



Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens
Annual Report 2013





Brief Overview

The 14 hectare Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) was established in 1818 on the current site. It is the only botanic gardens in Tasmania providing an important botanical, horticultural, educational and cultural resource to the State. It is of national significance in terms of its landscape and heritage values.

The RTBG is located in a culturally significant precinct, comprising the Gardens, Government House, the Queens Domain and the former Beaumaris Zoo site (home of the last living Tasmanian Tiger in the 1930s). The RTBG is both an important Aboriginal and European cultural heritage site.

As one of Australia's premier cool climate gardens with a plant collection in excess of 6,000 species, the RTBG strives to provide a range of experiences that will enhance the community's awareness and appreciation of plants and the Gardens' cultural heritage. The RTBG is distinguished by a number of unique collections and houses one of the largest collections of conifers in the southern hemisphere.

The Tasmanian native collection is significant due to the unique nature of Tasmania's flora with around 30% of species being endemic to the State. Complementing this is the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (TSCC), which since it was established in 2005 has become the cornerstone of the Botanical Gardens conservation strategy currently holding 1,322 collections of 990 taxa and 43 million seeds.

The RTBG is home to world's only Subantarctic Plant House which holds collections from Macquarie Island and links the RTBG with the Antarctic community.

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Letter to the Minister



Dear Minister,

The Board of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, incorporated by the Botanical Gardens Act 2002, has pleasure in submitting to you in accordance with Division 3.17.1 of that Act, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Annual Report for the year ending 30th June 2013.

The Board is grateful for and acknowledges the additional support you and the Government have provided to the Gardens in the last State Budget in the form of a \$175,000 allocation of recurrent funding towards the running of the Garden's Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (TSCC). The Tasmanian Seed

Conservation Centre, managed by the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, is part of an international coalition with the Millennium Seed Bank. This initiative provides an 'insurance policy' against the extinction of plants in the wild by storing seeds for future use. The TSCC also researches seed dormancy and germination issues and will help to improve the effectiveness of future restoration and revegetation programs.

Your support for the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre will ensure that this important plant conservation facility can continue to collect, conserve and research Tasmania's unique flora and will ensure the capacity for the collected seed to be utilised in future regeneration and restoration programs.

We would also like to thank you for the additional financial relief provided by the withdrawal of the imposition of a 3% whole of Government Budget Management Strategy. This will provide the RTBG with the capacity to better manage external contingencies and has enabled the allocation of funding targeted towards essential budget areas strategically selected to ensure longer-term sustainability and income generation.

This year the RTBG has been particularly successful in regard to external grant support and work is underway on two major grant funded projects with the near completion of the Tasmanian Community Food Garden and the early design phases of the development of the Living / Learning Centre educational facility.

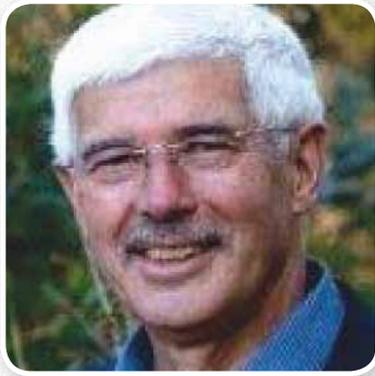
Even with reduced staff numbers Gardens staff have accomplished much to advance the goals outlined in the RTBG Strategic Master Plan 2009. The Board particularly wishes to acknowledge the excellent work of the Gardens staff throughout the year.

In submitting this report we would like to offer our thanks to everyone who has provided support and contributed towards the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Garden's achievements including the Premier, Lara Giddings, you as our Minister, the Secretary and staff of the Department of Primary Industries Water and the Environment and the staff, Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens and our volunteers. Their combined efforts and ongoing contributions are vital to the development and success of the Gardens.

Yours Sincerely,

Damian Bugg
Chairman

From the Chairman



*On behalf of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens
it is my pleasure to present the Annual report for 2012-2013.*

It has been another challenging year in the life of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. During the year the Garden's Director Lesley Kirby took extended leave from early November and the Garden's Deputy Director, Collections and Research Mark Fountain has taken on the role of Acting Director. I take this opportunity to thank both Lesley and Mark for their excellent work for and commitment to the goals of the Gardens.

During the year we were provided with the opportunity to present a separate budget bid to key staff from the Office of Premier and Cabinet, the Minister's Office and Treasury. This bid was received favourably with additional recurrent funding allocated in the state budget for the on-going operations of the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (\$175,000). This coupled with an exemption from the 3% State Government Budget Management Strategy has eased the pressures on the Garden's budget.

Additionally we have, through the excellent work of the RTBG staff, been able to secure additional funding through grant sources with considerable success. The Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre's summer collecting season was driven by three grants funded projects totalling over \$70,000. The Gardens on-going efforts to assist with the conservation of the threatened subantarctic cushion plant *Azorella macquariensis* are supported through two grants and considerable community support. The Education team have also been busy with a significant grant to fund the purchase and installation of new digital infrastructure and a range of grants to support interpretive and educational programs. A grant auspiced through the Friends of the Gardens, with partners, the Hobart City Council and the Southern Coast Care Association has funded the RTBG and partners work to rehabilitate the section of the Derwent foreshore between the Tasman Bridge and the City.

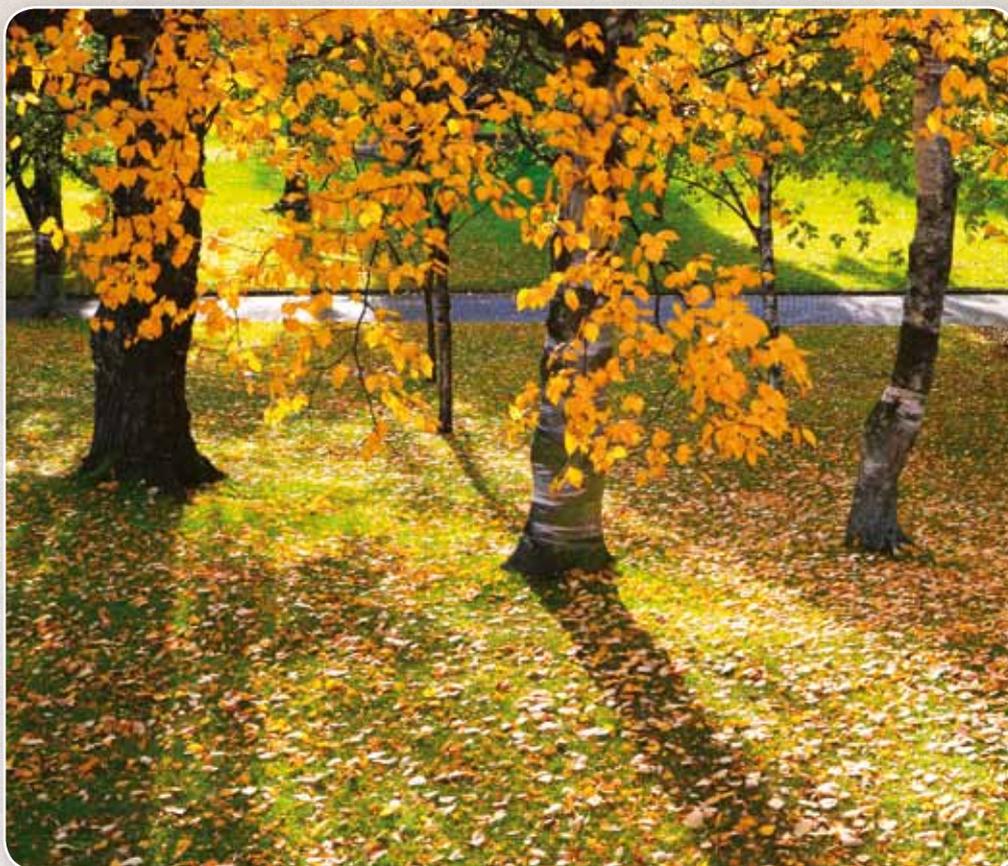
In addition to this, staff are working on two major grant funded projects. Planning is well advanced on the Tasmanian Community Food Garden Project. Funded by a grant received from the Tasmanian Community Fund in 2012 this exciting project will be opened to the public at the 2013 Spring Community Festival. In the same precinct another project funded through a Skills Tasmania grant will support the development and construction of The Living Learning Centre. The new building, to be completed in 2014 will house the RTBG's innovative and highly regarded Education and Community programs and will be closely linked to the Community Food Garden.

The Director, Acting Director, management team, staff, volunteers and the Friends of the Gardens are to be commended for their excellent work throughout the year to maintain the botanical status of the Gardens while managing to improve the services and activities offered to visitors in the current operating climate. Our visitor numbers alone demonstrate the important role the Gardens plays in the life of the Tasmanian community and therefore the contribution all these people make to that role.

Yours Sincerely,

Damian Bugg
Chairman

Director's Report



Botanical Gardens are temporal and spatial oases in an increasingly faster paced and more distracting and distracted world.

As society changes Botanical Gardens must necessarily re-examine and re-adjust their place in the community. Their primary role - to educate people about the importance of plants (including undertaking research to increase our knowledge about plants) - is perhaps even more critical than it has been in the past and remains absolutely core to every true botanical garden. Secondary roles carry that educational purpose through to direct community engagement and support, especially in the realms of land management and restoration and food production and preparation.

Botanical gardens provide an important community haven where everybody can find a welcoming and accepting place free of discrimination and intolerance. Providing places of succour and rejuvenation can't just be considered as a casual by product of the work of a botanic garden, this community service is achieved through the careful horticultural development of the site and via direct engagement through events, cultural activities and educational programs.

Many contemporary botanical gardens run a number of businesses to support their programs. In the case of the RTBG the income from our businesses provides over 44% of our income. Without this income and the additional support provided through grant funding and donations we could not operate. The RTBG's businesses include the restaurant and shop, site and facility hire, external consultancies, and the partially self-funded work of the Gardens education and aboriginal programs.

Colonial era botanical gardens like the RTBG are also the custodians of significant historic sites with important built and living heritage. Managing heritage requires a well-researched understanding of the heritage values of the site, conscious deliberation and an educated awareness of the long-term ramifications of every decision.

In 2018 the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens will be 200 years old. Nearly two centuries of survival is a very clear indicator of commitment to purpose and resilience as an organisation. For all their longevity and history the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens is not, and has never been, unchanging, as the work undertaken during the 2012 / 2013 period attests.

The Garden's decisions are directed by the RTBG Strategic Master Plan 2009 a plan that has a life of twenty years and proposes actions with consequences extending well beyond that period.

Two major actions arising from the Master Plan this year include:

The commencement of the Tasmanian Community Food Garden project - funded by a grant from the Tasmanian Community fund this exciting project is a key action in the Strategic Master Plan to develop the Garden's economic plants and education precinct. As part of the same precinct development, staff are in early planning for a new Living / Learning Centre directly connected to the food garden. This project will house the Garden's education programs and is funded by a Skills Tasmania grant.

Grant funding has driven considerable activity this year with the Garden's Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre's summer collection program and Orchid Conservation programs almost entirely

funded through external grants. The Gardens Education team has also been successful with a number of grants supporting a range of programs and infrastructure projects

Staff made significant progress across all the Gardens program areas over the course of the year. Their work was supported by the contributions of the Gardens active Friends and volunteers in areas as diverse as the Seed bank, Visitor Services, Growing groups and Tour Guides.

It is especially important to acknowledge the generous support of the Friends of the Gardens, their donation of funds to purchase a new cooling unit for the Subantarctic Plant House has been critical to the on going function of this unique facility.

From a personal point of view I would also like to acknowledge the strong support and understanding of the RTBG Board and the Chairman of the Board Damian Bugg.

My temporary role as Acting Director has been made easier through the collaboration and support of the RTBG's management team and the extraordinary commitment of the RTBG's staff.

Finally it is essential to record the support of the Minister and the Government, their recognition of the value of the Gardens to the Community through the allocation of additional recurrent funding will ensure that next year will be as successful as this one has been.

Mark Fountain
Acting Director

Vision, Mission and Values



The Vision of the RTBG is to create and maintain an exceptional garden that enriches Tasmania's social and cultural life, educates the community about the importance of plants and contributes to the conservation of the flora of Tasmania and the world.

The Vision

- Sets aspirational aims for the reputation of excellence within the international arena;
- Provides a focus on Tasmania as the locus for the operations and the identity of the Gardens (i.e. is sense of place but also as a focus for collections); and
- Specifies that the Gardens contribute to flora conservation initiatives.

RTBG Mission

The transformation of vision into reality is an active process in which the organisation's mission is a central guiding force, therefore, in common with other botanical gardens, the RTBG will:

- Act as an ex situ repository for species of conservation significance and participate in other conservation programs aimed at preserving biodiversity in the world; and
- Incorporate plants of an economic value to the community.

In achieving its mission, the RTBG will create and maintain core/priority plant collections based on Tasmania's flora and associated cool climate flora from the southern hemisphere.

In respect to its history, the RTBG will maintain:

- The Gardens in a manner that recognises and interprets the layered history of the site from Aboriginal times through to the present;
- Identified heritage collections of plants that are of State, national and international significance for their historic heritage values; and
- The place in a manner that respects its important landscape and sense of place values.

The mission reiterates the aspiration to excellence, identifies the importance of the Gardens to the Tasmanian community, provides focus on the experience of the place through education, emphasizes the role of the RTBG in conservation and identifies the core values that underpin the place as Tasmania's botanic garden i.e. Tasmanian endemic flora and associated cool climate plants from the southern hemisphere and the heritage values of the site.

RTBG Organisational Values

In achieving its vision and mission, the RTBG is committed to a range of values that will guide its operation. These values include:

- Sustainability;
- Pursuit of excellence;
- Fair dealing in commercial and community service;
- Social and environmental consciousness;
- Scientific inquiry and integrity;
- Public accessibility and responsiveness;
- Staff involvement in planning and programs;
- Recognition of, and assistance for, friends, volunteers and supporters;
- Administrative efficiency and accountability; and
- Respect and recognition for employees and all other stakeholders.

RTBG Management Goals

The principle goals have been formulated to describe the outcomes that the RTBG is trying to achieve in pursuit of its vision and mission and through the application of the above values to its operations whilst remaining cognizant of its capacity to fund its activities. These goals in turn suggest a range of more specific strategies for their achievement that are included later in this document.

The RTBG's goals are:



Goal 1

To sustainably manage the core values of the RTBG as Tasmania's botanical garden.

This goal addresses the definition of the RTBG as a 'Tasmanian Botanical Garden' and recognises the significant values embodied in the Gardens and that these values must be managed in a sustainable manner if the RTBG is to be considered successful.

This goal also addresses a principle requirement to maintain the integrity of the RTBG as a true botanical gardens through appropriate curation of living collections, involvement in the conservation of the world's flora and the conduct of targeted research.

Goal 2

To promote and manage the Gardens to ensure its users have the opportunity to attain a quality experience of the place and its values.

This goal addresses the use value of the Garden and the benefits to be derived from the successful management of the RTBG as an education and training centre, a community asset and a tourism destination.

The management of the visitor experience is directly related to people's expectations for the Gardens as a destination for daily life and/or for tourism.

Goal 3

To ensure there is sufficient capacity to sustainably manage the RTBG.

This goal addresses the core operational activities of the Gardens and recognises that the RTBG has a responsibility to achieve a consistent and integrated approach to the management of the Gardens and that to achieve this the RTBG must have the legislative power, the organizational and procedural capacities and the funding necessary to implement, monitor and evaluate the strategies set out in the SMP.



