where those events provide information about conditions which existed at the reporting date. Note, disclosure is made about events between the balance date and the date the statements are authorised for issue where the events relate to conditions which arose after the reporting date and which may have a material impact on the results of subsequent years.

(s) AAS issued that are not yet effective

Certain new AAS have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2015 reporting period. The DTF assesses the impact of these new standards and advises the Board of their applicability and early adoption where applicable.

Note 1. Summary of accounting policies (continued)

The table below outlines the accounting standards that have been issued but not yet effective for the 2014-15 reporting period, which may result in potential impacts on the Board's reporting for future periods:

Standard/Interpretation	Summary	Application for annual reporting periods:	Impact on Board's Financial Statements
AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers	The core principle of AASB 15 requires an entity to recognise revenue when the entity satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to a customer.	1 Jan 2017 (Exposure Draft 263 – potential deferral to 1 Jan 2018)	The changes in revenue recognition requirements in AASB 15 may result in changes to the timing and amount of revenue recorded in the financial statements. The Standard will also require additional disclosures on service revenue and contract modifications.
AASB 2015 6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities [AASB 10, AASB 124 & AASB 1049]	The Amendments extend the scope of AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures to not-for-profit public sector entities. A guidance note has been included to assist the application of the Standard by not-for-profit public sector entities.	1 Jan 2016	The amending standard will result in extended disclosures on the entity's key management personnel (KMP), and the related party transactions.
AASB 9 Financial Instruments	The key changes include the simplified requirements for the classification and measurement of financial assets, a new hedging accounting model and a revised impairment loss model to recognise impairment losses earlier, as opposed to the current approach that recognises impairment only when incurred.	1 Jan 2018	While the preliminary assessment has not identified any material impact arising from AASB 9, it will continue to be monitored and assessed.
AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [Part E Financial Instruments]	Amends various AASs to reflect the AASB's decision to defer the mandatory application date of AASB 9 to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018 as a consequence of Chapter 6 Hedge Accounting, and to amend reduced disclosure requirements.	1 Jan 2018	This amending standard will defer the application period of AASB 9 to the 2018-19 reporting period in accordance with the transition requirements.
AASB 2014-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation [AASB 116 & AASB 138]	Amends AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment and AASB 138 Intangible Assets to: • establish the principle for the basis of depreciation and amortisation as being the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits of an asset; • prohibit the use of revenue based methods to calculate the depreciation or amortisation of an asset, tangible or intangible, because revenue generally reflects the pattern of economic benefits that are generated from operating the business, rather than consumption through the use of the asset.	1 Jan 2016	The assessment has indicated that there is no expected impact as the revenue-based method is not used for depreciation and amortisation.

Note 2. Income from transactions

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
(a) Grants		
Parks and Reserves Trust Account grants	14,536,099	14,292,000
Other grants	695,563	378,450
	15,231,662	14,670,450
(b) Sponsorships and donations		
Cash donations and gifts	1,771,407	1,882,990
	1,771,407	1,882,990
(c) Sales of goods and services		
Sale of goods	1,188,267	1,272,613
Rendering of services	1,501,935	1,749,701
	2,690,202	3,022,314
(d) Fair value of assets and services received free of charge or for nominal consideration		
Services and donated supplies	829,864	919,464
	829,864	919,464
(e) Interest		
On bank deposits	135,041	106,448
Other miscellaneous interest income	106,666	100,532
	241,707	206,980
(f) Other income		
Rental	1,311,127	1,029,338
Royalties	20,447	57,715
Other	191,728	72,369
	1,523,302	1,159,422

Note 3. Expenses from transactions

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
(a) Employee expenses		
Salary and wages	10,758,141	10,629,450
Superannuation	1,139,012	1,046,483
Annual and long service leave	1,112,669	1,120,559
Other on-costs	773,800	905,917
	13,783,622	13,702,409
(b) Depreciation		
Buildings	418,907	406,228
Infrastructure	1,093,758	1,079,210
Plant, equipment and vehicles	483,086	455,526
	1,995,751	1,940,964

Note 3. Expenses from transactions (continued)

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
(c) Interest expense		
Interest on finance leases	25,543	31,125
	25,543	31,125
(d) Other operating expenses		
<u>Supplies and services</u>		
Contract costs	1,684,955	1,737,537
Garden and office equipment and supplies	705,660	594,983
Non-financial assets hire, maintenance and operation costs	764,014	762,543
Consultancies and professional services	423,896	479,420
Cleaning and waste disposal costs	520,494	531,248
Water charges	415,727	360,050
Advertising and promotion	291,990	266,434
Motor vehicle expenses	246,781	191,420
Computer expenses	149,046	142,546
Travel expenses	173,310	194,958
Staff training and development	110,907	97,089
Insurance costs	143,461	135,998
Postage and communication expenses	105,974	100,437
Books, periodicals and subscriptions	95,223	91,894
Legal costs	117,852	76,415
Security	94,562	121,923
Catering costs	69,019	59,250
Other	184,787	238,481
	6,297,658	6,182,626
<u>Other</u>		
Cost of goods sold	588,873	617,689
Minimum lease payments	19,581	17,961
	608,454	635,650
Total other operating expenses	6,906,112	6,818,276

Note 4. Other economic flows included in net result

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
(a) Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets		
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, plant and equipment	12,872	(6,631)
Impairment of property, plant and equipment	80,512	(180,799)
Write down of inventory	(6,998)	(13,992)
	86,386	(201,422)
(b) Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments		
Net FX gain/(loss) arising from foreign cash held	(1,497)	(1,367)
	(1,497)	(1,367)
(c) Other gains/(losses) from economic flows		
Net gain/(loss) arising from revaluation of long service leave liability	(123,110)	(37,958)
	(123,110)	(37,958)

Note 5. Receivables

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Contractual		
Sales of goods and services ⁽ⁱ⁾	907,561	1,048,728
Accrued interest income	8,689	6,849
	916,250	1,055,577
Statutory		
Net GST input tax credit recoverable	13,499	(26,261)
	13,499	(26,261)
Total receivables ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	929,749	1,029,316

Note:

(i) The average credit period on sales of goods and services is 14 days. Interest may be charged on amounts payable by tenants in the event that these payments become overdue according to the terms of the lease or licence agreement. No allowance for doubtful debts has been recognised as all amounts have been determined recoverable by reference to past default experience.