Board Members

Mr Damian Bugg

Prof Margaret Britz

Ms Nicky McKibben

Mr Kim Evans

Mr Scott Gadd

Mr Roger Viney

In accordance with the Botanical Gardens Act 2002, the RTBG Board comprises seven members appointed by the Minister, one of which is the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment.

The Board is responsible for the management of the RTBG in accordance with its Strategic Master Plan and Business Operational Plan. The overarching aim of the Board is to balance the recreational, educational and tourism needs of the government and general public with the need to conserve and enhance the Gardens and undertake research into, and preservation of, its botanical, horticultural, biological and cultural interests.

How We Operate

Governance

The RTBG is a State government statutory organisation, governed by the *Botanical Gardens Act 2002* and administered by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment (DPIPWE). A Board of seven members, appointed by the Minister, manages the RTBG under the Act. The current business model provides for an annual State government grant supporting approximately 49% of the RTBG's current total operating budget, with the other 51% of funds sourced from RTBG generated activities.

Asset Management

The RTBG maintains a register of all assets exceeding \$1,000 in accordance with Treasury requirements and a general register for assets less than \$1,000. Database records are also provided for specialist collections including plants, library and herbarium. A computerized point of sale system provides an inventory of all retail stock.

Acquisitions, disposals and write-offs are recorded. An Asset Register Valuation has valued the RTBG's assets at over \$14m. The Strategic Conservation and Asset Management Plan determine the priorities and nature of works for the maintenance of assets within the Gardens.

Risk Management

The RTBG takes a proactive approach to Risk Identification and Mitigation, and has developed a Risk Profile and comprehensive Risk Mitigation Strategies associated with all aspects of operations. The RTBG manages risk through participation in the whole of government risk management fund for staff worker's compensation coverage. Public liability, professional indemnity, motor vehicle and personal accident risks are managed through brokered insurance policies.

Our Staff

The RTBG recognises and values the wealth of experience and knowledge of our staff, who have helped to develop and manage these gardens. The RTBG manages its human resources in line with staff requirements, the *State Service Act 2002* and DPIPWE policies and guidelines ensuring that staff policies and procedures are consistent and fair.

Managing Diversity

The RTBG is committed to the principles and values of diversity in the workplace and maintains relevant statistics in response to workplace initiatives.

Workplace Health And Safety

The RTBG is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace through adherence to relevant legislation and implementation and monitoring of appropriate work practices. A WHS Committee provides a representative and professional development opportunity for all staff to be actively involved in a wide range of Gardens-related WHS matters. The Committee meets monthly and records outcomes and recommendations to RTBG management. It also implements regular WHS site audits and reviews procedures and work practices.

Worker's compensation claims are actively managed through DPIPWE and the Department's contract rehabilitation services, which have provided invaluable assistance to staff with active worker's compensation claims.

Our Shared Priorities - Tasmania Together



During 2012-2013, the RTBG continued to make a positive contribution toward the achievement of the 12 Goals identified in the revised Tasmania Together 2020 plan. While many of the benchmarks addressed in the RTBG Strategic Master Plan are longer term, the plan does address the following priority benchmarks either directly or in an enabling role:

Goal 1: To ensure that all Tasmanians have the economic capacity to enjoy a reasonable standard of living and access to basic services.

The RTBG continues to provide a wide range of employment and training opportunities to Tasmanians from all sectors of the community. In addition, the RTBG continues to provide opportunities for volunteer engagement to assist individuals to improve their skills and confidence as an aid to finding employment.

Goal 2: To support safe and responsible behavior and ensure that community facilities and spaces, transport systems, workplaces and private homes are, and are perceived to be safe environments.

The RTBG continues to provide a safe, enriching and relaxing environment for the wider community to enjoy. The Gardens will maintain a strong focus on continuous improvement and monitoring in relation to all aspects of Workplace Health and Safety.

Through its Corrective Services Inmate Labour and Training program, the Gardens will continue to provide offenders with meaningful work and re-socialisation opportunities to assist them in successfully reintegrating into the community.

Goal 3: High quality education and training for lifelong learning and a skilled workforce.

The Gardens remains committed to advocating lifelong learning and skills development among staff and volunteers by providing structured, accredited professional development opportunities at all levels within the organisation, in addition, the Gardens will continue to offer a range of apprenticeships and traineeships throughout the organisation.

The Gardens endeavours to provide a broad range of educational programs aimed at meeting the needs of the community including VET programs, school curriculum based programs, horticultural programs designed specifically for the aged, migrant groups and those with disabilities, as well as community programs focusing on horticultural and environmental topics.

Goal 4: Active, healthy Tasmanians with access to quality and affordable health care services.

In an effort to promote healthy lifestyle choices the Gardens will continue to provide a venue for participating in exercise and leisure activities in an environment that is safe, welcoming and stress free.

Goal 5: Vibrant, inclusive and growing communities where people feel valued and connected.

The Gardens continues to provide a diverse range of stimulating, educational and enjoyable school and community programs to encourage interaction with, and understanding of the natural world.

The Gardens recognises the valuable contribution made by volunteers and supporters at all levels of its operations. The Gardens will continue to provide enriching opportunities for participation by volunteers throughout the organisation, and will ensure volunteers receive appropriate training and support to assist their endeavours.

Through ongoing support of events such as Mental Health Week, as well as the provision of horticultural education programs aimed at providing assistance to Tasmania's growing migrant communities, the Gardens will continue to promote diversity within the broader community.

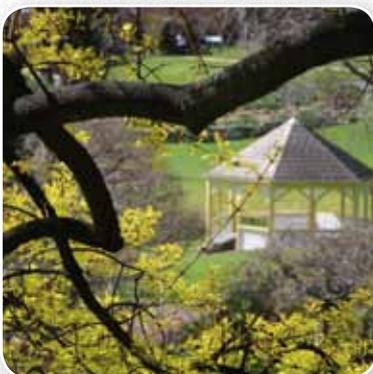
Goal 6: Dynamic, creative and internationally recognised arts community and culture.

Through its rich and diverse annual cultural and events programs the Gardens continues to provide employment opportunities for those working in the arts and cultural sector. In addition, the Gardens will continue to develop and promote cultural events that reflect the vibrancy and diversity of Tasmania's cultural identity.

The Gardens celebrated our multicultural community through ongoing support of events such as Harmony Day and the inclusion of migrant communities and other events and festivals.

The Gardens are currently one of the most visited cultural venues in Tasmania with visitation in excess of 350,000 annually. The Gardens will continue to vigorously promote and interpret Tasmania's rich cultural heritage within Tasmania, nationally and internationally.

As custodians of a significant cultural heritage landscape and collections, the Gardens provides sound stewardship of the cultural heritage assets under its control.



Goal 7: Acknowledgement of the right of Aboriginal people to own and preserve their culture, and share with non-Aboriginal people the richness and value of that culture.

The Gardens continues to work closely with the Aboriginal community to identify significant key themes relating to Aboriginal culture and heritage as part of the development of the RTBG Thematic Interpretation Plan and the RTBG Strategic Master Plan.

Goal 8: Open and accountable government that listens and plans for a shared future.

In 2012-13 the Gardens continues its programs of Visitor and Community Surveys as well as comprehensive stakeholder consultation processes.

Goal 9: Increased work opportunities for all Tasmanians.

The RTBG recognises the immense value of the contribution of its employees in ensuring the prosperity and sustainability of its operations. It remains committed to working with staff to provide a safe, flexible and rewarding workplace that encourages healthy work-life balances.

Goal 10: Thriving innovative industries driven by a high level of business confidence.

The RTBG continues to provide a diverse range of high quality products, services and activities to meet the needs of local residents and visitors to Tasmania.

Goal 11: Built and natural heritage that is valued and protected.

As custodians of an iconic cultural heritage landscape, the Gardens provides sound stewardship of the cultural heritage assets under its control.

Independently and in partnership with others, the Gardens will continue to strive to protect and conserve Tasmania's botanical biodiversity by initiatives such as operating the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre, undertaking research aimed at ensuring the survival of rare, threatened and endangered species, and by managing and maintaining Tasmania's ex situ botanical collections.

The RTBG is a signatory to the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) 2010 Targets for Botanic Gardens Agenda, which contributes to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC).

Goal 12: Sustainable management of our natural resources.

The Gardens remain committed to achieving environmental sustainability in all aspects of its operations and continues to develop processes aimed at achieving waste neutrality, replacement of pesticides and herbicides with natural, organic alternatives, and the provision of public education programs to raise awareness of issues such as environmental sustainability, conservation and biodiversity.

Highlights of the Year

Continued implementation of recommendations arising from the Strategic Master Plan with a strong focus on the development of the economic (food) plants and education precinct.

A successful grant application to Skills Tasmania to enable staff to commence early planning work on a new Living Learning Centre.

The completion of a partnership with Southern Water to present free public education programs targeted toward the sustainable use of water.

The installation of a new Cooling system for the Subantarctic plant house funded by the Friends of the Gardens.

Completion of the redevelopment of the Fuchsia House. These works, funded by the Friends of the Gardens, have created a large covered all weather site with the capacity to host functions of up to 100 people.

Construction of a new sandstone wall and picket fence separating the Superintendent's Garden from the Nursery area.

Commenced the development of the Tasmanian Community Food Garden with levelling and ground works to support drainage, plumbing and electrical infrastructure (funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund).

Commenced work on a refit of the Visitor Centre exhibition space to temporarily house the RTBG's Education Programs.

The Bridge to City Coastal Restoration project - The RTBG, in partnership with the Friends of the Gardens, Hobart City Council and Southern Coast Care Association Tasmania, worked on stage one of a project to restore this highly visible section of the Derwent foreshore (funded by a Caring For our Country Community Grant).

A successful seed collection program funded by three separate grants.

The design and plant out of temporary new garden areas to grow the Cactus and Succulent Collection.

A record Spring Plant Sale – with the support of the Gardens Growing Group of Friends and volunteers this sale focussed around heirloom Tomatoes continues to grow.

Signing an MoU with the National Trust Tasmania to commence Certificate 2 horticultural training programs based at historic gardens in the North of the State.

Introduction to Each Business Unit

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens' organisational structure comprises four separate business units. The area of responsibility for each unit is detailed below.

Collections and Research

The Collections and Research Unit is responsible for the management of all horticultural and botanical operations and associated programs and resources including the curation of plant collections and displays, plant production and related environmental programs. It encompasses:

Gardens Operations

The Gardens Operations Unit is responsible for the horticultural management and curation of the plant collections, plant displays and nursery plant production. In addition, horticultural refurbishment including heritage landscapes comprising garden elements and lawns, waste management, asset maintenance and landscape services, as well as workplace training and event support as incorporated within this unit.

Botanical Resources

Responsible for maintaining documentation contained in the plant collections database, site mapping, tagging and labeling collections, maintaining the ancillary library, herbarium and archival collections. In addition this unit undertakes plant-based research through grants, conservation of collections and the development and monitoring of plant health protocols.

Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (TSCC)

This major collaborative partnership aimed at safeguarding Tasmania's botanical biodiversity is responsible for the operation of the Safe Seed facility including seed collection, processing and associated research functions.

Arbor Services

This newly created unit is responsible for the curation, management and maintenance of the Gardens' unique tree collection including the provision of commercial arbor services.

Public Programs and Operations

This Unit is responsible for the coordination and definition of the cultural profile of the Gardens and ensures the quality of the Gardens' contribution to public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of flora from Tasmania and other world regions. In addition it is responsible for the management and maintenance off all assets under the control of the RTBG. It encompasses:

Learning and Community Engagement

The Learning and Community Engagement Unit is responsible for the development and delivery of all school, vocational education and adult learning as well as community engagement and education programs offered by the RTBG.

Marketing and Events

The Marketing and Events Unit is responsible for the development and implementation of a marketing and communications program that aims to refocus the image of the RTBG and promote its use to a wider audience. The Unit is also responsible for event management, sponsorship, managing public relations for the RTBG, and the maintenance and development of the RTBG online presence including the RTBG website and various social networking sites.

Interpretation Projects

Interpretation includes developing and presenting themes, stories and messages that underpin the RTBG's programs to visitors and providing for the orientation and information needs of visitors including exhibitions and signage throughout the Gardens, as well as coordinating the Interpretive Guides.



Assets and Infrastructure

The roles of this Unit is to manage and maintain assets and infrastructure under the control of the RTBG including all aspects of built cultural heritage, landscape construction, capital expenditure and asset maintenance, and associated project management. In addition the unit also coordinates and manages all security, event logistics and cleaning services for the RTBG.

Business Services

The Business Services Unit is responsible for providing financial management, human resources coordination and business administration including reception and booking services, venue hire, records management, and secretariat to the RTBG Board. In addition it encompasses the management of retail operations including merchandise development, provision of information to visitors, daily operations of the Visitor Centre, gallery bookings, school bookings, visitor statistics and feedback and all cash handling.

Catering Services

This Unit encompasses all catering functions under the control of the RTBG including the Botanical Gardens Restaurant, Kiosk, function and event catering and training centre catering.

Strategic Master Plan: Goals and Strategies

The RTBG Strategic Master Plan 2009 identifies the three core goals of the RTBG as well as a range of strategies aimed at assisting in the achievement of these goals.

Goal 1

To sustainably manage the core values of the RTBG as Tasmania's botanical gardens.

Strategy 1.1:

To ensure the RTBG is internationally recognised for its collections of southern hemisphere cool climate plants with a particular emphasis on Tasmania's flora.

Strategy 1.2:

To respect, conserve and interpret the cultural values of the site.

Strategy 1.3:

To support and be involved in world flora conservation programs.

Strategy 1.4:

To be a community leader in sustainable environmental programs.

Strategy 1.5:

To engage in appropriate research related to the conservation of species of conservation significance from southern hemisphere cool climate areas with a particular emphasis on Tasmania's flora.

Goal 2

To promote and manage the Gardens to ensure its users have the opportunity to attain a quality experience of the place and its value.

Strategy 2.1:

To achieve excellence in horticultural and botanical education, training and extension programs.

Strategy 2.2:

To communicate the relevance, importance and history of the RTBG, its programs, people and context through meaningful and valued interpretation.

Strategy 2.3:

To be a recognised deliverer of quality programs, products and services.

Strategy 2.4:

To position the RTBG as one of the top Tasmanian Attractions in terms of number of visits and levels of awareness.

Strategy 2.5:

To develop the built environment to facilitate the experience of the Gardens.

Strategy 2.6:

To maintain the built environment of the RTBG in a manner that addresses requirements for basic function, safety and public amenity.

Goal 3

To ensure there is sufficient capacity to sustainably manage the RTBG.

Strategy 3.1:

To ensure that the legislative requirements for the operations of the Gardens are effectively met.

Strategy 3.2:

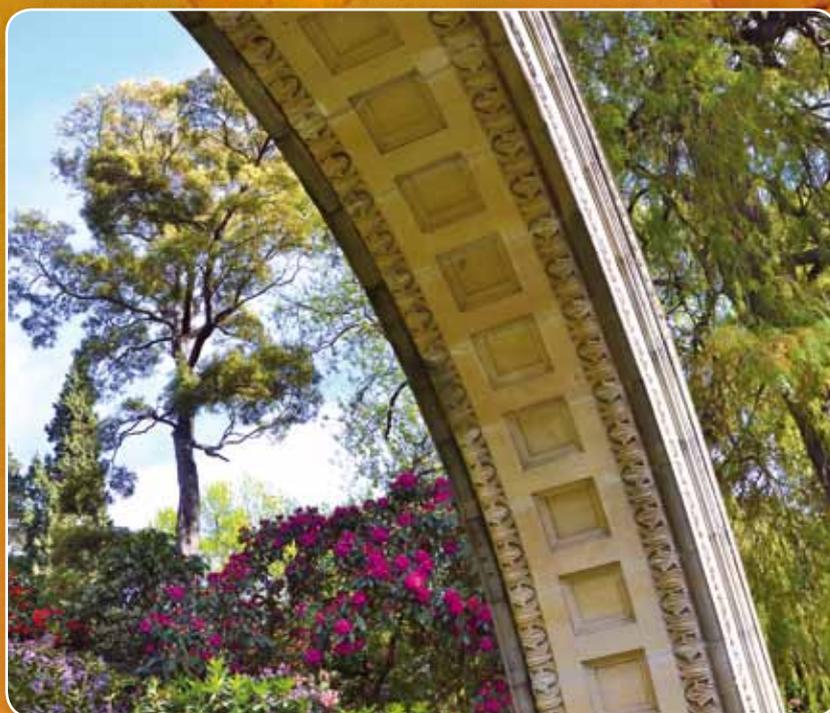
To ensure that the funding available to the Gardens is adequate to realize its vision and mission.