(ii) All receivables balances held at reporting date are classified as current.

For details of ageing analysis of contractual receivables and the nature and extent of risk arising from contractual receivables, please refer to Note 15.

Note 6. Inventories

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Inventories held for sale at cost	230,303	280,123
Total inventories ⁽ⁱ⁾	230,303	280,123

Note:

(i) Inventory balances held at reporting date are classified as current.

Note 7. Property, plant and equipment

(a) Carrying amounts

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Land		
At fair value	166,080,000	166,080,000
	166,080,000	166,080,000
Buildings		
At fair value	29,620,000	29,539,488
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,485,380)	(1,066,473)
	28,134,620	28,473,015
Infrastructure		
At fair value	53,518,530	52,845,795
Less accumulated depreciation	(3,570,228)	(2,476,469)
	49,948,302	50,369,326
Plant, equipment and vehicles		
At fair value	6,311,653	6,024,680
Less accumulated depreciation	(3,708,444)	(3,329,152)
	2,603,209	2,695,528
Cultural assets		
At fair value	167,183,416	167,172,870
	167,183,416	167,172,870
Capital works under construction		
At fair value	816,021	79,563
	816,021	79,563
Total property, plant and equipment	414,765,568	414,870,302

(b) Movements in carrying amounts ⁽ⁱ⁾

2015	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Plant, equipment and vehicles	Cultural assets	Capital works	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance	166,080,000	28,473,015	50,369,326	2,695,528	167,172,870	79,563	414,870,302
Additions	-	-	657,064	441,336	10,546	753,928	1,862,874
Disposals	-	-	-	(52,369)	-	-	(52,369)
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	-	-	15,670	1,800	-	(17,470)	-
Impairments	-	80,512	-	-	-	-	80,512
Depreciation	-	(418,907)	(1,093,758)	(483,086)	-	-	(1,995,751)
Closing balance	166,080,000	28,134,620	49,948,302	2,603,209	167,183,416	816,021	414,765,568

Note:

(i) Fair value assessments have been performed for all classes of assets and the decision was made that changes were not material (less than or equal to 10 per cent) therefore not requiring a full revaluation. The next scheduled full revaluation will be conducted in 2016.

(ii) Transfers balances represents amounts transferred between asset classes and out to disposal group held for sale.

Note 7. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

2014	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Plant, equipment and vehicles	Cultural assets	Capital works	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance	166,080,000	26,540,205	50,878,637	2,860,283	167,172,870	1,520,720	415,052,715
Additions	-	-	-	298,242	-	1,770,077	2,068,319
Disposals	-	(62,449)	-	(66,520)	-	-	(128,969)
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	-	2,582,286	569,899	59,049	-	(3,211,234)	-
Impairments	-	(180,799)	-	-	-	-	(180,799)
Depreciation	-	(406,228)	(1,079,210)	(455,526)	-	-	(1,940,964)
Closing balance	166,080,000	28,473,015	50,369,326	2,695,528	167,172,870	79,563	414,870,302

Note:

(ii) Transfers balances represents amounts transferred between asset classes and out to disposal group held for sale.

Restricted assets

The Board holds \$12.0 million worth of buildings and infrastructure assets (2014 - \$12.2 million) listed as heritage assets on the Victorian Heritage Register under the *Heritage Act 1995*. These heritage assets cannot be modified nor disposed of without approval from Heritage Victoria.

(c) Fair Value measurement hierarchy for assets at the end of the reporting period

	Carrying amount		Fair value measurement using: ⁽ⁱ⁾			
			Level 2		Level 3	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$
Land						
Specialised Land	166,080,000	166,080,000	-	-	166,080,000	166,080,000
	166,080,000	166,080,000	-	-	166,080,000	166,080,000
Buildings						
Specialised buildings	16,791,300	16,995,021	-	-	16,791,300	16,995,021
Heritage assets	11,343,320	11,477,994	-	-	11,343,320	11,477,994
	28,134,620	28,473,015	-	-	28,134,620	28,473,015
Infrastructure						
Specialised infrastructure	49,275,358	49,601,518	-	-	49,275,358	49,601,518
Heritage assets	672,944	767,808	-	-	672,944	767,808
	49,948,302	50,369,326	-	-	49,948,302	50,369,326
Plant, equipment and vehicles						
Plant and equipment	2,153,924	2,176,942	-	-	2,153,924	2,176,942
Vehicles ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	449,285	518,586	-	-	449,285	518,586
	2,603,209	2,695,528	-	-	2,603,209	2,695,528
Cultural assets						
Antiques and artwork	10,581,616	10,571,070	10,581,616	10,571,070	-	-
Specialised cultural assets	156,601,800	156,601,800	-	-	156,601,800	156,601,800
	167,183,416	167,172,870	10,581,616	10,571,070	156,601,800	156,601,800

Notes:

(i) Classified in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, see Note 1(b). The Board does not hold any assets classified as Level 1 assets for the reporting periods ended 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2014.

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

Note 7. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

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 artists' 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 June 2011. No revaluation of antiques and artworks was performed for the financial period ending at 30 June 2015.

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 is a reflection of 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 would be classified as Level 3 assets.

For the majority of the Board's specialised buildings, the depreciated 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 land and specialised buildings was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria. The valuation was performed using the market approach adjusted for CSO. The effective date of the valuation is 30 June 2011. No revaluation was performed on the Board's specialised land and specialised buildings for the financial period ending 30 June 2015.

Specialised cultural assets

Specialised cultural assets, including the State Botanical Collection, are valued using replacement cost method. Replacement costs relate to 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 is 30 June 2011. No revaluation was performed on the Board's specialised cultural assets for the financial period ending 30 June 2015.

Infrastructure assets

Infrastructure assets are valued using the depreciated replacement cost method. This cost represents the replacement cost of the building/component after applying depreciation rates on a useful life basis. Replacement costs relate to costs to replace the current service capacity of the asset. Economic obsolescence has also been factored into the depreciated replacement cost calculation.

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 depreciated replacement cost of the assets. The effective date of the valuation is 30 June 2011. No revaluation was performed on infrastructure assets for the financial period ending 30 June 2015.

Note 7. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Vehicles

Vehicles are valued using the depreciated 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 a finance leasing arrangement with the DTF, who set relevant depreciation rates during use to reflect the utilisation of the vehicles.

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 depreciated replacement cost method.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2015.

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

(d) Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value

2015	Specialised land \$	Buildings \$	Antiques and artworks \$	Vehicles \$	Plant and equipment \$	Infrastructure \$	Specialised Cultural \$
Opening balance	166,080,000	28,473,015	10,571,070	518,586	2,176,942	50,369,326	156,601,800
Purchases/(sales)	-	-	10,546	71,163	319,604	672,734	-
Transfers in/(out)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Gains or losses recognised in net result</u>							
Impairments	-	80,512	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	(418,907)	-	(140,464)	(342,622)	(1,093,758)	-
<u>Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income</u>							
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closing balance	166,080,000	28,134,620	10,581,616	449,285	2,153,924	49,948,302	156,601,800

2014	Specialised land \$	Buildings \$	Antiques and artworks \$	Vehicles \$	Plant and equipment \$	Infrastructure \$	Specialised Cultural \$
Opening balance	166,080,000	26,540,205	10,571,070	594,954	2,265,329	50,878,637	156,601,800
Purchases/(sales)	-	2,519,837	-	56,080	234,691	569,899	-
Transfers in/(out)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Gains or losses recognised in net result</u>							
Impairments	-	(180,799)	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	(406,228)	-	(132,448)	(323,078)	(1,079,210)	-
<u>Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income</u>							
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Closing balance	166,080,000	28,473,015	10,571,070	518,586	2,176,942	50,369,326	156,601,800

Note 7. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

(e) Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs	Range (weighted average)		Sensitivity of fair value measurement to changes in significant unobservable inputs
			2015	2014	
Specialised Land	Market approach	Community Service Obligation (CSO) adjustment	60% ⁽ⁱ⁾	60% ⁽ⁱ⁾	An increase or decrease in the CSO adjustment would result in a lower or higher fair value.
Buildings (specialised and heritage)	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Direct cost per square metre Useful life of buildings	\$200-\$6,000/m ² (\$3,290/m ²) 4-100 years (44 years)	\$200-\$6,000/m ² (\$3,290/m ²) 4-100 years (44 years)	An increase or decrease in direct cost per square metre adjustment would result in a higher or lower fair value. An increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
Vehicles	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Cost per unit Useful life of vehicles	\$16,700-\$70,300 per unit (\$43,500 per unit) 3-5 years (4 years)	\$16,700-\$70,300 per unit (\$44,600 per unit) 3-5 years (4 years)	An increase or decrease in cost per unit would result in a higher or lower fair value. An increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
Plant and Equipment	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment	\$500-\$295,000 per unit (\$54,500 per unit) 4-20 years (11 years)	\$500-\$295,000 per unit (\$56,000 per unit) 4-20 years (11 years)	An increase or decrease in cost per unit would result in a higher or lower fair value. An increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a higher or lower valuation.
Infrastructure (specialised and heritage)	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Cost per unit Useful life of infrastructure assets	\$2,000-\$3,000,000 per unit (\$1,360,000 per unit) 5-100 years (62 years)	\$2,000-\$3,000,000 per unit (\$1,375,000 per unit) 5-100 years (62 years)	An increase or decrease in cost per unit would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value. An increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a higher or lower valuation.
Specialised Cultural Assets	Replacement Cost	Cost per unit Size of collections	Not applicable (ii) Not applicable (ii)	Not applicable (ii) Not applicable (ii)	An increase or decrease in cost per unit would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value. An increase or decrease in the size of the collections would result in a higher or lower valuation.

Note:

(i) CSO adjustment of 60% was applied to reduce the market approach value for the Board's specialised land.

(ii) Value range and weighted average values cannot be calculated for these assets due to the valuation methodology applied to determine fair value.

Note 8. Payables

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Contractual		
Supplies and Services ⁽ⁱ⁾	438,085	380,895
Other payables ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	54,107	28,403
	492,192	409,298
Statutory		
Taxes payable	48,401	54,259
	48,401	54,259
Total Payables ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	540,593	463,557

Note:

(i) The average credit period is 30 days. No interest is charged on late payments.

(ii) Other payables balances include security deposits and unearned income for which the timing and amount payable varies according to the terms of agreement.

(iii) All payables balances at reporting date are classified as current.

For maturity analysis and nature and extent of risks arising from payables, refer to Note 15.

Note 9. Borrowings

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current		
Lease liabilities ⁽ⁱ⁾	259,659	162,033
	259,659	162,033
Non-Current		
Lease liabilities ⁽ⁱ⁾	200,495	369,583
	200,495	369,583
Total borrowings	460,154	531,616

Note:

(i) Secured by the assets leased. Finance leases are effectively secured as the rights to the leased assets revert to the lessor in the event of default.

For maturity analysis and nature and extent of risks arising from borrowings, refer to Note 15.

Note 10. Provisions

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current provisions		
Employee benefits (Note 10(a)) ⁽ⁱ⁾		
Annual Leave		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	428,123	314,937
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	618,512	613,039
Long service leave		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	179,036	180,070
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	2,134,216	1,879,886
	3,359,887	2,987,932
On-costs (Note 10(a) and Note 10(b))		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	81,646	82,583
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	464,543	415,900
	546,189	498,483
Total current provisions	3,906,076	3,486,415
Non-current provisions		
Employee benefits (Note 11(a)) ⁽ⁱ⁾	215,540	173,163
On-costs (Note 11(a) and Note 11(b))	35,039	28,889
	250,579	202,052
Total provisions	4,156,655	3,688,467

Note:

(i) Employee benefits consist of annual leave and long service leave accrued by employees. On-costs such as payroll tax and workers' compensation insurance are not employee benefits and are reflected as a separate provision.

(ii) Amounts are measured at present values.

(a) Employee benefits and related on-costs ⁽ⁱ⁾

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current employee benefits		
Annual leave	1,046,635	927,976
Long service leave	2,313,252	2,059,956
	3,359,887	2,987,932
Non-current employee benefits		
Annual leave	-	-
Long service leave	215,540	173,163
	215,540	173,163
Total employee benefits	3,575,427	3,161,095
Current on-costs	546,189	498,483
Non-current on-costs	35,039	28,889
Total on-costs	581,228	527,372
Total employee benefits and related on-costs	4,156,655	3,688,467

Note:

(i) Employee benefits consist of annual leave and long service leave accrued by employees. On-costs such as payroll tax and workers' compensation insurance are not employee benefits and are recognised as a separate provision.