Strategy 3.3:

To deliver innovative, proactive and sustainable business practices to support and enhance RTBG programs.

Strategy 3.4:

To provide safe and enriching work and social environment for staff, stakeholders and visitors.



Goal 1

*To sustainably manage the core values of the RTBG
as Tasmania's botanical garden.*

Established in 1818, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens is Australia's second oldest Botanic Garden. The RTBG is distinguished by a number of unique collections and houses the largest collection of conifers in the southern hemisphere. The Tasmanian native collection is significant due to the unique nature of Tasmania's flora with around 30% of species being endemic to the State. Complementing this is the worlds' only Subantartic Plant House which holds collections from Macquarie Island.

Goal 1

Strategy 1.1

Ensure the RTBG is recognised for its collections of southern hemisphere cool climate plants with an emphasis on Tasmania's flora.

Collection Management- Arboriculture

One of the arboricultural highlights of 2012-2013 was the acquisition of 4 advanced Wollemi pines to complement the existing 3 smaller specimens growing in the Araucaria Lawn. The trees now form an impressive copse in the foreground of taller mature conifers.

Other additions for the year were: *Araucaria bidwillii* (main entrance), *Pinus armandii* (Pinetum and border of the Japanese Garden), *Acer japonicum* (3) and *Pistacia chinensis* (Chinese collection), *Ginkgo biloba* (Pond), various *Acacia* species (Australian section) and *Rhopaloslylis sapida* (4) in the New Zealand section, donated by Troy Donovan.

No major storm damage occurred during the year, despite numerous days with wind speeds in excess of 60 km/h. A large sugar gum (*E. cladocalyx*) with previous history of branch failure and inadequate scope for crown reduction was removed from the East Coast section near the northern gate. A large ash (*F. excelsior*) and a Lombardy poplar (*P. nigra* 'Italica') were removed in preparation for the development of the Tasmanian Community Food Garden.

The RTBG Arbor Team has undertaken surveys on a number of National Trust properties and will be working with the National Trust to manage the impact of the Elm Leaf Beetle in the north of the state. The Treatment of the significant population of mature and young elms in southern Tasmania threatened by elm leaf beetles has generated considerable public interest and income for the RTBG.

Other major works included tree surveys at a number of Private schools throughout Tasmania.

Living Collections Management

Collections Planning and Development

Display Development

- To make way for the Tasmanian Community Food Garden the existing Cacti and Succulent housed collections were moved to a new home. The glasshouse that the collection had been displayed in for more than twenty years was becoming hazardous due to broken glass panes and unstable paved pathways. The plants were all successfully lifted and transplanted in December 2012. They are now on display in the raised garden beds of what was formerly known as the Easy Access Garden.
- Stage II development of the French Explorers Collection commenced in March 2013. This second stage signifies the completion of planting works to the collection and this expansion has enabled increased scope for wider representation of species collected by the early French botanists. This collection now completely surrounds the Stephen Walker sculpture that forms the main focus of this area
- Refurbishment of the Greater Hobart Collection has been undertaken with the collection of locally sourced propagation material from sites within the Greater Hobart region. The results of these collections will be ready for plant out during spring 2014.
- Re-theming of the *Salvia* and *Penstemon* display has been carried out and many of the *Salvia* species have been moved to new homes within other collections throughout the gardens. Located on the north-eastern side of the Restaurant, the new Australian native themed

planting is primarily composed of carefully selected *Banksia* species suited to Hobart's climate, supported by other well known species such as *Anigozanthus sp.* (Kangaroo Paw) and *Correa alba*.

Tasmanian Community Food Garden

Work has commenced on the Tasmanian Community Food Garden Project funded by a \$189,000 Tasmanian Community Fund grant.

Curation - Curator Tasmanian Flora

Future collection developments

Planning for the development of a Cool Temperate Rainforest Display and associated wet flora elements has commenced with a focus workshop. Key outcomes of the workshop included establishing:

- The thematic intent (aim) of the Cool Temperate Rainforest Display.
- rainforest/wet forest vegetation types to be represented in the collection.
- broad spatial arrangement of individual display elements.
- approximate location of an architecturally designed Tasmanian Cool Temperate Rainforest Display structure.

Further workshops will be held over the coming months to further our objective to develop a cohesive assemblage of Tasmanian native collections through the northern region of the Gardens.

Improvements to Existing Collections

The Curator Tasmanian Flora project managed:

- The refurbishment of the Greater Hobart Garden – Planned and lead collection trips within the Greater Hobart region to develop future plantings.

- The completion of stage two of the French Explorers Collection focussing on Tasmanian species collected by the French explorers, and
- A review and revision of the RTBG Phytophthora Management Procedures.

Curation – Curator Conservation Collections and Subantarctic Flora

Key projects for the year involved:

Azorella macquariensis Dieback Program

The Macquarie island endemic *Azorella macquariensis* is currently in rapid decline, this program is working to conserve the species by developing an 'on island' seed orchard. Key developments include:

- The project to develop an ex-situ conservation collection and seed orchard of *Azorella macquariensis* on Macquarie Island has now received full funding and will proceed, subject to approval from the Australian Antarctic Division. In addition to the \$12,000 grant awarded to the RTBG by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund in 2011, the RTBG received a grant of \$11,000 from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife, as well as generous individual donations from Friends of the Gardens and Australian Plants Society members through the Azorella Appeal. The RTBG is very grateful to the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife and all the individuals who supported this important project.

The grant funding will allow the RTBG to send a staff member to Macquarie Island for two months to erect, install and plant out the seed orchard. As well as undertake related field work.

Progress and actions to date include:

- An information session for RTBG staff and Friends of the Gardens volunteers on the proposed establishment of a



seed orchard on Macquarie Island for *Azorella macquariensis* was held highlighting the work to be carried out and encouraging staff to apply for the position.

- Planting frames, (designed and constructed by the RTBG maintenance crew), irrigation equipment and other materials were packed and successfully transported to Wireless Hill on Macquarie Island via the *Aurora australis*. The RTBG is grateful to the Australian Antarctic Division for their technical support in the sterilization of materials.
- Developed and installed interpretation regarding the Azorella project in the Subantarctic House
- Biannual reports submitted to the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund
- An overview of the Conservation and Subantarctic Collections programs at the RTBG was provided at an induction for Friends of the Gardens Tour Guides.
- A Statement of Duties and position requirements have been developed for the position of Horticultural Field Worker on Macquarie Island in preparation for the advertisement of this new temporary posting.
- Updated articles about this program have been written for the RTBG and

DPIPWE websites, Australian Plants Society Journal, and Friends of the Gardens magazine.

- Information relating to the Subantarctic House and *Azorella macquariensis* program was presented in the filming for the proposed RTBG documentary by Keith Diamond.
- Horticultural Botanist, Natalie Tapson presented a lecture on the RTBG's *Azorella* program whilst holidaying aboard the Antarctic cruise vessel to raise awareness of this important conservation project.
- *Pleurophyllum hookeri* seedlings being raised for use in DPIPWE pathological studies to test the resilience of this species to dieback associated pathogens.

Seed Bank Orchard activity

The RTBG Nursery has developed 39 seed orchards since the RTBG Seedbank commenced in 2006, 70% of which have consisted of threatened Tasmanian flora. 19 seed orchards have been completed to date, with good numbers of seed stored in the seed bank.

Four seed orchards were completed this year with the following results –

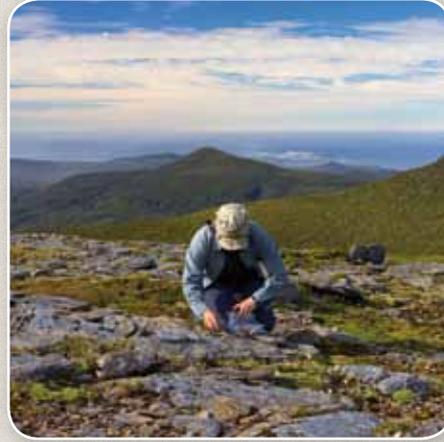
- *Hardenbergia violacea* – 4,890 seeds harvested,
- *Austrolina pusilla ssp muellerii* – 527,000 seeds harvested,
- *Mentha australis* - 4,300 seeds harvested,
- *Dryopoa dives* – 6,000 seeds harvested.

Additionally 4 new seed orchards were commenced, *Lepidium flexicaule*, *Veronica novae-hollandiae*, *Ranunculus acaulis* and *Crassula moschata*. The latter 3 collected as cutting material from the remote south-west of Tasmania by DPIPWE Biodiversity Conservation Branch staff.

Case Study 1:

A Successful Grant-funded Summer Collection Season

The Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (TSCC) is a seed banking facility located in a purpose-built laboratory at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG). Established in 2005, the TSCC has transformed the Botanical Gardens conservation strategy. So much so that a small room in the corner of the Seedbank has become a significant biodiversity hotspot, holding 1,322 collections of 990 taxa and 43 million seeds. Before the TSCC was established, the RTBG's collections of rare and threatened Tasmanian flora comprised only 138 plants representing 20 taxa. Currently the seedbank holds 371 seed collections of 253 threatened taxa totalling 9.5 million seeds and representing about 60 percent of Tasmania's threatened flora species.



As habitats and ecological communities become increasingly fragmented and diminished in scale, their vulnerability to climate change and stochastic events only increases, risking the loss of unique local biota. Threats like this need to be met by on-ground action to protect the ecosystems that the plants rely on and which the plants support. However, action often only takes place after the loss of biodiversity has occurred and this is where seed banks can make a difference. Seedbanks take a pre-emptive approach to conservation by securing genetic diversity immediately from good healthy populations thus allowing us to restore that diversity if populations collapse.

*Recent collecting work illustrates this strategic approach. Over the 2012-2013 financial year staff and volunteers of the RTBG assisted by other staff from DPIPWWE made 108 collections. 77 of these collections were made as a direct response to specific threats. We received a Caring For Our Country grant that funded us to focus on Tasmania's alpine flora potentially threatened by the impacts of climate change. Over three months the seed collecting team made 50 collections of 42 different species totalling more than 811,000 seeds. We also received federal funds to secure additional provenances of threatened species vulnerable to root rot (*Phytophthora*). We focused primarily on east coast species and out of the eight targets seven were secured over the reporting period, totalling just under 113,000 seeds. The remaining target is late flowering and will be collected September/October 2013. We also received funding from the Australian Seedbank Partnership for their 1000 Species program which aids collection of at risk taxa. We directed these funds towards the collecting of the Miena Cider Gum (*Eucalyptus gunnii* ssp *divaricata*). With the help of RTBG Arborist team 15,781 seeds were sampled from 51 trees. With additional collecting we finally submitted 20 collections to the ASBP 1000 species program. In response to the potential threat of Myrtle Rust staff of the RTBG and members of DPIPWWE also made 14 collections of Myrtaceae species this season. This was done to safeguard material as well as provide material for susceptibility screening research being conducted in New South Wales.*

Goal 1

Aquisitions

There were 231 acquisitions from the period July 2012 to the end of June 2013. The RTBG also received a number of donations during this period -

- 3 large Wollemi Pines were donated by Ms Juliet Lavers from Tarooma
- Seed from 8 individual Begonia spp. were donated by Ms Marilyn Watson from the Victorian Begonia Society.
- A substantial donation of Begonia seed from Mr Peter Sharp of the NSW Begonia Society.
- A donation of *Tacca integrifolia* seed was donated for future displays in the Conservatory by Mr Geoff Tune from Darwin.

Other

- The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) held their 32nd Conference in Hobart in October 2012. RTBG staff and Friends of the Gardens volunteers provided delegates with tours of the Subantarctic Island Display House during this conference.
- The RTBG SeedSafe program was submitted in the Biodiversity Award Category for the 2013 United Nations World Environment Day Awards and nominated as a finalist for these awards. Seedbank Manager James Wood, DPIPW representative Micah Visoiu and Seedbank Volunteer Lorraine Cotter attended the awards ceremony.
- The Bridge to Hobart City Foreshore Project - The Friends of the RTBG received funding via a Caring for Country federal grant to re-vegetate the foreshore from the Tasman Bridge to the City. The RTBG Nursery sowed seed for this project with the Friends Growing Group providing young saplings for community plantings.

- The RTBG Nursery has been contracted to grow replacement plantings of *Tilia x europaea* for the Department of Defence, Angelsea Barracks.
- The Subantarctic House failed chiller units were replaced with a generous donation from the Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, further funding is currently being sought for a back up unit for this important collection.

Strategy 1.2

Respect, Conserve and Interpret the Cultural Values of the Site

Ancillary Collections, Library

On the 12th June 2012 vandalism to the Gardens' Visitor Centre resulted in the flooding of the RTBG Library. Horticultural and Maintenance staff spent 3 days assisting in the removal and drying of thousands of books and herbarium specimens. In all around 500 books were hand dried by staff, taking almost two weeks; 90 books were sent to be freeze-dried by taxidermist, Gerald Schnitzhofer, at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery and about 250 books were so badly damaged that they had to be written off. The helpful and immediate response from experts such as Gerald, Stephanie McDonald from the Tasmanian Heritage and Archive Office at LINC Tasmania and Cobus van Breda from the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, helped RTBG staff to respond rapidly and appropriately to the situation at hand.

Ancillary Collections, Images

The RTBG Flickr site www.flickr.com/photos/rtbg/ is now our major image collection point currently holding 4,667 images, 1,760 of which are accessible to the public, 1,405 images are internal. The images include digitised copies of the RTBG historic image collections. The majority of the images (4,044) are tagged and web searchable. The total view count for the RTBG Flickr site is 173,692

Ancillary Collections, Herbarium

Herbarium volunteer Fern Halliday went through the whole collection and documented what sort of material in terms of flowers, vegetative and fruiting material was held. Other volunteers re-boxed and labelled the collection which assisted greatly in moving the specimens out of the herbarium following the flood. Fortunately none of the specimens were damaged.

Strategy 1.3

Support and be involved in world flora conservation programs.

Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre

Collecting Program

A successful grant funded collection season:

The \$50,000 *Caring For Our Country / Alpine and Conifer Flora Threatened by Climate Change* grant has been completed with more collections of alpine flora than were specified on the target list (unfortunately it has been a non masting year for Tasmania's conifers meaning this component of the project could not be completed).

The collection of the endangered Miena Cider Gum was fully funded by an *Australian Seed Bank Partnership / Kew 1,000 Species Project* grant, this project was successfully completed with collections of *Eucalyptus gunni subsp. divaricata* from 51 individuals with a total of 15,000 seeds. Due to the height and sparse nature of the seed capsules the RTBG Arboriculture Team played a key role in the collection of the cider gum seed.

Australian native plants threatened by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. This grant provided by the Australian Seed Bank Partnership and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities to collect, undertake germination tests and bank viable seeds of select at risk species has been successfully completed with a

Goal 1

number of multi-provenance collections of the target species.