Note 10. Provisions (continued)

(b) Movement in provisions

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Opening balance	527,372	492,193
Additional provision recognised	197,545	170,896
Reductions arising from payments	(122,941)	(125,982)
Reductions resulting from settlement without cost	(4,930)	(4,308)
Effect of changes in discount rate	(15,818)	(5,427)
Closing balance	581,228	527,372

Note 11. Superannuation

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 plans provide benefits based on years of service and final average salary.

The Board does not recognise any defined benefit liability in respect of the plans because the entity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees; its obligation is to pay superannuation contributions as they fall due. The responsibility for the unfunded liabilities associated with these defined benefit plans is held by State Government and is accordingly disclosed in the financial statements of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

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

The name and details of the major employee superannuation funds and contributions made by the Board are as follows:

Fund Name	Number of employees		Contribution rate % ⁽ⁱ⁾		Contribution amount \$ ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Defined benefit plans						
State Superannuation Fund						
Revised Scheme	1	1	17.3	17.3	15,592	15,423
New Scheme	20	19	7.4 - 10.3	7.4 - 10.3	111,202	113,749
Defined contribution plans						
VicSuper P/L	149	153	9.50	9.25	626,363	599,406
MLC Superannuation Fund	34	26	9.50	9.25	155,009	120,266
UniSuper Management P/L	9	8	9.50	9.25	40,978	30,411
Australian Super	11	11	9.50	9.25	39,326	37,731
Vision Super	4	5	9.50	9.25	23,099	23,009
Host Plus Super	5	5	9.50	9.25	18,316	17,200
Australian Ethical Retail Super	7	5	9.50	9.25	16,455	14,320
Self Managed Super Funds	11	9	9.50	9.25	14,801	15,120
REST Super	4	2	9.50	9.25	12,520	5,678
Other	19	23	9.50	9.25	62,392	51,456
Total paid contributions for the year					\$ 1,136,053	\$ 1,043,769
Contributions outstanding at year end					\$ -	\$ -

Notes:

(i) The bases for contributions are determined by the various schemes.

(ii) The amounts were measured as at 30 June of each year or, in the case of employer contributions, relate to the years ended 30 June.

Note 12. Leases

(a) Finance leases

Leasing arrangements

Finance leases relate to motor vehicles with lease terms of between 1 and 3 years. The Board has the option to purchase the vehicles for a nominal amount at the conclusion of the lease agreements.

	Minimum lease payments ⁽ⁱ⁾		Present value of minimum future lease payments	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Not longer than 1 year	280,663	191,402	259,659	162,033
Longer than 1 year and not longer than 5 years	210,601	391,093	200,495	369,583
Minimum lease payments	491,264	582,495	460,154	531,616
Less: future finance charges	(31,110)	(50,879)	-	-
Present value of minimum lease payments	460,154	531,616	460,154	531,616
Included in the financial statements as:				
Current borrowings lease liabilities (Note 10)			259,659	162,033
Non-current borrowings lease liabilities (Note 10)			200,495	369,583
			460,154	531,616

Note:

(i) Minimum future finance lease payments include the aggregate of all lease payments and any guaranteed residual.

For maturity analysis and nature and extent of risks arising from finance lease liabilities, refer to Note 15.

(b) Operating leases

Leasing arrangements - Board as Lessee

Operating leases mainly relate to gardening equipment with a lease term of 5 years. All operating lease contracts contain market review clauses in the event that the Board exercises its option to renew. The Board does not have an option to purchase the leased asset at the expiry of the lease period.

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Not longer than 1 year	98,412	92,892
Longer than 1 year and not longer than 5 years	120,603	87,267
	219,015	180,159

Leasing arrangements - Board as Lessor

Operating leases mainly relate to the provision of catering and function and event management in the Gardens with lease terms of between 3 and 10 years and options to extend for a further 0 to 10 years. All operating lease contracts contain market review clauses in the event that the 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.

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Not longer than 1 year	449,268	574,387
Longer than 1 year and not longer than 5 years	657,950	1,117,423
	1,107,218	1,691,810

Note 13. Commitments for expenditure

The following expenditure commitments have not been recognised as liabilities in the financial statements:

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
(a) Capital expenditure commitments		
Within 1 year	218,378	-
Later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	36,080	-
Total	254,458	-
(b) Other commitments - outsourcing ⁽ⁱ⁾		
Within 1 year	131,577	196,518
Later than 1 year but not later than 5 years	77,325	241,260
Total	208,902	437,778

Note:

(i) Commitments under other outsourcing contracts for building maintenance and security.

(ii) All amounts shown in the commitment note are nominal amounts including GST.

(iii) Finance leases and non-cancellable operating lease commitments are disclosed in Note 12.

Note 14. Contingent liabilities

An in-principle agreement was reached on 1 November 2014 between the Board and the Community and Public Sector Union on the Board's new Enterprise Agreement (EA), and submitted to Government for approval in line with Government wages policy requirements. The impact on the Board's expenditure for the effective term of the agreement commencing in the 2014-15 financial year will be finalised when the EA is approved by the Fair Work Commission.

Note 15. Financial instruments

(a) Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Board's principal financial instruments comprise:

- cash assets;
- term deposits;
- receivables (excluding statutory receivables);
- payables (excluding statutory payables); and
- borrowings.

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, financial liability and equity instrument, are disclosed in Note 1 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, interest rate risk and foreign currency 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 Finance and Audit Committee of the Board.

Note 15. Financial instruments (continued)

The carrying amounts of the Board's contractual financial assets and financial liabilities by category are as follows:

	Carrying amount	
	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Contractual financial assets		
<u>Loans and receivables</u>		
Cash and deposits	5,861,002	5,594,368
Sales of goods and services	907,561	1,048,728
Accrued interest income	8,689	6,849
Total ⁽ⁱ⁾	6,777,252	6,649,945
Contractual financial liabilities		
<u>At amortised cost</u>		
Supplies and services payables	438,085	380,895
Other payables	54,107	28,403
Lease liabilities	460,154	531,616
Total ⁽ⁱ⁾	952,346	940,914

Note:

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

The Board's net holding gains on contractual financial assets and liabilities by category are as follows:

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Contractual financial assets		
Financial assets - loans and receivables	241,707	206,980
Total	241,707	206,980
Contractual financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	(25,543)	(31,125)
Total	(25,543)	(31,125)

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

- for cash and cash equivalents and receivables, the net gain or loss is calculated by taking the movement in the interest income earned during the reporting period.
- for financial liabilities measured at amortised cost, the net gain or loss is equal to the interest expense incurred during the reporting period.

(b) Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from the contractual financial assets of the Board, which comprise cash and cash equivalents and non-statutory receivables contractual financial assets. The Board's exposure to credit risk arises from the potential default of counter parties 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 sales 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 assets, 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.

Note 15. Financial instruments (continued)

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, net of any allowances for losses, represents the Board's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral obtained.

The ageing analysis of the Board's contractual financial assets is as follows:

2015	Carrying Amount	Not past due and not impaired	Past due but not impaired			
			Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	3 months - 1 year	1 - 5 years
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sales of goods and services ⁽ⁱ⁾	907,561	644,678	16,916	162,103	83,864	-
Accrued interest income	8,689	8,689	-	-	-	-
Total	916,250	653,367	16,916	162,103	83,864	-

2014	Carrying Amount	Not past due and not impaired	Past due but not impaired			
			Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	3 months - 1 year	1 - 5 years
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sales of goods and services ⁽ⁱ⁾	1,048,728	802,455	224,760	19,455	2,058	-
Accrued interest income	6,849	6,849	-	-	-	-
Total	1,055,577	809,304	224,760	19,455	2,058	-

Note:

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

Contractual financial assets that are either past due or impaired

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired. Currently, the Board does not hold any collateral as security nor credit enhancements relating to any of its contractual financial assets.

As at reporting date, there are no events to indicate that a provision for impairment is required on the Board's financial assets. No impairment loss on loans and receivables (2014 - \$0) has been recognised in the Board's comprehensive operating statement (refer to Note 4).

There are no financial assets that have had their terms renegotiated so as to prevent them from being past due or impaired, and they are stated at the carrying amounts as indicated. The only financial assets held by the Board at reporting date that are past due but not impaired are sales of goods and services receivables.

(c) 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.

Note 15. Financial instruments (continued)

The maturity analysis for the Board's contractual financial liabilities is as follows:

2015	Carrying amount ⁽ⁱ⁾	Nominal amount ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	Maturity dates			
			Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	3 months - 1 year	1 - 5 years
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Supplies and services payables	438,085	438,085	425,571	9,900	2,614	-
Other payables	54,107	54,107	54,107	-	-	-
Lease liabilities	460,154	491,264	28,462	26,749	225,452	210,601
	952,346	983,456	508,140	36,649	228,066	210,601

2014	Carrying amount ⁽ⁱ⁾	Nominal amount ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	Maturity dates			
			Less than 1 month	1 - 3 months	3 months - 1 year	1 - 5 years
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Supplies and services payables	380,895	380,895	377,474	1,982	1,439	-
Other payables	28,403	28,403	28,403	-	-	-
Lease liabilities	531,616	582,495	14,449	38,379	138,574	391,093
	940,914	991,793	420,326	40,361	140,013	391,093

Note:

(i) The carrying amounts disclosed exclude statutory amounts (eg GST payable).

(ii) Maturity analysis is presented using the contractual undiscounted cash flows (ie nominal amount).

(d) Market risk

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

Foreign currency risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the fair value of a financial instrument will change due to a movement in foreign currency exchange rates. The Board enters into a relatively small number of transactions denominated in foreign currencies reducing its exposure to foreign currency risk through continuous monitoring of movements in exchange rates, and ensuring availability of funds through rigorous cash flow planning and monitoring.

The Board has minimal exposure to foreign currency risk through its foreign currency bank deposits and payables balances which are denominated in foreign currencies.

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 nil 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 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 that cash at bank 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.

Note 15. Financial instruments (continued)

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

2015	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Carrying amount ⁽ⁱ⁾ \$	Interest rate exposure		
			Fixed interest rate \$	Variable interest rate \$	Non-interest bearing \$
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	2.32	5,861,002	4,495,000	1,217,800	148,202
Sales of goods and services	-	907,561	-	-	907,561
Accrued interest income	-	8,689	-	-	8,689
		6,777,252	4,495,000	1,217,800	1,064,452
Financial liabilities					
Supplies and services payables	-	438,085	-	-	438,085
Other payables	-	54,107	-	-	54,107
Lease liabilities	5.96	460,154	460,154	-	-
		952,346	460,154	-	492,192

2014	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Carrying amount ⁽ⁱ⁾ \$	Interest rate exposure		
			Fixed interest rate \$	Variable interest rate \$	Non-interest bearing \$
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	2.99	5,594,368	4,295,000	1,273,672	25,696
Sales of goods and services	-	1,048,728	-	-	1,048,728
Accrued interest income	-	6,849	-	-	6,849
		6,649,945	4,295,000	1,273,672	1,081,273
Financial liabilities					
Supplies and services payables	-	380,895	-	-	380,895
Other payables	-	28,403	-	-	28,403
Lease liabilities	6.43	531,616	531,616	-	-
		940,914	531,616	-	409,298

Note:

(i) The carrying amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts (eg GST input tax credit recoverable and GST payable).

Sensitivity disclosure analysis and assumptions

The Board's sensitivity to market risk is determined based on past performance, future expectations and economic forecasts and, accordingly, the Board believes that the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- a movement of 100 basis points up and down in interest rates; and
- a movement of 5 per cent down and 1 per cent up in exchange rates.

Note 15. Financial instruments (continued)

The impact on net result for each category of financial instrument held by the Board at year end if the above movements were to occur is as follows:

	Carrying amount		Interest rate			
			Net result + 100 basis points		Net result -100 basis points	
	2015 \$	2014 \$	2015 \$	2014 \$	2015 \$	2014 \$
Contractual financial assets						
Cash and deposits ⁽ⁱ⁾	5,861,002	5,594,368	57,128	55,687	(57,128)	(55,687)
	5,861,002	5,594,368	57,128	55,687	(57,128)	(55,687)
Contractual financial liabilities						
Borrowings ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	460,154	531,616	4,602	5,316	(4,602)	(5,316)
	460,154	531,616	4,602	5,316	(4,602)	(5,316)

Note:

(i) Cash and deposits includes deposits of \$5,712,800 (2014 - \$5,568,762) that are exposed to floating rate movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2015 - $\$5,712,800 \times 0.01 = \$57,128$ and $\$5,712,800 \times -0.01 = -\$57,128$; and
- 2014 - $\$5,567,252 \times 0.01 = \$55,673$ and $\$5,567,252 \times -0.01 = -\$55,673$.