The grant funding supported the collection of 109 seed collections of 95 distinct taxa as well as 219 herbarium specimens. 31 of the seed collections were of 30 threatened taxa.

Collection statistics

Germination Testing and Data Management

As of the 30/6/13 seed bank holds:

Collections	1,409
Seeds	43.72 million
Families	108
Genera	378
Species	972
Taxa	1,002

Threatened species collections:

Collections	33
Taxa	247
Viable seed	6.7 million

As of the 30/6/13 germination testing:

Collections	936
Tests	5,923

Thanks to the support of the Seedbank volunteers - 333 germination tests on 70 collections were set up this year. Of these tests 224 have been completed so far. Of the 70 collections, 48 have completed testing.

Total Volunteer Hours = 953 hrs

The Seedbank had 6 volunteers regularly working over the year, contributing over 18 hours a week.

Orchid Conservation

The Tasmanian Orchid Conservation Program operates under the coordination and guidance of Research Scientists Dr Nigel Swarts and Dr Magali Wright. The RTBG hosts the program at the TSCC, providing laboratory space, laminar flow access and culture storage capacity. Dr Nigel Swarts commits at least one day

a week at the RTBG, part funded by external research grants (see below) and the remaining time is voluntary. Dr Magali Wright, NRM South Biodiversity Coordinator, commits at least one day a month to the orchid program assisting with the supervision of volunteers. Magali's time is funded by NRM South.

The orchid program is centred around the ex-situ conservation activities underpinned by sound scientific research into orchid biology and ecology. The program is assisted greatly by 10 volunteers from The Friends of the Gardens and Threatened Plants Tasmania (TPT) who operate on a three-week rotation roster. The program's key objectives include:

- Establishing a self-sustaining (funded) long-term orchid research and conservation program.
- The Collections and placement in storage of all Tasmanian orchid seed and fungi partners.
- Undertaking high quality research into orchid rarity and key biological requirements.
- The taxonomic revision of key species groups.
- Continuing to train volunteers in orchid conservation techniques.
- Raising community awareness in regard orchid threats and extinction risks.
- Publishing research in high quality peer-reviewed journals.

Outputs for the 2012/13 financial year include:

- NRM South Naturally Inspired grant (\$5000) auspiced by the Friends of the Gardens
- Mazda Foundation grant auspiced by the Friends of the Gardens (\$9200)

- Norman Wettenhall Foundation (\$9500) auspiced by the Friends of the Gardens
- Herman Slade Foundation grant (\$76000 ex GST, 3 yrs) for orchid mycorrhizal research
- Australian Orchid Foundation grant (\$31700 ex GST, 3 yrs) for orchid mycorrhizal research
- Training of 10 RTBG and TPT volunteers in *ex-situ* orchid conservation techniques
- Publication of two manuscripts in *Annals of Botany*
- DeLong JR, Swarts ND, Dixon KW, Egerton-Warburton LM (2013) Mycorrhizal preference promotes habitat invasion by a native Australian orchid: *Microtis media*. *Annals of Botany* 111, 409-418.
- Nurfadilah S, Swarts ND, Dixon KW, Lambers H, Merritt DJ (2013) Variation in nutrient-acquisition patterns by mycorrhizal fungi of rare and common orchids explains diversification in a global biodiversity hotspot. *Annals of Botany* 111, 1233-1241.
- Presentations at the Tasmanian Orchid Society meeting (Nov 2012), Friends of the Gardens (May 2013).
- Guest lecture at University of Tasmania.
- Revision of the Tasmanian Threatened Orchid Flora Recovery Plan.
- Germination and potting on of two critically endangered *Prasophyllum* spp.
- Social media presence on Facebook and Twitter.
- Media in The Mercury, Tas Country and the ABC evening news.

Tasmanian Seed Registered Importer

The RTBG Nursery received approval from Quarantine Tasmania to act as a Tasmanian Seed Registered Importer. This will allow small quantity seed orders to be assessed on site by RTBG staff for any pest / disease issues, thereby removing the need to have this process carried out by Quarantine Tasmania staff.

Strategy 1.4

Be a community leader in sustainable environmental programs.

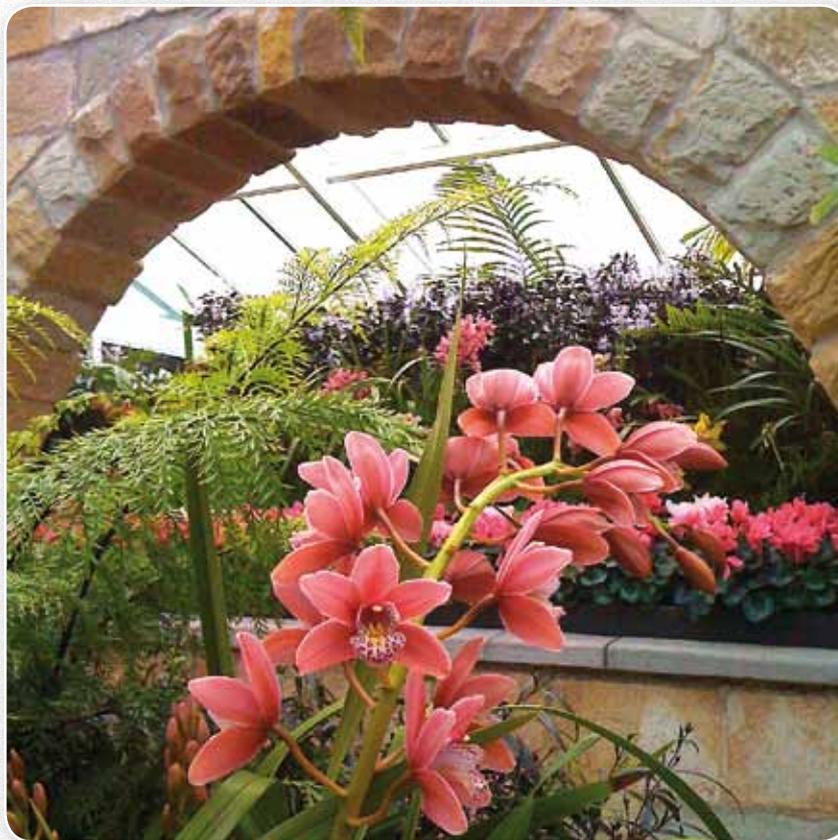
Bridge to Hobart City: Linking Place and People Through Coastal Restoration

In late 2012 the RTBG, SCAT and HCC under the auspices of the Friends of the Gardens received an \$18,000 Community Action Grant to commence rehabilitating the section of foreshore between the Tasman Bridge and the Slip Yards.

Contractors undertook primary treatment of dense infestations of Blackberry and woody weeds over a period of three months. One of the main aims of the project is to engage volunteers from the Hobart area to participate in the restoration of the remnant vegetation of the site through seed collection, propagation and planting of local provenance native plants, as well as the removal of WoNS (Boneseed and Blackberry) and other environmental weeds.

A Community clean up and education day was held at the site on June 2, in collaboration with RTBG, Hobart City Council and Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania (SCAT). This very successful event was attended by Lord Mayor Damon Thomas.

The project is developing a Coastcare group in partnership with RTBG, HCC and SCAT. As part of the project we were successful in delivering weed



identification and management training to RTBG students. Staff from the RTBG and HCC will also participate in the project for a minimum of 5 years in the ongoing maintenance of this prominent site.

Consultancy

RTBG Horticultural staff undertook landscape consultation work with the Tasmanian Baha'i Centre of Learning in December 2012. This process involves a complete assessment of the current plantings around the centre and recommendations for a revised planting scheme that is in keeping with the future direction of the centre.

RTBG Horticultural and Education also staff commenced meetings with management of 'The Mercury' newspaper with the goal of designing and installing a Vertical Garden in the office space at Salamanca Square. This project will provide an opportunity for RTBG

Horticulture students to be involved in the installation and maintenance of this challenging project.

Threatened Plant Species Display

The project to set up the ex-situ conservation collection and seed orchard of *Azorella macquariensis* on Macquarie Island was presented to the public for the 2012 Threatened Species Day Display, highlighting the RTBG's role in this important conservation program.

Goal 1



Strategy 1.5

Engage in appropriate research related to the conservation significance from southern hemisphere cool climate areas with a particular emphasis on the Tasmanian Flora.

Research Projects

Lomatia tasmanica

Research with the University of Tasmania on the tissue culture of *Lomatia tasmanica* is still continuing. Another trial of 100 explants were divided across two media and 5 treatments in November 2012. Only 7 tubes were lost due to contamination (7%) and 6 explants survived nearly 7½ months finally succumbing phenolic blackening following subculture.

Hardenbergia violacea

The field trials of the endangered Tasmanian form of the Purple Coral Pea, *Hardenbergia violacea*, translocated to Pontos Hills near Penna in 2010 are continuing well. Plans are in place to re-introduce the extinct population of *Hardenbergia violacea* back to a southern Pontos Hills property utilising plants retained at the RTBG Nursery. Funding opportunities for this program are currently being sought.

Azorella macquariensis

The Macquarie Cushion, *Azorella macquariensis*, has continued to decline on the island since the species was listed as critically endangered in 2012. Research into the cause of the dieback is on-going. The trial ex-situ collection of 9 plants set up on the island in 2010 have continued to grow successfully. Funding has been secured from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife and generous individual donors to expand this collection to a seed orchard of 54 plants. Materials and equipment have been transported to the island in preparation for this work commencing in the near future.

Native Bee Project

Through a generous bequest from Ms Amelie Rauner, the RTBG funded Melanie Bottrill, a University of Tasmania Honours student, to undertake studies to enhance the native bee populations visiting the RTBG seed orchards. The research project is titled "*Improving pollination success in threatened plant seed orchards by augmenting bee populations at the RTBG Nursery*". Melanie's report will be submitted in July 2013.

Myrtle Rust Program

The Plant Breeding Institute at the University of Sydney provided free testing for Tasmanian Myrtaceae species for susceptibility to Myrtle Rust Disease. This testing was organised via Tim Rudman at DPIPW, to inform a biosecurity response to this disease entering Tasmania. 14 seed collections of Myrtaceae species were carried out opportunistically or voluntarily by RTBG and DPIPW staff, some were pre-germinated at the TSCC before sending to the Institute.

Research Exchanges

- Specimens of *Amborella trichopoda* were sent to the Botanical Garden of Vienna University to assist with their research and teaching programs in Evolutionary Biology and Systematics. The seedlings were raised by the TSCC and packaging and delivery was managed by the Curator Conservation Collections and Subantarctic Flora.
- Leaves from the Macquarie Island endemic *Nematoceras dienema* were provided for DNA research by Wellington Museum, New Zealand.
- Material from the RTBG's Gondwanan Collection was provided for comparisons with cretaceous fossil research by Professor T. Clifford from the Queensland Museum.
- Vegetative material from *Cyphanthera tasmanica* was sent to Ms Emma Lewis, PhD student from the University of Melbourne for DNA studies.
- Material from various *Gahnia* spp were collected and sent for genetic studies by the Ms Andrea Coding at the University of Melbourne.
- Samples of *Rytidosperma* spp were supplied to Dr Grahme Lorimer, from Biosphere Pty Ltd.
- Seed of *Pachycladon radicum* were sent to the Central European Institute of Technology in the Czech Republic.



Goal 2

To promote and manage the Gardens to ensure its users have the opportunity to attain a quality experience of the place and its values.

The RTBG is committed to horticultural and botanical excellence in its development and operations, and in the programs and services it provides. As part of this commitment, the RTBG offers a diverse range of education programs that will enrich and improve horticultural and botanical knowledge and the learning experience of visitors, in addition to providing professional and personal development opportunities for staff and others.

The Gardens is one of Tasmania's leading vocational workplace providers in horticulture. The development of partnerships with organisations around the state has enhanced and broadened the RTBG programs.

Goal 2



Strategy 2.1

Achieve excellence in horticultural and botanical education, training and extension programs.

Learning and Community Engagement

Learning and community continues to play a significant role in the ongoing progress of the RTBG in 2012/13 with ongoing programs, unique initiatives and projects in a number of areas. The overall aim is to provide learning and skills development for all ages through the promotion of the core fundamentals of Gardens as both centres of excellence in plant horticulture and conservation sciences, but also as a base to engage communities and their social and day to day living needs.

This focus has meant engaging directly with communities through the development of strong community organisation and local business partnerships that provide successful synergies which assist all that are involved. Some of these partnerships continue from previous years including the statewide Feeding the Future, Fresh Produce Guild which continues to target sustainable food security initiatives as a key directive of its ongoing partnerships. Learning and training initiatives are integral to all these programs and wherever possible integrated to provide opportunities for all age groups.

Nationally recognised training programs

The RTBG in partnership with its training organisation partner GlobalNet Academy is a leader in horticultural training in the state, with currently more than 80 students per week participating in formal training programs across the state.

The programs are delivered on-site at the RTBG and in many regional centres as far north of Hobart as Smithton on the far northwest coast.

The programs have a proven success rate and are very popular, serving both a skills need and in some instances an additional social need within their respective communities.

The training partnership currently provides nationally recognised horticulture training in Certificate 1, 2 and 3 and is also developing a Diploma level program for release in the next year. Other training programs include specialist certificates including chemical handling certification and weed management.

Over 12 sessional teachers are currently working for RTBG Learning.

Recognised training delivered during the 2012/13 period:

- Certificate 2 Horticulture full-time day program. Completed December 2012, 12 graduates
- Certificate 3 Horticulture full-time day program Completed December 2012, 7 graduates
- Certificate 1 Agriskills / General Horticulture day program, early 2013. Total of 20 graduates.
- Certificate 1 Agriskills 'Women in the Workplace' 20 graduates, many moving directly into certificate 2 in 2013 or intending to at a future date.
- Certificate 1 Agriskills / General Horticulture evening program. Mid 2012 and second program early 2013. Total of 25 graduates.

- September 2012 Certificate 2 Horticulture, 15 month program, graduation in December 2013. Prospective 19 graduates
- Certificate 2 Horticulture full-time day program, March 2013 to December 2013, prospective 17 graduates.
- Certificate 3 Horticulture full-time day program, March 2013 to December 2013, prospective 11 graduates.
- Certificate 2 Horticulture full-time day program Launceston (Clarendon House), September, 2013 to September 2014, 15 students enrolled.
- Certificate 2 Horticulture full-time day program Huon Valley, September, 2013 to September 2014, 21 students enrolled.
- Certificate 1 Agriskills, Special Disabilities program July 2013, 5 participants, 4 graduates.
- Certificate 1 Agriskills, Smithton, Tasmanian Rural Health. July / August 2013, 15 graduates and 2 Certificates of Participation.
- Pesticide Application Certificates 'ApplyChem' June 2013, 12 graduates

Further discussion with the National Trust to plan for Horticulture student placements on National Trust sites as part of a planned Certificated Horticultural training program in the north of the State. The National Trust can provide classroom space and training sites with supervision.

The recognised training programs have recently received interest from interstate Botanical Gardens also wishing to incorporate the model within their current education and training delivery strategies.

Schools Programs

UTAS student teacher program attended a session run by RTBG support teacher Josie Lim to introduce pre-service science teachers to horticulture, and provide overview to schools programs and how they can then utilise the Gardens as a teaching support and resource

Growing Your Future

Held in April. 150 high school students experienced a day of rural and outdoor industries activities run by 15 different organisations from around Tasmania. A very successful event with excellent feedback from students, teachers and industry. RTBG staff including the Arboricultural team participated in the 'Growing your future' program.