(ii) Borrowings include lease liabilities to the value of \$460,154 (2014 - \$531,616) that are exposed to movements in interest rates. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2015 - $\$460,154 \times 0.01 = \$4,602$; and $\$460,154 \times -0.01 = -\$4,602$; and
- 2014 - $\$531,616 \times 0.01 = \$5,316$; and $\$531,616 \times -0.01 = -\$5,316$.

	Carrying amount		Foreign exchange			
			Net result +5%		Net result -10%	
	2015 \$	2014 \$	2015 \$	2014 \$	2015 \$	2014 \$
Contractual financial assets						
Cash and deposits ⁽ⁱ⁾	5,861,002	5,594,368	426	561	(853)	(1,122)
	5,861,002	5,594,368	426	561	(853)	(1,122)
Contractual financial liabilities						
Payables ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	438,085	380,895	-	-	-	-
	438,085	380,895	-	-	-	-

Note:

(i) Cash and deposits includes a deposit of \$8,529 (2014 - \$11,222) that is exposed to foreign exchange movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2015 - $\$8,529 \times 0.05 = \426 ; and $\$8,529 \times -0.10 = -\853 ; and
- 2014 - $\$11,222 \times 0.05 = \561 ; and $\$11,222 \times -0.10 = -\$1,122$.

(ii) Payables includes a balance of \$0 (2014 - \$0) that is exposed to foreign exchange movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2015 - \$0.
- 2014 - \$0.

Note 15. Financial instruments (continued)

(e) Fair value

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

- Level 1 - the fair value of the financial instrument with standard terms and conditions and traded in active liquid markets is 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 are a reasonable approximation of fair value, either due to their short term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of the 2014-15 reporting period. These financial instruments include:

Financial assets	Financial liabilities
Cash and deposits	Payables:
Receivables:	• For supplies and services
• Sale of goods and services	• Other payables
• Accrued investment income	
Investments and other contractual financial assets:	
• Term deposits	

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
	2015	2015	2014	2014
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial liabilities				
Lease liabilities	460,154	460,154	531,616	531,616
	460,154	460,154	531,616	531,616

Note 16. Cash flow information

(a) Reconciliation of cash and deposits

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and on hand	1,366,002	1,299,368
Term deposits	4,495,000	4,295,000
	5,861,002	5,594,368

Note 16. Cash flow information (continued)

(b) Reconciliation of the net result for the period to net cash flows from operating activities

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Net result for the period	(461,105)	(871,901)
Non-cash movements		
(Gain)/loss on sale or disposal of non-current assets	(12,872)	6,635
Net (gain)/loss on financial instruments	(1,094)	141
Impairment of non-financial assets	(80,512)	180,799
Depreciation of non-financial assets	1,995,751	1,940,964
Other non-cash movements	-	20,650
Movements in assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	99,567	(342,171)
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	49,820	(3,088)
(Increase)/decrease in other non-financial assets	(139)	(8,845)
Increase/(decrease) in payables	77,036	(208,024)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	468,188	132,768
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	2,134,640	847,928

Note 17. Reserves

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Physical asset revaluation surplus⁽ⁱ⁾		
Balance at beginning of financial year	307,062,183	307,062,183
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	-	-
Impairment losses	-	-
Balance at end of financial year	307,062,183	307,062,183
Net change in reserves	307,062,183	307,062,183

Note:

(i) The physical assets revaluation surplus arises on the revaluation of land by \$124.3 million (2014 - \$124.3 million), buildings by \$10.7 million (2014 - \$10.7 million), infrastructure assets by \$5.1 million (2014 - \$5.1 million) and cultural assets by \$167.0 million (2014 - \$167.0 million).

Note 18. Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, 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 Victoria are as follows:

Ministers

Minister for Environment and Climate Change	Hon Ryan Smith MP	1 July 2014 to 3 December 2014
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water	Hon Lisa Neville MP	4 December 2014 to 30 June 2015

Governing Board

Chairman	Mr Ken Harrison	1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015
Deputy Chairman	Mr Graham Cunningham	1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015
Member	Prof Antony Bacic	1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015
Member	Mrs Penny Fowler	1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015
Member	Mr Martyn Myer AO	1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015
Member	Ms Jennifer Wolcott	1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015
Member	Ms Sarah Wrigley	1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Accountable Officer

Director and Chief Executive	Prof Tim Entwisle	1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015
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Remuneration

The number of responsible persons, other than the Minister, and their total remuneration in connection with the management of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria during the reporting period are shown in the first two columns in the table below in their relevant income bands. The base remuneration of responsible persons is shown in the third and fourth columns. Base remuneration is exclusive of bonus payments, long-service leave payments, redundancy payments and retirement benefits.

Income Band	Total Remuneration		Base Remuneration	
	2015 No.	2014 No.	2015 No.	2014 No.
\$0 – 9,999	7	9	7	9
\$260,000 – 269,999	-	1	1	1
\$280,000 – 289,999	1	-	-	-
Total numbers	8	10	8	10
Total amount	\$326,056	\$306,670	\$310,036	\$306,670

Amounts relating to the Minister are reported in the financial statements of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Other Transactions

Other related transactions and loans requiring disclosure under the Ministerial Directions issued by the Minister for Finance have been considered and there are no matters to report.

Note 19. Remuneration of executives

The number of executive officers, other than the Minister and the Accountable Officer, and their total remuneration during the reporting period are shown in the first two columns in the table below in their relevant income bands. The base remuneration of executive officers is shown in the third and fourth columns. Base remuneration is exclusive of bonus payments, long-service leave payments, redundancy payments and retirement benefits. The total annualised employee equivalent provides a measure of full-time equivalent executive officers over the reporting period.

Several factors affected total remuneration payable to executives over the year. A number of executives received bonus payments during the year. These bonus payments are based on the terms of individual employment contracts which provide for an annual bonus payment.

Income Band	Total Remuneration		Base Remuneration	
	2015 No.	2014 No.	2015 No.	2014 No.
\$150,000 – 159,999	-	-	-	2
\$160,000 – 169,999	-	2	-	1
\$170,000 – 179,999	-	-	1	2
\$180,000 – 189,999	1	2	1	-
\$190,000 – 199,999	1	1	3	-
\$200,000 – 209,999	3	-	-	-
Total number of executives	5	5	5	5
Total annualised employee equivalents (AEE) ⁽ⁱ⁾	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Total amount	\$1,013,157	\$896,330	\$946,823	\$818,762

Note

(i) Annualised employee equivalent is based on paid working hours of 38 ordinary hours per week over the 52 weeks of the reporting period.

There were no contractors charged with significant management responsibilities in relation to planning, directing or controlling, directly or indirectly, the Board's activities during the reporting period ended 30 June 2015.

Note 20. Remuneration of auditors

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office		
Audit of the financial statements	19,400	18,900
	19,400	18,900

Note 21. Glossary of terms and style conventions

Glossary

Borrowings

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

Commitments

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

Note 21. Glossary of terms and style conventions (*continued*)

Interest expense

Costs incurred in connection with the borrowing of funds. Interest expenses include interest on bank overdrafts and short-term and long-term borrowings, amortisation of discounts or premiums relating to borrowings, the interest component of finance lease repayments, and the increase in financial liabilities and non-employee provisions due to the unwinding of discounts to reflect the passage of time.

Interest income

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

Net acquisition of non-financial assets (from transactions)

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 result

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 that are classified as 'other non-owner changes in equity'.

Net result from transactions/net operating balance

Net result from transactions or net operating balance 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 worth

Assets less liabilities, which is an economic measure of wealth.

Non-financial assets

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

Other economic flows

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

Payables

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

Receivables

Includes short-term and long-term trade credit and accounts receivable, grants, taxes and interest receivable.

Sales of goods and services

Refers to revenue from the direct provision of goods and services and includes fees and charges for services rendered, sales of goods and services, fees from regulatory services and work done as an agent for private enterprises. It also includes rental income under operating leases and on produced assets such as buildings and entertainment, but excludes rent income from the use of non-produced assets such as land. User charges includes sale of goods and services revenue.

Supplies 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.

Note 21. Glossary of terms and style conventions (*continued*)

Transactions

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 (eg 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.

Style conventions

Figures in the tables and in the text have been rounded. Any 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 rounded to zero
(xxx)	negative numbers
201x	year
201x-1x	year period

The financial statements and notes are presented based on the illustration in the *2014-15 Model Report for Victorian Government Departments*. 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 Members, Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria

The Financial Report

The accompanying financial report for the year ended 30 June 2015 of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria which comprises the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement, notes comprising a summary of accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the accountable officer's, chief finance officer's and board's declaration has been audited.

The Board Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The board members of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*, and for such internal control as the board members determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to the internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the board members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

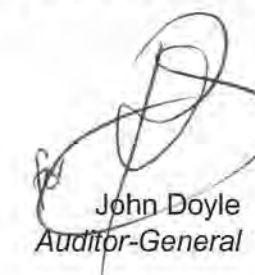
Independence

The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. In conducting the audit, the Auditor-General, his staff and delegates complied with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria as at 30 June 2015 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*.

MELBOURNE
27 August 2015



John Doyle
Auditor-General

Appendix One: Disclosure Index

Legislation	Requirement	Page reference
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FRD 22F	Nature and range of services provided	Page 4-5
Management and structure		
FRD 22F	Organisational structure	Page 9
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FRD 22F	Summary of the financial results for the year	Page 15
FRD 22F	Significant changes in financial position during the year	Page 15
FRD 22F	Major changes or factors affecting performance	Page 15
FRD 22F	Subsequent events	NA
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FRD 22F	Compliance with building and maintenance provisions of <i>Building Act 1993</i>	Page 103
FRD 22F	Statement on National Competition Policy	Page 101
FRD 22F	Application and operation of the <i>Protected Disclosure 2012</i>	Page 104
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FRD 22F	Details of consultancies under \$10 000	Page 17
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Other disclosures as required by FRDs in notes to the financial statements		
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Legislation		
<i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>		
<i>Building Act 1993</i>		
<i>Protected Disclosure Act 2001</i>		
<i>Victorian Industry Participation Policy Act 2003</i>		
<i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>		

Appendix Two: Other disclosures

STATEMENTS OF COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY

National competition policy

Competitive neutrality seeks to enable fair competition between government and private sector businesses. Any advantages or disadvantages that government businesses may experience, simply as a result of government ownership, should be neutralised. The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria continues to implement and apply this principle in its business undertakings.

Victorian Industry Participation Policy statement

The Victorian Government's Industry Participation Policy seeks to maximise opportunities for Australian and Victorian suppliers to compete for government business on the basis of best value for money over the life of the goods or services. The Policy is intended to encourage growth in Victorian industry, employment and technology.

As both Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens are located within metropolitan Melbourne, the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria requires tenderers for projects with a value greater than \$3 million to demonstrate that they have genuinely considered the industry development implications of their tender by completing a Victorian Government's Industry Participation Policy statement as part of the tendering and evaluation process. Where there are two or more tenders that offer similar value for money, this information may be used to differentiate between the value and benefit of the tenders.

Tenderers are required to specify the level of local value added, provide details of actual new employment opportunities to be created and the proportion to be filled by people from the local community, identify opportunities for increasing the skills of Victorians and Australians, and identify the potential to undertake technology innovation, research and development.

During 2014-15, no tenders for projects at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria were of sufficient value to require the inclusion of a Victorian Government's Industry Participation Policy statement in the tender documentation.

Government Advertising Expenditure

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's expenditure in the 2014-15 reporting period on government advertising campaign expenditure did not exceed \$150,000.

Statement of availability of other information

During 2014-15:

- declarations of pecuniary interests were duly completed by all relevant officers
- no shares were held by a senior officer as nominee, or held beneficially in a statutory authority or subsidiary
- no major external review was carried out on the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

In addition, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, the following information is available on request from the Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria:

- details of publications produced by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria about itself, and how these can be obtained
- details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
- details of major research and development activities undertaken by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
- details of overseas visits undertaken, including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit
- details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria to develop community awareness of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and its services
- details of assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees
- a general statement on industrial relations within the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, and details of time lost through industrial accidents and disputes
- a list of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's major committees, the purposes of each committee, and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved
- details of all consultancies and contractors including consultants/contractors engaged, services provided, and expenditure committed to for each engagement.