Try A Trade

Nursery staff contributed to information sessions held at Hobart Show and the "Try a Trade" Expo, in conjunction with RTBG Education program.

Schools programs

The core strategy of the RTBG learning programs is to provide continuous learning pathways for all ages with the emphasis on engagement within horticulture, plant sciences and the importance of these for individuals and the broader community. At the same time it also aims to inspire students to recognise horticulture as a first choice career option with diverse specialisations and attractive future opportunities.



A range of practical and guided tour based learning experiences are regularly presented for schools across the state, these are contextualised to meet the individual needs of the schools both on site at the RTBG and through outreach program's offsite The Learning team has also assisted and actively partnered with schools in the delivery of school based education program's including online horticultural learning through state and national projects such as the National Broadband initiative.

Community learning

Down to Earth

These programs encompassed a very popular range of short weekly sessions from backyard composting to soils and potting mixes. Mostly 1 to 1½ hour sessions of up to 30 people per session. These ran throughout the year for 2012.

WaterSense programs

Sponsored by TasWater formally Southern Water. The programs included 18 presentations by Gardening Australia Presenter, Tino Carnevale and the RTBGs Marcus Ragus and ran every month for more than 18 months. Based on water efficient gardening practices they also included comprehensive fact sheet development and video productions, these can be viewed at: www.taswater.com.au/Community---Environment/WaterSense

They have also been presented live at various community events such as the Treadlightly and Spring Festivals. The programs have been enormously popular and received very positive feedback from all that have participated.

Additional community programs

With the advent of the Tasmanian Community Food Garden planning is underway for a new phase of general community learning program's including Veggie Patch Blitz sessions encompassing general interest and skills development

focused on the growing of fresh produce and fresh produce preparation. Additionally planning is underway for the 2013 /14 return of the popular Down to Earth community horticultural sessions.

High needs residents' shared housing program between Newtown Shared House and year 11 Guilford Young students. Provision of horticultural support to establish veggie garden on site.

Partnerships

Feeding the Future project

A second round application of funding (\$200,000) was successful. This will build significantly on the first round achievements. - Feeding the Future was one of the only projects to be mentioned in the final state strategy on Food Security 2012 and beyond.

NBN project 2nd round

Success with new application of \$50,000.00

Strategy 2.2

To communicate the relevance importance and history of the RTBG it's programs, people and context through meaningful and valued interpretation.

RTBG Thematic Interpretation

Early planning for the interpretive elements of the Tasmanian Community Food Garden site, including interpretive information on the site's long history of food cultivation from the 1806 as the site of Hangan's Farm to the present.

Case Study 2:

Food Security and the RTBG



“The basis of all food is plant life and botanical gardens can, and we would argue should, have a significant role in developing better food security for all.”

Food security is a major global concern impacting government policy and, perhaps more significantly, community action.

Tasmania had one of the very first recorded vegetable gardens in Australia, established by the French at Recherche Bay in 1792. It also has the second oldest botanical garden after Sydney with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) becoming established in 1818. Developed on the

site of a farm established in 1806, the RTBG has an unbroken history of fresh produce production on site through to this day. With food insecurity in the general Australian population at more than 5% and more than 10% of the population in low socioeconomic areas there is a significant need for action to address the community need for healthy food. Increasing levels of diabetes and cardiovascular disease have clear links to nutritional inadequacies and the recognition that many basic household food production and preparation skills are not adequately present in our community indicates a clear need for greater community education to allow individuals and communities to build the capacity to improve their own food security situation.

The Tasmanian Community Food Garden (TCFG) is a model community food garden being established by the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens with the support of the Tasmanian Community Food Garden Coalition, a community of organisations that share a similar focus and goals aimed at improving food security for all. The RTBG is a founding member of this coalition, a prime mover in bringing together the membership and the developer of the model garden. The project has initial funding from the Tasmanian Community Fund and contributions from the coalition, the major part of which comes from the RTBG in terms of the in-kind support for the development of the Food Garden.

The TCFG will provide a centre for skills development and inspiration for individuals and communities, essentially establishing a centre of excellence in food production and community engagement. It will provide opportunities to demonstrate design and use of productive plants in creative and innovative ways that are easily replicated within other community sectors. It has been likened to a one-stop-shop for guidance, resourcing, skills development and sharing.

The RTBG sees an obvious need for botanical gardens to play a stronger role in areas of community food security; the development of the Tasmanian Community Food Garden as an integral part of the Gardens will be a clear demonstration of how seriously the Gardens takes this responsibility.

Goal 2

Strategy 2.3

To be a recognized deliverer of quality programs products and services.

Plant Hunter; Treasure Hunter

Plant Hunter; Treasure Hunter is a federally funded project through the Inspiring Australia fund. Its emphasis is on inspiring individuals from the community into the wonders of plant and horticultural sciences. The Plant Hunter Facebook site www.facebook.com/planthuntertreasurehunter continues to build an increasing number of regular followers with quirky quips, quotes and science facts that ensure follower engagement. A new Plant Hunter website will be launched in December 2013 which will provide the base knowledge and activity portal for the Plant Hunter initiative. Plant Hunter will continue to develop as part of the Digital Garden

project throughout 2013 and into 2014. A new website planthunter.com.au will be open from December 2014.

Digital Garden project

This project grant fund valued at close to \$100,000 will provide the technology infrastructure for a new era of learning, interpretation and community engagement in the RTBG. A digital wireless environment throughout a large area of the Gardens will allow individuals and community groups to access innovative learning from outside locations, in the field, via online presentations live over the web and more, through to live 24/7 webcams that can enable the viewer to watch their garden grow.

Strategy 2.4

To position the RTBG as one of the top ten tourist attractions in terms of the number of visits and levels of awareness.

Marketing and Events

The Marketing and Events Unit is responsible for the development and implementation of marketing and communication programs that aim to refocus the image of the RTBG and promote its use to a wider audience.

The Unit is also responsible for event management, sponsorship, grant applications, managing public relations and media for the RTBG, and the maintenance and development of the RTBG online presence including the RTBG website and various social networking sites.

Secondment

During this financial year the RTBG Marketing and Events Officer was seconded to the Communications Branch of DPIPW for five months, February – June 2013. During this time marketing and Events were carried out at the Gardens on a part time basis, equivalent to 2 days per week.

Events Program

Spring Community Festival

The Spring Community Festival has been a community institution for 27 years and continues to attract new visitors to the Gardens. Despite challenging weather, the festival was a great success with visitors taking advantage of a beautiful spring weekend at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) while experiencing the best Tasmania has to offer in food, wine and entertainment.

As well as stunning floral displays, the festival featured an eclectic mix of music and entertainment representing Tasmania's diverse culture. Highlights included the busking competition which thrilled visitors with a mix of bands, jugglers, magicians and much more.



Goal 2

The 2012 festival continued with the theme of introducing a number of well received new innovations including a focus on increasing the number of community groups involved. The RTBG works closely with a number of community groups and to promote these associations. Groups were given the chance to promote themselves and highlight their wonderful achievements. The Busking competition in its third year attracted more than 50 entrants, providing an opportunity for new and developing acts.

As with all festivals at the Gardens, sustainability was a central feature of the festival with stall holders using biodegradable cutlery and crockery with the aim of producing compost not waste. Festival goers are becoming increasingly aware and supportive of the efforts made to reduce, reuse and recycle at all festivals.

As with the Treadlightly Envirofest, festival-goers were also encouraged to use public transport to get a discounted entry.

The Spring Community Festival is well supported by the Friends of the Gardens who staff the entrances and undertake a range of other roles over the two days.

Large scale events such as the 2012 Spring Community Festival are extremely expensive to produce and are only possible due to the valued partnerships with Events Tasmania, PowerCom, Bendigo Bank, Southern Water, Southern Waste Strategy Authority, The Mercury, Southern Cross and Signarama.

TreadLightly EnviroFest

Now in its sixth year TreadLightly Envirofest aims to promote innovation and ideas as well as highlighting what we can all do as individuals and a community to live more sustainably and make a difference to our environment. Despite some major changes the festival continued to grow attracting

more visitors, guest speakers, debates, workshops and entertainment. This year the festival attracted more than 4,000 people on a cooler, wet Tasmanian Autumn Sunday.

This was the second year the festival was held in March, having previously been held on the first Sunday in June, this year it was moved forward to the 21st of April. The plan was to have the festival in more favourable weather, significantly increasing in the number of attendees but maintaining the same core values and messages.

The event was conceived as an opportunity to introduce the community to the full diversity of sustainability issues and solutions through interactive and engaging activities and displays.

The key features in 2013 were:

- Tino Carnevale interactive workshop
- Gardens workshops

- RTBG Autumn plant sale
- Numerous community groups displaying farm animals, native animal rescuers, and fun and games for the kids

TreadLightly EnviroFest demonstrates Tasmania's commitment to the environment and our desire to learn more about clean green options. 2013 was the second year the festival was hosted entirely by the RTBG, having previously worked in partnership with the Environment Protection Authority.

More than 50 speakers and exhibitors, including gardening-guru Tino Carnevale and local garden writer Paul Healy all presented talks and workshops much to the delight of festival goers.

Importantly the festival walked the talk with 100's of Tasmanians walking or riding to the Botanical Gardens and receiving discounted entry as a result.



RTBG Cultural Program

As You Like It

Directions Theatre has been performing Shakespeare's classics in the Gardens since 1998. Originally formed to provide an opportunity for local actors and theatre workers to produce quality productions, this annual event now attracts a loyal following. In 2013 Directions Theatre proudly produced "As You Like It".

The Gallopers Carousel

The Gallopers Carousel ceased operation in May 2013.

Tatton@RTBG / Ten Days on The Island

On display for a year from March 2013 Tatton@RTBG is an exhibition of new sculptural works by the internationally recognised Tasmanian sculptor Marcus Tatton. The exhibition was curated and supported by Ten Days on the Island as an extension of their 2013 program.

Consisting of eight works placed throughout the Gardens this exhibition is designed to be challenging while blending with the garden setting.

The Sculptor worked closely with Engineers and Gardens staff in particular the Arboricultural team to ensure that all the works were safe for the public and the collections.

Treasure Island

Big Monkey's annual production in the Gardens regularly attracts in excess of 10,000 visitors to the Gardens. This year was no exception with the program divided between a fully booked schools program and a season for families and adults. This year's play Minotaur Quest was an original written and directed by Garden's staff member Les Winspear.

Community Events

Teddy Bears Picnic

More than 2,300 people (and their bears) made the 2012 Teddy Bears Picnic the biggest yet. Organised by Play Group Tasmania South, this iconic event has been growing in popularity for more than 20 years.

The free event is part of children's week celebrations and is a great way for the RTBG to connect with the next generations.

Charity Functions

Easter Egg Hunt and Family Picnic

In 2013, the Gardens hosted Tasmania's biggest Easter Egg Hunt to raise money for the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation. Attracting more than 4,000, this event created a magical world of chocolate and adventure.

Made possible through the generous partnerships with some of Tasmania's iconic brands, the egg hunt was open to children aged 3 - 12 years with families encouraged to bring a picnic. Reports show the day raised more than \$20,000 for the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation.

Cancer Council

Once again the Gardens supported several charities during the year hosting the Cancer Councils Australia's Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser at the Botanical Gardens Restaurant.



Red Cross Blood Service

Red Cross is another charity that the Gardens have supported through our festival and events program. The Red Cross are invited to attend various festivals including the Spring Community Festival and TreadLightly EnviroFest.

Strategy 2.5

To develop the built environment to facilitate the experience of the Gardens

Reading Room initiative

The Burrow Reading Room Initiative - The Burrow was officially launched by His Excellency the Governor on the 3rd of October. The facility has received positive response to date and ongoing refinement of the project will continue over coming months.

Fuchsia House

Completion of the redesigned Fuchsia House - this structure will provide additional all weather commercial function and event space for larger groups.

Skills Tasmania, Industry Skills Centre Tender.

The RTBG was successful with a \$390,000 grant to progress a multi-use skills and learning centre (The Living / Learning Centre). The facility is strongly connected to the Tasmanian Community Food Garden and will provide both informal and nationally recognised vocational training opportunities into the future.

RTBG staff are working with Hobart City Council Architects to refine and finalise the design for the Living / Learning Centre.

To temporarily house the Education Programs work commenced on plans to adapt the Visitor Centre exhibition space. In conjunction with this alterations are underway to expand shop space.

Goal 2



Voice Over Internet Protocols (VOIP)

Supported by DPIPWE new VOIP infrastructure was installed in readiness for a Whole of Government change to this contemporary communication platform.

Easy Access

Installed tactile pavers along the Easy Access path to assist visually impaired visitors.

Digital Garden project

Early planning for the installation of infrastructure to provide a digital wireless environment throughout a large area of the Gardens.

Visitor Information Studio

Strategy to encourage entry by gold coin donation has proven to be very successful after the first full year of operation with an increase in donation revenue of over 250% for the period.

Access

Discussion with HCC in regard to all day parking 'creep' and the impact on the RTBG especially during weekday events and busy periods – the proposed solution is to signpost the RTBGs car parking spaces as 6 hour maximum stay.

The Draft Queens Domain Management Plan includes all the major suggestions from the RTBG's Strategic Master Plan in relation to wayfinding and access.

Work soon to commence on the pedestrian railway crossing to connect the foreshore walking tracks.

Sustainability

Water use

RTBG staff continue to set challenging water targets to reduce over all water use. Setting 'whole year' consumption targets allows staff to balance water use requirements and practices over the course of a year.

Power Consumption

Work continued on the roll out of automatic off switches on lights and heaters.

The Gardens internal service vehicles are gradually being replaced with electric vehicles.

Recycling

The estate team continued work to improve the RTBG's composting and recycling processes.

Maintenance

Work on an efficient on line maintenance plan is currently in the early stages. With an initial early focus on the conservation and management of the Gardens heritage infrastructure.

Continued regular up keep of the Gardens aging irrigation and plumbing infrastructure.



Goal 3

To ensure there is sufficient capacity to sustainably manage the RTBG.

To ensure the RTBG is able to meet its responsibilities into the future it is essential that a clear focus is maintained on issues such as financial diversification, risk management, human resource development and technological capability to guarantee the long term sustainability of business operations at the RTBG.

Goal 3

Strategy 3.1

To ensure that the legislative requirements for the operations of the Gardens are efficiently met.

Planning

- Continued work on the development of the Gardens Living Collections Plan.
- Early planning for the development of a 5 year Business Plan for the Gardens with yearly targets.

Strategy 3.2

To ensure the funding available to the Gardens is adequate to realise its vision and mission.

Future Funding

A report was prepared to give the RTBG direction in regard to seeking Bequests/ Sponsorship and Philanthropic contributions.

Commercial initiatives

We continued to expand our Arboricultural Consultancy Service this year generating \$95,327, including external technical activities that contributed an additional \$24,070 in fees. In total, the Arboriculture team serviced 145 requests for arboricultural advice or technical assistance.

A major focus of the Arbor team is with local government tree managers at all the regional councils. Including a street tree risk assessment trial for the Hobart City Council with the potential for future work undertaking risk assessment for all street and park trees managed by HCC.

The Friends Plant Sale

The 2012 plant sale with its focus on heirloom tomatoes saw a significant increase in numbers of this already very popular sale. Long queues of very patient gardeners provided us with a challenging logistical problem creating the need for staff to develop new plans to manage the anticipated spring 2013 numbers.

Botanical Gardens Restaurant

The past year has seen continued growth in the catering and function arms of the business with the finalisation of a functions package and the refinement of functions decor.

The daytime operational style of the restaurant was reviewed to determine the most appropriate business model to best meet the needs of Gardens visitors. The review has resulted in a move away from fine dining during the day to a more relaxed approach. A new menu featuring fresh quality dishes utilising Gardens produce where possible has been adopted.

Botanical Shop

The year saw a major re-orientation of retail merchandise to reflect the Gardens activities, collections and themes. New display stands were constructed to enable products to be merchandised in thematic displays throughout the shop, thereby emphasising the RTBG's key areas of focus.

A commercial logo depicting the leaf of the *Nothofagus gunnii* was developed to enable a range of branded souvenir merchandise to be developed. Other branded merchandise developed during the year includes:

- A range of stationery, shopping bags and giftware featuring the work of Tasmanian Artist, Sylvie Gerozisis.
- A character logo featuring the Eastern Banjo (Pobblebonk) Frog for a range of children's branded merchandise.
- A range of haberdashery featuring images and quotes from the RTBG's historical book archives.

Donations

2012/13 saw the first full financial year's operations of the studio facility located at the main gate and the gold coin entry donation. Visitor services volunteers meet and greet visitors and provide an information service. The service is highly valued by visitors and visitors report that the service enhances their Gardens

experience. The gold coin entry donation has resulted in a 495% increase in gate donations in 2012/13 compared to 2010/11.

Grants and Sponsorship

The RTBG has been successful in securing significant grant and sponsorship for a variety of Learning & Community Engagement projects and events during the year. In total grants in excess of \$706,000 were secured to assist in the development and delivery of a range of initiatives including the construction of the Tasmanian Community Food Garden and the construction of a new Living Learning Centre.

In addition, approximately \$120,000 has been secured by Collections & Research staff for a variety of botanical and horticultural research projects during the year.

Strategy 3.3

To deliver innovative, proactive and sustainable business practices to support and enhance RTBG programs.

Workplace Health & Safety

The RTBG Workplace Health & Safety Committee met on a bi-monthly basis throughout the year and in the intervening months continued its rolling program of workplace area inspections.

The RTBG staff, student and volunteer induction kits were reviewed and updated, including revised and additional WHS information.

Warden training was organised for new staff appointed to the role and first aid training was held for new staff and those staff whose qualification had expired.

As a result of incidents, RTBG policies and procedures have been reviewed and revised in relation to:

- Wheelchair loans;
- Digging in hard ground;

- Working with cacti and euphorbia plants, and
- Manual handling tasks.

Financial Diversification

During the year the RTBG has continued to develop new and innovative initiatives aimed at further enhancing commercial revenue streams including the development and marketing of a range of Gardens retail merchandise, expansion of commercial learning and outreach programs, development of additional function and event hire spaces, further development of botanical consultancy services, expansion of RTBG Plant Sales and enhanced services aimed at increasing visitor donation revenue.

June Flood

On 12 June 2013, the RTBG's Visitor Centre was flooded by vandals. Water inundated the foyer, shop, gallery and training room and also flooded the library on the lower level.

The most significant damage was sustained in the shop and the library with most of the shop's book stock damaged. A significant number of library books were unable to be salvaged. Irreplaceable books and those of most historical significance have been taken to the Queen Victoria Museum in Launceston for restoration through freeze drying.

The total claim under the RTBG's Industrial Special Risks insurance policy amounted to \$42,854.

Strategy 3.4

To provide a safe and enriching work and social environment for staff, stakeholders and visitors.

The Gardens plays a vital role in the health and wellbeing of the community, providing a safe place of sanctuary and opportunities for visitors to relax and enjoy the natural environment.

The RTBG recognizes the values of its employees and is committed to providing a safe working environment and a wide range of personal and professional development opportunities that will benefit both the individual and the future of the organisation.

Work has commenced on reviewing both volunteer and staff induction kits to ensure the information content is in line with the new Workplace Health and Safety legislation which came into effect 1 January 2013.

Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

During 2012 - 2013 the Friends of the Gardens continued in their tireless efforts to support the Gardens, providing volunteer time to a diverse range of projects.

This dedicated group of individuals assists the Gardens in providing a range of services that would otherwise not be possible. Each year the Friends raise funds for various projects, many of which would not be possible without this funding. In 2012 - 2013, the Friends donated \$40,000 towards the purchase of a new chiller unit and water cooling tower for the Subantarctic Plant House.

Volunteerism

The work undertaken by the volunteers is invaluable to the Gardens, and this year a total of over 8500 hours were volunteered.

There are currently 9 volunteer streams operating at the RTBG - Visitor Information Studio, Easy Access Tours, Tour Guiding, Friends Cottage, Growing Group, Heritage Library, Education Assistance, Seed Bank and Orchid Research Program. Volunteers also provided assistance at the Spring Community Festival and the Treadlighty EnviroFest.

Professional Development

RTBG staff engaged in a variety of professional development programs throughout the year, with delegates



attending a variety of conferences, workshops and professional development and compliance training.

RTBG Staff received in-house Chemical Usage Training.

Estate Team

The Estate Team assisted by Corrective Services inmates works to ensure the gardens is maintained to the highest standards. The Estate Team has responsibility for:

- The RTBG's Domain highway edge and Lower Domain Road edges including weeding, slashing and regular rubbish patrols.
- Programmed management of the Gardens Foreshore and Pavilion Point sites, including the cultivation of material for a future plant out of *Bursaria spinosa*.
- Assistance in relation the clean up work on the Bridge to Slipyard rehabilitation project

The Team Leader - Estate successfully negotiated to increase the potential total number of inmates up to 7 from the previous 5. This allows for two inmates to be regularly placed in the Asset Maintenance area.

Five additional staff were trained to supervise inmates in the absence of the Team Leader - Estate which provides the capacity to cover rostered days off, annual leave and specific projects.

Case Study 3:

Social Media – Taking the Gardens Beyond Our Gates

Social media allows the RTBG to engage with the community on a level that builds and maintains long-term interaction and understanding even when our audience is not physically onsite.

Used effectively this new medium provides an excellent opportunity for the Gardens to influence perceptions of our special values well beyond the Garden gates.

Like any form of communication, this medium should be approached strategically. In planning a social media strategy the RTBG focused on consistent delivery and messages that reflect the values we want to communicate. We considered what each social networking site offered and how this could be utilised effectively to achieve the goals of the RTBG. As a result of this the RTBG are currently using Facebook, Flickr, QR codes and Apps. Two significant social media connections are Facebook and Flickr

Facebook - We use Facebook to encourage community interaction based around the RTBG. This is more than a two-way interaction as users regularly communicate with each other on our site and not directly with the RTBG. Our Facebook site plays an important role as our social interface with more than 10,000 users visiting the site on a weekly basis.

Flickr - Flickr is an image and Video hosting website and online community platform. Its popularity has been fuelled by its organisational tools, which allow photos to be tagged, searched and browsed.

The RTBG joined Flickr in June 2008, using it initially as a way to store and manage our growing digital image files. We soon realised that it had the potential to become much more than the image storage site we originally planned. We constantly share our images with our colleagues, scientists, our visitors and our community.

While the RTBG has not changed as a venue, and has not suddenly started doing more research on-site or hosting more cultural events, what we have achieved through social media is a greater number of people with a greater level of understanding of what we are doing simply by providing new ways of interacting with our Garden.

RTBG Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Royal-Tasmanian-Botanical-Gardens-RTBG/97475811108?hc_location=stream

RTBG Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/rtbg/

Tasmanian Community Food Garden: www.facebook.com/TasmanianCommunityFoodGarden

Feeding the Future: www.facebook.com/TasmaniaFeedingTheFuture

RTBG Heirloom Tomatoes: www.facebook.com/RtbgHeirloomTomatoes?fref=ts

Plant Hunter: www.planthunter.com.au

Sponsorship and Donations

Tree Sponsorship Program

Tree sponsorship continued enabling valuable ongoing work to prevent the spread of diseases and maintain the trees in the Gardens. Exclusive sponsorship of significant trees in the Gardens is acknowledged with a plaque on the tree detailing the name of the sponsor.

The 2012-2013 Tree sponsors were:

S Cooper, G & I Fulton	\$1,200	Spotted Gum
Tony James & Stephanie Auchincloss	\$ 1,000	Golden Elm
Diane Matthews	\$1,000	Southern Magnolia
L. Ayers & A. Geard on behalf of A & H McCarthy	\$500	Dawn Redwood
William Heap	\$250	Ash Tree
Total	\$3,950	

Friends of the Gardens

Friends of the Gardens	\$40,000	Subantarctic Plant House Project
Total	\$40,000	

Mixed Border Garden

Sarah McCure	\$ 500	'Pierre de Ronsard' Tripod
David & Peter Woodward	\$500	'Dublin Bay' Tripod
Amanda Rossi	\$200	'Fantin Latour'
Mixed Border Donations	\$2,052	
Total	\$3252	

Community Sponsorship and Grants

Skills Tasmania	\$386,100	Living Learning Centre Project
Tasmanian Community Fund	\$208,560	TCFG Grant
National Heritage Trust	\$55,000	Alpine Project Grant
GlobalNet ICT	\$51,370	IT Project Grant
SEWPAC / Australian Seed Bank Partnershi	\$16,500	Pytophthora cinnamomi Project
Southern Water	\$16,500	WaterSense Project
The Hermon Slade Foundation	\$14,300	Orchid Project – Dr Nigel Swarts
Hobart City Council	\$11,363	Annual Grant
Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife	\$11,203	Azorella Project Grant
Council of Heads of Australian Botanical Gardens / Australian Seed Bank Partnership	\$ 8,800	Miena Cider Gum Project
Dept of Employment, Education & Workplace Relations	\$6,000	Horticulture Employability Skills Course
Tasmanian Orchid Society	\$1,000	Growing Orchids Project
Total	\$786,696	

General Sponsors

Amanda Kurowski	\$4,000	Memorial Seat
Cherie Howell	\$4,000	Memorial Seat
Les & Shirley Harris	\$3,000	Memorial Seat
Gillian Rea	\$1,000	General Donation
Bill & Kate Guy	\$500	Azorella Appeal
Wyn & Rupert Manners	\$500	Seed Bank
M & G Miller	\$250	General Donation
Wendy Whitham	\$250	General Donation
Margaret Hawkins	\$200	Azorella Appeal
D J Mailer	\$200	Azorella Appeal
Helen Male	\$200	General Donation
Susan Fredrickson	\$100	Azorella Appeal
Rebecca Round	\$100	General Donation
Christine Wilson	\$100	Azorella Appeal
T & S Kappler	\$100	General Donation
D & B Chamberlen	\$100	General Donation
Heritage Roses in Aus Inc	\$100	General Donation
Dr Clare Roberts	\$100	General Donation
George Lewin	\$60	General Donation
Claremont Flower Show Group Inc	\$60	General Donation
Mary Warner	\$50	Azorella Appeal
Fran & Bill Peterie	\$50	Azorella Appeal
Kathrine Stanley	\$50	Azorella Appeal
Mt Carmel College	\$25	General Donation
Betty Jones	\$20	General Donation
Betty Jones	\$10	General Donation
Total	\$15,125	

Community Event Sponsorship

Spring Festival 2012

PowerCom	\$6,600
Southern Water	\$4,400
Bendigo Bank	\$3,300
NRM South	\$3,300
Southern Waste Strategy	\$1,100

Treadlightly Envirofest 2013

PowerCom	\$6,600
Southern Water	\$4,400
Dept of Economic Development	\$3,300
Bendigo Bank	\$2,200
NRM South	\$2,200
Southern Waste Strategy	\$550

Total **\$37,950**

Our Partnerships at Work

The RTBG actively seeks opportunities to develop mutually beneficial partnerships to achieve its goals. Two particularly interesting partnership projects are outlined in the brief case studies below:

Case Study 1:

A combined effort to restore a riparian remnant

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, the Friends of the Gardens, the City of Hobart's Bushcare Program and the Southern Coastcare Association of Tasmania joined forces to restore a section of the Derwent foreshore between the Tasman Bridge and the City of Hobart.

The work is being funded through a Caring for our Country Community Action grant auspiced by the Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens and includes significant weed removal works targeting woody weeds and Blackberry, followed by plantings of local provenance riparian flora.

As much of Hobart's foreshore has been developed, this site is significant as one of the few remaining areas of remnant, native vegetation close to the city.

The long-term intention of the project is to engage volunteers from the community to play a custodial role in helping to restore the natural values of this area through on-going bush regeneration activities. This will build upon the work already undertaken by the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens at Pavilion Point and the Cornelian Bay Bushcare Group at Cornelian Bay to the north of the site.

The practice of pooling resources to get the job done has been remarkably effective, for example, the laborious task of hauling large amounts of woody weed material up steep slopes to collection points was carried out by both the RTBG Estate team and Hobart City Council Bushland crew, working together on designated days.

A Community Planting day held in early June would not have been possible without the sharing of valuable resources of all the project partners. Tasks ranging from promoting the event, applying for relevant permits and organising VIP attendance to supplying refreshments for volunteers, could only have happened as the result of a collective effort.

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens has a strong connection to the River and the foreshore, and it is very rewarding to be working with our partners and other members of the community to help rehabilitate this highly visible section of the Rivers edge.

Case Study 2:

A partnership creates a unique learning opportunity

This partnership between the RTBG's Learning and community unit, our training organisation partners Globalnet Academy and the National Trust Tasmania, provides unique vocational training opportunities in heritage sites in the North of the State. Based in two of Northern Tasmania's significant heritage estates, Clarendon House and Franklin House, the 30 week, Certificate Two program promises to provide an incredible learning opportunity for students wishing to study horticulture and practically apply their skills throughout the year of the course duration.

The RTBG would like to acknowledge the generous assistance of government, industry and community partners who continue to provide invaluable financial and non-financial support to the Gardens.

Public Donations

The RTBG recognises the importance of access to the Gardens to the Tasmanian community. The degree of ongoing community support is evident in the level of donations made at various collection points located throughout the RTBG and through sponsorship programs for roses, memorial seats and trees.

Project Partnerships

In addition to the many anonymous public donors the RTBG also wishes to thank the following organisations and individuals for their support and collaboration with the following projects:

The Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

The Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens continue to provide invaluable support through 2012-2013 in areas as diverse as volunteerism, library donations, and financial support. We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of this dedicated group of individuals. Of particular significance was the Friends' continued financial support toward the completion of the former Fuchsia House and a very generous donation to support the purchase of a new cooling unit for the Subantarctic Plant House.

The Australian Seed Bank Partnership, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, UK, (ASBP) TMAG Herbarium, DPIPWE Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre (TSCC) Project

RTBG wishes to recognise and thank our Joint partners in this major conservation initiative. In particular we wish to recognise the contribution of RBG Kew, not just for the provision of initial funding for the project, but also for their ongoing

invaluable technical and scientific support at every stage of the project. The support of the Australian Seed Bank Partnership and our colleagues in the partnership has been critical to the TSCC's on-going operations. The development of the TSCC provides a critical "insurance policy" for Tasmanian flora into the future.

Hobart City Council - Annual Grant Program

Hobart City Council continued to provide valuable support both financially and in kind to assist various RTBG projects by way of its annual grant.

Department of Justice - Corrective Services Labour and Training Program

The long-standing Corrective Services labour and training partnership program between RTBG and the Department of Justice continued to provide valuable underpinning horticultural maintenance support work to the Gardens, while providing important educational and re-socialisation opportunities for minimum security inmates.

Learning and Community Engagement Initiatives

The RTBG wishes to acknowledge the invaluable support of a diverse range of partners in developing and delivering a variety of learning and community engagement programs and projects throughout the year. These partners include; GlobalNet Academy, Grosvenor Consultants: School to Work Consultants to Independent Schools Tasmania, Salvation Army, SecondBite, Relationships Australia, ABLE Australia, Aboriginal Health Service, North Western Tasmania Tasmanian Ufe Long Learning Inc., Tasmanian Association of Community Houses (TACH), UTAs, Southern Coastcare Association Tasmania (SCAT), Coast Care Australian Seed Bank Partnership (ASBP), NRM South, Botanic Gardens Australia New Zealand (BGANZ), Tasmanian Community Fund, Bendigo Bank, and Southern Water.