Compliance with DataVic Access Policy

Consistent with the DataVic Access Policy issued by the Victorian Government in 2012, the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria intends that data tables that it may produce in the future will be available at: www.data.vic.gov.au in machine readable format.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS BOARD
GIFTS, BENEFITS AND HOSPITALITY
COMPLIANCE ATTESTATION

I, Professor Tim Entwisle, Director and Chief Executive,

of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, certify that:

- my public entity has policies and procedures in place that are consistent with the minimum requirements and accountabilities outlined in the *Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy Framework* issued by the Public Sector Standards Commissioner;
- staff are informed about these gifts, benefits and hospitality policies and procedures; and
- the Finance and Audit Committee of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria reviews the operation of the policies and procedures at least once a year to ensure transparent reporting of accepted gifts, benefits and hospitality.

Signature: 

Date: 27 July 2015

LEGISLATION

No amendments were made to the *Royal Botanic Gardens Act 1991* in 2014-15.

LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Financial Management Act 1994

Full details of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's compliance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* are outlined in the section 'Financial Management' and in the Disclosure Index on page 100.

Freedom of Information Act 1982

Principal Officer

Professor Timothy Entwisle, Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

Authorised Officer

Dennis Renfrey, Freedom of Information Officer

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* allows the public a right of access to documents held by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

Categories of documents

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria maintains a corporate records management filing system. Files are separated into the categories of personal or case files, operational and policy files, files on general operational and administrative responsibilities, and correspondence files.

Access arrangements

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria has a Freedom of Information Officer to process and co-ordinate action on requests.

Requests

For the 12 months ending 30 June 2015, two requests were received.

Freedom of Information (FOI) requests are made in writing describing all documents requested and including payment of the \$27.20 application fee. FOI fees and charges are not subject to GST.

Requests should be sent to the Freedom of Information Officer, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Private Bag 2000, South Yarra, Victoria, 3141.

Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014

The *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* aims to increase public confidence in the Government's ability to protect and manage the personal information that it collects and stores.

There were no complaints received by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria for the year ending 30 June 2015.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria and its service providers are committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information and health records. The Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria has a Privacy Policy, viewable on the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's website, www.rbg.vic.gov.au/privacy. A hard copy of the policy can be obtained by contacting the Privacy Officer on 9252 2300, or by writing to the Privacy Officer, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Private Bag 2000, South Yarra, Victoria, 3141.

Building and Maintenance Provisions of the Building Act 1993

Pursuant to section 220 of the *Building Act 1993*, all works requiring building approval have plans certified, works in progress are inspected and Occupancy Permits are issued by independent Building Surveyors engaged on a local job-by-job basis. Plans for these works are lodged with the relevant local council.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria requires all building practitioners engaged on building works to be registered and to maintain registration throughout the course of the work.

Conformity

All essential safety measures are in place, with regular inspections and maintenance, and buildings managed by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria comply with standards for publicly-owned buildings.

Building work

At Cranbourne Gardens, minor building works were undertaken on a number of buildings on-site including:

- The Incident Control Centre and the Elliot Centre building, which resulted in construction of a separate area for use by the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, Herbarium Collectors.
 - The former Public Programs portable building, resulting in the establishment of the Orchid Conservation Project building, which now includes a purpose-built laboratory and growth room for the conservation of Australian rare and endangered orchids.
 - The Maud Gibson Room which has provided a laboratory for use by Cranbourne Gardens' staff.
- All building works were undertaken by a commercial builder, registered with the Building Practitioners Board and all relevant compliance certificates were obtained.

At Melbourne Gardens, following the destruction of the Tropical Toilet building by fire in May 2014, the building was re-built and re-opened to the public during December 2014. The relevant building permits and approvals were obtained prior to the works commencing along with Heritage Victoria permits. The buildings were constructed by a commercial builder registered with the Building Practitioners Board. The design and construction work was overseen by a registered Architect, Engineers and Building Surveyor.

The complete re-construction of the William Tell Rest House, which was also lost to fire in May 2014, commenced on-site during May 2015 following receipt of the relevant building permits and approvals, and Heritage Victoria permits. The building is being constructed by a commercial builder registered with the Building Practitioners Board. The design and construction work is currently being overseen by a registered Architect, Engineers and Building Surveyor.

Maintenance

At Cranbourne Gardens, refurbishment and minor maintenance works were undertaken on a number of portable buildings during 2014-15. All relevant compliance certificates were obtained for these works.

Annual maintenance and improvement works, including painting, replacement of floor coverings and repairs to fixtures and fittings were undertaken on various buildings. All essential safety measure inspections were undertaken by a registered Building Surveyor and compliance issues addressed as required.

Cranbourne Gardens' computer-based 'Maintenance Management System' continued to be an excellent tool providing support for the management of buildings and infrastructure, and related plant items. Approximately 700 Work Requests were raised in the 2014-15 financial year, with 90 per cent of Work Requests being completed in the year.

At Melbourne Gardens, in addition to routine maintenance, including programmed maintenance painting, the ground level that had been built up over the years around the historic Walmsley building in the Nursery and Works Yard over the years was lowered and regraded to protect the building from further deterioration. The original corrugated iron wall cladding was also treated with fish oil to protect it from further corrosion. Quarterly essential safety measure inspections were carried out by a registered Building Surveyor and compliance issues addressed as required.

Compliance with the Protected Disclosures Act 2012

The *Protected Disclosures Act 2012* enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct by public officers and public bodies. The Act aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make disclosures and protecting them when they do.

What is a 'protected disclosure'?

A protected disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct 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'?

Improper or corrupt conduct involves substantial:

- mismanagement of public resources; or
- risk to public health or safety or the environment; or
- corruption.

The conduct must be criminal in nature or a matter for which an officer could be dismissed.

How do I make a 'Protected Disclosure'?

You can make a protected disclosure about the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria or its board members, officers or employees by contacting the Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission on the contact details provided below.

Please note that the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria is not able to receive protected 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 protected disclosure about the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria or its employees. You can access the Royal Botanic Gardens Board Victoria's procedures on its website at: www.rbg.vic.gov.au/Protected_Disclosure_Procedure.

Contacts

Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) Victoria

Address: Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street,

Melbourne Victoria 3000

Mail: IBAC, GPO Box 24234, Melbourne Victoria 3001

Internet: www.ibac.vic.gov.au

Phone: 1300 735 135

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



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