The Gardens' diverse events program would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and partners. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Events Tasmania, NRM South, Southern Waste Strategy, Southern Water, PowerCom, Bendigo Bank, 936 ABC Radio, The Mercury, Southern Cross Television, Cascade, Hobart City Council, Rethink, Signarama, Dogs Home of Tasmania, Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Landcare Tasmania, Understorey Network, Blooming Tasmania, Red Cross Blood Service, Parkinson Tasmania, Playgroup Tasmania, and Disability Services Tasmania.

Staff List as at 30 June 2013

EXECUTIVE

Acting Director

Mark Fountain

BUSINESS SERVICES

Manager Business Services

Anne Suter

Business Services Trainees

Stephanie Stacey

Christine Santi

Jessica Mullock

VISITOR SERVICES

Retail Shop Coordinator

Yvette Rance

Visitor Services Officer

Les Winspear

Retail Shop Trainees

Kelly McGann

Emily Harvey

CATERING AND RESTAURANT

Restaurant Supervisor

Shane Pearl

Cook

Anna Cairns

Apprentice Chef

Douglas McDonald

Food & Beverage Assistants

Michelle Kastineris

Trainees

Tiffany Berry (Restaurant & Kiosk)

Emily Harvey (Restaurant)

Phoebe Hortle (Kiosk)

COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH

Horticultural Coordinator

David Reid

BOTANICAL ESTATE

Team Leaders

David Marrison (Northern Team)

Anne Griffin (Eastern Team)

James Young (Estate)

Curators

Chris Lang

Lorraine Perrins

Horticulturists

David Eaves

Adam Lancaster

Kenneth Littler

Megan Marrison

Jeremy Patterson

Kathryn Saunders

Margot White

Trainee Horticulturists

Anna Johnstone

Patrick Fletcher

Estate Assistant

Jeremy Robinson

ABORICULTURE

Manager Arbor

Jerry Romanski

Co-ordinator Arbor

Alister Hodgman

BOTANICAL RESOURCES

Horticultural Botanist

Natalie Tapson

Archival Assistant

Michael Lowe

SEEDBANK

Seedbank Co-ordinator

James Wood

PROJECTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Deputy Director

Brett Richardson

Maintenance Co-ordinator

Don Heazlewood

Utility Officer

Robert Miller

Landscaping Apprentice

Scott Killingback

CLEANING SERVICES

Antony Moroni

Stephen Ross

MARKETING & EVENTS

Marketing & Events Officer

Ben Davidson

LEARNING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Manager Learning & Community Engagement

Marcus Ragus

External Representation / External Media, Presentations and Publications

Ben Davidson

Publications, Presentations, Media:

- Social Media – Taking Botanic Gardens beyond their gates (Ben Davidson / Mark Fountain / Marcus Ragus / Jane Grosvenor) For the Botanical Gardens Australia New Zealand (BGANZ) newsletter.
- A number of print and radio interviews

Representation:

- Blooming Tasmania – Board of Directors / Marketing

Mark Fountain

Publications, Presentations, Media

- Partnerships Work (David Reid, Mark Fountain and Marcus Ragus) For the Botanical Gardens Australia New Zealand (BGANZ) newsletter.
- Social Media – Taking Botanic Gardens beyond their gates (Ben Davidson / Mark Fountain / Marcus Ragus / Jane Grosvenor) For the Botanical Gardens Australia New Zealand (BGANZ) newsletter.
- The Tasmanian Community Food Garden - A new project and part of an historic continuum (Mark Fountain) For FAGUS, the Friends of the Botanical Gardens Newsletter.
- Numerous presentations to special interest groups, business and industry.
- Various print, TV and radio interviews

Representation:

- Council of Heads of Australian Botanical Gardens
- Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand Newsletter - Editorial Committee
- Queens Domain Advisory Committee – member
- Tasmanian Flora Advisory Network – member
- Australian Cultivar Registration Authority – member

Alister Hodgman

Publications, Presentations, Media:

- Coordinator Arbor was interviewed for an article on Elm leaf beetle and the threat to elms for Tas Regions magazine and The Mercury.

Representation:

- Tasmanian Association of Arboriculture - Vice Chair, and later acting Chair

Megan Marrison

Publications, Presentations, Media

- Contributed to the publication of 'Integrated conservation of tree species by botanic gardens – a reference manual' by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)
- RTBG staff and Friends of the Gardens volunteers provided delegates from The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) 32nd Conference held in Hobart in October 2012 with tours of the Subantarctic Island Display House.

Lorraine Perrins

Publications, Presentations, Media

- Conducted interpretive tour of the RTBG Conservation Collections and Nursery for local Probus group.
- Contributed articles in the Fagus magazine, RTBG facebook page and Australian Plants Society Journal.
- Provided information relating to the Subantarctic House and Azorella macquariensis program, and participated in the filming for the proposed RTBG documentary by Keith Diamond.

Marcus Ragus

Publications, Presentations, Media

- Growing people - The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (Jane Grosvenor, Marcus Ragus) For the Botanical Gardens Australia New Zealand (BGANZ) newsletter.
- Social Media – Taking Botanic Gardens beyond their gates (Ben Davidson / Mark Fountain / Marcus Ragus / Jane Grosvenor) For the Botanical Gardens Australia New Zealand (BGANZ) newsletter.
- Partnerships Work (David Reid, Mark Fountain and Marcus Ragus) For the Botanical Gardens Australia New Zealand (BGANZ) newsletter.
- The Tasmanian Community Food Garden (Marcus Ragus, David Reid and Jane Grosvenor) For BG Journal, the Journal of Botanic Gardens Conservation International, (Volume 10 • Number 2 • July 2013). The theme of this edition was Botanic Gardens and Food Security.
- E-learning for Participation and Skills Conference / Melbourne July 2013. NBN project presentations.
- IVETA Conference Melbourne, August 14, 2013, conference paper: Connecting People, Connecting Places.
- BGCI & BGANZ combined Conference 2013, Dunedin New Zealand. Two papers accepted.

David Reid

Publications, Presentations, Media

- The Tasmanian Community Food Garden (Marcus Ragus, David Reid and Jane Grosvenor) For BG Journal, the Journal of Botanic Gardens Conservation International, (Volume 10 • Number 2 • July 2013). The theme of this edition was Botanic Gardens and Food Security.
- Partnerships Work (David Reid, Mark Fountain and Marcus Ragus) For the Botanical Gardens Australia New Zealand (BGANZ) newsletter.

Jerry Romanski

Publications, Presentations, Media

- Manager Arboriculture was interviewed on ABC radio on the subject of Elm Leaf Beetle.

Representation

- Tasmanian Association of Arboriculture - general committee member

Natalie Tapson

Publications, Presentations, Media

- Presented a lecture on the RTBG's Azorella program whilst holidaying aboard the Antarctic cruise vessel to raise awareness of this important conservation project.
- Numerous presentations to special interest groups.

Representation

- Botanic Gardens Infomatics Working Group
- Azorella Dieback Technical Group

James Wood

Publications, Presentations, Media

- Joint presentation at the ANPC conference (November 2012) with Dr Gemma Hoyle on germination testing.
- Presentation on the seed bank program to the Retired Teachers Association.
- Attended ASBP meeting in November 2012.
- Attended special ASBP meeting in December 2012 to discuss the Knowledge Hub.
- Secondment - June 2013 spent one week working at the NSW seedbank undertaking database consultancy.
- Banking on the Future of Our Biodiversity (James Wood, Mark Fountain) Tasmanian Regions magazine.
- Ministerial visit to the Seedbank - press (TV and Radio)

Representation

- Australian Seed Bank Partnership – Steering Committee Member.

Financial Statements

Year Ended 30 June 2013

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Independent Auditor's Report

To Members of the Parliament of Tasmania

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2013

I have audited the accompanying financial report of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (the Authority), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013 and the statements of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by the Chairman of the Board.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion the Authority's financial report:

- (a) presents fairly, in all material respects, its financial position as at 30 June 2013 and its financial performance, cash flows and changes in equity for the year then ended; and
- (b) is in accordance with the Section 16 of the *Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Act 2002* and Australian Accounting Standards.

The Responsibility of the Members of the Board for the Financial Report

The Members of the Board are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Section 16 of the *Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Act 2002*. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based upon my audit. My audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement.

...1 of 2



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

Independence

In conducting this audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements. The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General, and
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of State Entities but precluding the provision of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Tasmanian Audit Office are not compromised in their role by the possibility of losing clients or income.

Tasmanian Audit Office



Jara K Dean
General Manager Financial Audit Services
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Hobart
4 October 2013

...2 of 2



ROYAL TASMANIAN BOTANICAL GARDENS BOARD OF MANAGEMENT DECLARATION

The Financial Statements of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens was prepared in accordance with the *Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Act 2002*, relevant Australian Accounting Standards including Australian Accounting Interpretations and other mandatory professional reporting requirements. In the opinion of the members of the Board of Management responsible for its operations during the reporting year:

(a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and

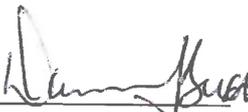
(b) the Financial Statements and notes thereto are in accordance with the *Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Act 2002*, including compliance with relevant Australian Accounting Standards and presenting fairly the financial position as at 30 June 2013, and performance for the year then ended.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Management.

Dated this the 30th day of August 2013

On behalf of the Board

Signed:



D Bugg (Chairman)

Signed:



M Fountain (Acting Director)

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
REVENUES			
<i>STATE GOVERNMENT GRANTS</i>			
Recurrent		2,460,000	2,438,000
Other Grants		-	336,877
Skills Tasmania Living Learning Centre Project		351,000	-
		<u>2,811,000</u>	<u>2,774,877</u>
<i>OTHER GRANTS</i>			
Hobart City Council		10,330	21,127
Inspiring Australia Grant		-	20,000
BGANZ Grant		-	1,800
Azorella Research Project		12,403	11,648
TCF - Tasmanian Community Food Garden		189,600	-
CFC Alpine Project		50,000	-
MSB Miena Cider Gum		8,000	-
ASBP Phytophthora cinnamomi Project		15,000	-
Hermon Slade Foundation Orchid Research		13,000	-
Southern Water WaterSense Project		15,000	-
IT Equipment Project		46,700	-
DEEWR Employability Skills Project		6,000	-
		<u>366,033</u>	<u>54,575</u>
<i>RTBG GENERATED INCOME</i>			
Botanical Shop Sales		278,034	264,528
Restaurant Sales		973,456	943,866
Interest		66,435	74,802
Reimbursements		29,805	27,039
Theatre		12,212	6,112
Donations/Sponsorship		128,172	105,973
Mixed Border Project		2,052	1,406
Venue Hire, Education, Site Hire, Minor Sales		113,351	148,505
Gain on Sale of Assets	7b	-	-
Spring Festival		56,094	38,227
Sustainability Festival		25,231	24,382
Concert Events		-	17,108
Other Events		-	-
Consultancy Work		102,727	89,482
Friends of The Gardens Sales & Reimbursements		55,181	31,705
		<u>1,842,750</u>	<u>1,773,135</u>
TOTAL REVENUE		<u>5,019,783</u>	<u>4,602,587</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Comprehensive Expenses for the Year Ended 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
EXPENSES			
Botanical Shop Expenses & Cost of Goods Sold		257,891	255,130
Restaurant Expenses & Cost of Goods Sold		964,971	897,760
Collections & Research		1,432,141	1,576,290
Public Programs & Operations		537,564	695,289
Interpretation Expenses		257	9,274
Marketing & Events		126,115	182,262
Education		104,008	113,543
Business Operations		622,012	655,072
Depreciation		423,743	498,159
Friends of the Gardens Reimbursements & Purchases		48,721	32,248
Other Projects Supported by Industry		221,912	83,875
Arbor Consultancies		101,870	104,897
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>4,841,205</u>	<u>5,103,799</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		<u>178,578</u>	<u>(501,212)</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss			
Changes in Asset Revaluation Reserve	7a	(2,569,764)	(90,997)
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT		<u><u>(2,391,186)</u></u>	<u><u>(592,209)</u></u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	10	717,299	288,534
Trade and Other Receivables	4	100,447	74,795
Inventories	5	95,840	93,766
Other Current Assets	6	-	3,000
		<u>913,586</u>	<u>460,095</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Infrastructure & Equipment	7	11,729,522	14,695,444
		<u>11,729,522</u>	<u>14,695,444</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>12,643,108</u>	<u>15,155,539</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	8	183,455	204,840
Provisions	9	252,389	364,383
		<u>435,844</u>	<u>569,223</u>
NON - CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	9	189,432	177,298
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>625,276</u>	<u>746,521</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>12,017,832</u>	<u>14,409,018</u>
<i>Represented by:</i>			
EQUITY			
Retained Profits		154,370	(24,208)
Reserves	19	11,863,462	14,433,226
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>12,017,832</u>	<u>14,409,018</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities			
Grants received		3,240,926	2,833,565
Donations received		128,172	105,973
Receipts from sales		2,033,203	1,712,425
Payments to suppliers and employees		(5,012,174)	(4,699,116)
Interest received		66,223	74,197
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	17	<u>456,350</u>	<u>27,044</u>
Cash Flow from Investing Activities			
Payments for non current assets		(27,584)	(50,010)
Net cash used by investing activities		<u>(27,584)</u>	<u>(50,010)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		428,766	(22,966)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		288,534	311,500
Cash at the end of the financial year	10	<u>717,300</u>	<u>288,534</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2013

	Note	Retained Earnings \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 30 June 2011		477,004	14,524,223	15,001,227
Changes:				
Total Comprehensive Result		(501,212)	(90,997)	(592,209)
Balance at 30 June 2012	19	<u>(24,208)</u>	<u>14,433,226</u>	<u>14,409,018</u>
Changes:				
Total Comprehensive Result		178,578	(2,569,764)	(2,391,186)
Balance at 30 June 2013	19	<u>154,370</u>	<u>11,863,462</u>	<u>12,017,832</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The following explains the significant accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of the financial report of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens ('RTBG').

Objectives and Funding

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) is a State Government statutory organisation, governed by the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Act 2002 and is administered by the Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and the Environment (DPIPWE). The seven-member RTBG Board is appointed by, and reports to, the Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage. The Board is responsible for managing, conserving and enhancing the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in accordance with the Act.

The RTBG is Tasmania's only botanical gardens and is custodian of the state's botanical collections. In addition to responsibility for the management of Tasmania's botanical collections and associated functions, the Gardens is responsible for the development and delivery of horticultural and botanical based community education and learning programmes, the provision of visitor facilities and services, the development and delivery of innovative and engaging interpretation and information services, and the conservation and presentation of the significant built and cultural heritage of the site in accordance with the RTBG Strategic Master Plan 2009-2029.

An annual appropriation is received through DPIPWE accounting for 49% of the Garden's income with the remaining funds being generated through RTBG programs and initiatives.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are a general purpose financial report and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Act 2002, and Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

The financial report has also been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

Compliance with the Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) may not result in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards, as the AAS include requirements and options available to not-for-profit organisations that are inconsistent with IFRS. The RTBG is considered to be not-for-profit and has adopted some accounting policies under the AAS that do not comply with IFRS.

The Financial Statements have been prepared as a going concern. The continued existence of the RTBG in its present form, undertaking its current activities, is dependent on Government

policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament for the RTBG's administration and activities.

These Financial Statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the RTBG's functional currency.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the RTBG in the preparation of the financial statements. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Adoption of New and Revised Accounting Standards

(a) Impact of new and revised Accounting Standards

In the current year, the RTBG has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current annual reporting period. These include:

Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income ('OCI')

The RTBG applied AASB 2011-9: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income (mandatorily applicable from 1 July 2012) for first time during the financial year. Consequently, the following changes to the presentation of the financial statements were made:

The title "Income Statement" was changed as "Statement of Profit or Loss" under the two-statement approach. Although other titles are also permitted the entity has decided to use the title "Statement of Profit or Loss".

The adoption of AASB 2011-9 only changed the presentation of the entity's financial statements and did not have any impact on the amounts reported for the current period or for any prior period in the entity's financial statements.

(b) Impact of new and revised Accounting Standards yet to be applied

The AASB has issued a number of new and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods, some of which are relevant to the entity. The entity has decided not to early adopt any of the new and amended pronouncements. The entity's assessment of the new and amended pronouncements that are relevant but applicable in future reporting periods is set out below:

- AASB 9: Financial Instruments (December 2010) and AASB 2010-7: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010) (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2013). The potential financial impact of the standard has not yet been determined.
- AASB 1053: Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards and AASB 2010-2: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 101, 102, 107, 108, 110, 111, 112, 116, 117, 119, 121, 123, 124, 127, 128, 131, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138, 140, 141, 1050 & 1052 and Interpretations 2, 4, 5, 15, 17, 127, 129 & 1052] (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing on or after 1 July 2013). The Standard does not have any financial impact on the entity. However, it may affect disclosures if reduced disclosure requirements apply.
- AASB 13: Fair Value Measurement and AASB 2011-8: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 13 (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2013). The potential financial impact of the standard has not yet been determined.
- AASB 2012-3: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2014). The potential financial impact of the standard has not yet been determined.
- AASB 2012-2: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosures – Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2013). The potential financial impact of the standard has not yet been determined.
- AASB 2012-5: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Annual Improvements 2009-2011 Cycle (applicable for annual reporting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2013). There is no expected financial impact.

Accounting Policies

(a) Income Tax

The RTBG is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax, Payroll Tax and Goods and Services Tax.

(b) Property, Infrastructure and Equipment

Plant and equipment is stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the item. The costs of self constructed assets includes the cost of materials and direct labour, any other costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to a working condition for its intended use, and the costs of dismantling and removing the items and restoring the site on which they are located. Purchased software that is integral to

the functionality of the related equipment is capitalised as part of that equipment. In the event that settlement of all or part of the purchase consideration is deferred, cost is determined by discounting the amounts payable in the future to their present value as at the date of acquisition. Depreciation is provided on property, plant and equipment, including freehold buildings but excluding land. Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis so as to write off the net cost or other revalued amount of each asset over its expected useful life to its estimated residual value. The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method is reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period.

The depreciation rates used for each class of asset are:

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate
Vehicles	10%
Computers	33%
Plant and Equipment	20%-33%
Shop Fittings	25%
Roads & Paths	4%
Walls	1%
Fences & Gates	4%
Buildings	2.5%
Discovery Centre Interpretation	20%
Pergolas and Gardens Features	4%
Ponds and Water Features	4%
Water Services & Irrigation	6.67%
Stormwater	3%
Sewer	3%
Utility Services Infrastructure	4%

Asset Recognition Threshold

The asset capitalisation threshold adopted by RTBG is \$10 000 plus any other assets where it is considered appropriate. Asset valued at less than \$10 000 are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the year of purchase (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

(c) Revaluation of Property and Infrastructure

Valuation Basis

All assets, with the exception of plant & equipment and computers are measured on the fair value basis. Fair value is determined on the basis of an independent valuation prepared by external valuation experts. The fair values are recognised in the financial statements of the entity, and are reviewed at the end of each reporting period to ensure that the carrying value of land and buildings is not materially different from their fair values.

Revaluation increments and decrements arising from recognising land and buildings at their fair values are offset against one another within the class of assets. Net revaluation increments in the carrying amounts of land and buildings are recognised directly

in the asset revaluation reserve, except to the extent that the increment reverses a decrement that was previously recognised as an expense in the net profit or loss in respect of the same class of assets, in which case the increment is recognised as revenue in net profit or loss. Net revaluation decrements in the carrying amounts of land and buildings are recognised as an expense in profit or loss, except to the extent that the decrement reverses a previous revaluation increment in respect of the same class of assets credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve, in which case the decrement is debited directly to reserve to the extent that a credit exists in respect of the same class of assets.

All other non-current physical assets are recorded at historic cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

RTBG adopted a revaluation threshold of \$50 000. Assets are revalued on a rolling program of five years. In accordance with AASB116 Property Plant and Equipment, in years between valuations, indices will be supplied by qualified valuers to index valuations to fair value. The revaluation cycle will continue with infrastructure assets to be valued next financial year. Assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure they reflect fair value at balance date.

(d) Employee Benefits

Employee benefits include entitlements to wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, superannuation and any other post-employment benefits.

Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave are recognised when an employee becomes entitled to receive a benefit. Those liabilities eligible to be taken within twelve months are measured as the amount expected to be paid. Other employee benefits are measured as the present value of the benefit at 30 June 2013, where the impact of discounting is material, and the amount expected to be paid is not material. A liability for long service leave is recognised, and is measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Sick leave entitlements are not vested in employees and are not considered to give rise to a liability therefore no provision is made.

Superannuation contributions are made by RTBG to various complying superannuation funds and are charged as expenses when incurred. Contributions made on behalf of employees appointed on or after 15th May 1999 are made in accordance with Public Sector Superannuation Reform Act 1999.

(e) Cash

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes Cash on Hand, Cash at Bank and short term deposits of 6 months or less.

(f) Revenue and Expenses

Revenue from government, whether recurrent or capital, are recognised as revenues in the period in which the RTBG

gains control of the appropriated funds. Grants payable by the Government are recognised as revenue when the RTBG gains control of the underlying assets. Where grants are reciprocal, revenue is recognised as performance occurs under the grant. Non-reciprocal grants are recognised as revenue when the grant is received or receivable. Conditional grants may be reciprocal or non-reciprocal depending on the terms of the grant.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer. Revenue from the provision of services is recognised upon the delivery of the service to customers.

Interest revenue is recognised on an accrual basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

(g) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax, except where the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount recoverable, or payable, to the Australian Taxation Office is recognised as an asset or liability within the Statement of Financial Position.

In the Statement of Cash Flows, the GST component of cash flows arising from operating, investing or financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office is, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, classified as operating cash flows.

(h) Payables

Payables, including goods received and services incurred but not yet invoiced, are recognised at amortised cost, which due to the short settlement period, equates to face value, when the RTBG becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services.

(i) Receivables

Receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any impairment losses, however, due to the short settlement period, receivables are not discounted back to their present value.

(j) Inventories

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(k) Disposal of Non-Current Assets

Gains or losses from the sale of non-current assets are recognised when control of the assets has passed to the buyer.

(l) Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(m) Impairment of Assets

All non-financial assets are assessed to determine whether any impairment exists. Impairment exists when the recoverable amount of an asset is less than its carrying amount. Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. The RTBG's assets are not used for the purpose of generating cash flows; therefore value in use is based on depreciated replacement cost where the asset would be replaced if deprived of it. All impairment losses are recognised in Statement of Comprehensive Income. In respect of other assets, impairment losses recognised in prior periods are assessed at each reporting date for any indications that the loss has decreased or no longer exists. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed 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.

(n) Judgements and Assumptions

In the application of Australian Accounting Standards, the RTBG is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. Judgements made by the RTBG that have significant effects on the Financial Statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the Financial Statements. This includes Note 1d for Employee Benefits. The RTBG has made no assumptions concerning the future that may cause a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

2013
\$

2012
\$

2 Remuneration and Retirement Benefits of Board

(a) Board Remuneration

Fees paid or payable to all Board members	3,979	7,200
Salary Band \$10,000 and above	-	-
Salary Band \$0 to \$9,999	1	2

The names of Board members who have held office during the financial year are:

Mr D Bugg (Chair)
Mr S Gadd
Mr R Viney
Ms N McKibben
Mr K Evans
Prof M Britz

In 2013 only one board member elected to be paid their remuneration.

(b) Retirement and Superannuation Payments

324 324

Amounts paid directly to a prescribed superannuation fund for the provision of retirement benefits for Ms N McKibben.

Other Related Party Transactions

There have been no related party transactions during the year, other than the disclosures relating to Board Remuneration above.

3 Auditor's Remuneration

The total of fees paid or due and payable to the Auditor-General for the financial year, is as follows:

Fees for Audit	12,020	11,560
	12,020	11,560

4 Receivables

CURRENT:		
Trade Debtors	99,630	69,117
Interest Due	817	605
GST Refund	-	7,013
	100,447	76,735
Less: Provision for Impairment	-	(1,940)
	100,447	74,795

The RTBG offers 30 days terms of trade and receivables that are neither past due nor impaired are considered to be of sound credit quality.

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
5 Inventories		
CURRENT:		
Retail stock - at cost	85,189	83,834
Restaurant stock - at cost	10,651	9,932
	<u>95,840</u>	<u>93,766</u>

6 Other Assets

CURRENT:		
Prepayments	-	3,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,000</u>

7 Property, Infrastructure and Equipment

Land at Fair Value:		
Valuer-General's Valuation	1,852,745	1,852,745
Less Revaluation	(124,134)	(124,134)
	<u>1,728,611</u>	<u>1,728,611</u>
Buildings at:		
Revaluation June 2013	4,549,593	5,714,250
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-	(169,520)
	<u>4,549,593</u>	<u>5,544,730</u>
Roads/Paths at:		
Revaluation June 2013	1,364,161	1,961,625
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-	(97,834)
	<u>1,364,161</u>	<u>1,863,791</u>
Walls at:		
Revaluation June 2013	1,645,569	2,640,325
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-	(27,724)
	<u>1,645,569</u>	<u>2,612,601</u>
Fences/Gates at:		
Revaluation June 2013	334,845	453,851
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-	(22,585)
	<u>334,845</u>	<u>431,266</u>
Pergolas/Garden Elements at:		
Revaluation June 2012	376,816	376,816
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(33,867)	(18,794)
	<u>342,949</u>	<u>358,022</u>
Ponds/Water Features at:		
Revaluation June 2012	711,012	711,012
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(63,899)	(35,459)
	<u>647,113</u>	<u>675,553</u>
Water Services/Irrigation at:		
Revaluation June 2012	430,097	430,097
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(76,100)	(45,993)
	<u>353,997</u>	<u>384,104</u>

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Stormwater at:		
Revaluation June 2013	99,040	402,004
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-	(13,482)
	<u>99,040</u>	<u>388,522</u>
Sewer at:		
Revaluation June 2012	451,767	451,767
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(29,458)	(15,905)
	<u>422,309</u>	<u>435,862</u>
Utility Services Infrastructure at:		
Revaluation June 2012	146,193	146,193
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(12,100)	(6,252)
	<u>134,093</u>	<u>139,941</u>
Plant and Equipment at Cost	693,972	666,385
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(589,117)	(538,822)
	<u>104,855</u>	<u>127,563</u>
Computers	89,893	89,893
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(87,506)	(85,015)
	<u>2,387</u>	<u>4,878</u>
Total Property, Infrastructure & Equipment	<u>11,729,522</u>	<u>14,695,444</u>

Land was revalued as at 30 June 2011 by the Valuer General. Buildings were revalued as at 30 June 2013 by a qualified valuer and quantity surveyor, Campbell Palfrey. Roads/paths, walls, fences/gates, and stormwater were also revalued as at 30 June 2013 by Campbell Palfrey. Pergolas/garden elements, ponds/water features, water services/irrigation, sewer and utility services infrastructure were revalued as at 30 June 2006 by Davis Langdon, quantity surveyors.

(a) Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of asset between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

2012	Balance at beginning of year	Additions	Disposals	Revaluation	Depreciation Expense	Write-off	Carrying Amount at end of year
Land	1,852,745			(124,134)			1,728,611
Buildings	5,700,000			14,250	(169,520)		5,544,730
Roads/Paths	1,956,732			4,892	(97,834)		1,863,790
Walls	2,633,741			6,584	(27,724)		2,612,601
Fences/Gates	452,719			1,132	(22,585)		431,266
Pergolas/Garden Elements	375,876			940	(18,794)		358,022
Ponds/Water Features	709,239			1,773	(35,459)		675,553
Water Services/Irrigation	429,024			1,073	(45,993)		384,104
Stormwater	401,001			1,003	(13,482)		388,522
Sewer	450,640			1,127	(15,905)		435,862
Utility Services Infrastructure	145,828			365	(6,252)		139,941
Plant & Equipment	122,946	46,256			(41,639)		127,563
Computers	4,097	3,755			(2,974)		4,878
	15,234,588	50,011	-	(90,995)	(498,161)	-	14,695,443

2013	Balance at beginning of year	Additions	Disposals	Revaluation	Depreciation Expense	Impairment	Carrying Amount at end of year
Land	1,728,611						1,728,611
Buildings	5,544,730			(852,281)	(142,856)		4,549,593
Roads/Paths	1,863,790			(421,165)	(78,465)		1,364,160
Walls	2,612,601			(940,629)	(26,403)		1,645,569
Fences/Gates	431,266			(78,267)	(18,154)		334,845
Pergolas/Garden Elements	358,022				(15,073)		342,949
Ponds/Water Features	675,553				(28,440)		647,113
Water Services/Irrigation	384,104				(30,107)		353,997
Stormwater	388,522			(277,422)	(12,060)		99,040
Sewer	435,862				(13,553)		422,309
Discovery Centre Interpretation	-				-		-
Utility Services Infrastructure	139,941				(5,848)		134,093
Plant & Equipment	127,563	27,587	-		(50,295)		104,855
Computers	4,878				(2,489)		2,389
	14,695,443	27,587	-	(2,569,764)	(423,743)	-	11,729,523

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
8 Trade and Other Payables		
Trade Creditors	58,454	125,982
Accrued Expenses	34,989	8,897
Payroll Accruals	55,668	69,961
GST Payable on June 2013 BAS	34,344	-
TOTAL	183,455	204,840

9 Provisions

CURRENT		
Annual Leave	117,306	136,282
Long Service Leave	135,083	228,101
TOTAL	252,389	364,383
NON-CURRENT		
Annual Leave	57,777	68,141
Long Service Leave	131,655	109,157
TOTAL	189,432	177,298

10 Cash

Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

Cash on Hand	5,300	4,300
Cash at Bank	585,029	170,044
Cash at Bank - undeposited funds	-	-
Term Deposits	126,970	114,190
	717,299	288,534

11 Segment Information

The entity operates principally in one industry segment being the management of all functions particular to the operations of a botanic gardens wholly within the State of Tasmania.

12 Grant Commitments

These items have been included in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the relevant years the grants were received. The grant monies are spent as specified in the appropriate grant deed and this is not necessarily within the year the money is received.

The items mentioned below are the unspent proportion for this financial year.

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Bequest	105,448	100,863
Bequest Project	7,240	7,240
Feeding the Future	-	10,231
Feeding the Future Guild	-	4,686
NRM Grant	2,760	6,720
Seed Orchard Project	2,092	3,013
Australian Orchard Foundation	2,500	2,500
Azorella Conservation Fund	21,522	13,327
Fuchsia House Redevelopment Project	-	30,000
Inspiring Australia Grant	12,465	20,000
CFC Alpine Project	3,217	-
Phytophthora cinnamomi Project	12,711	-
MSB Miena Cider Gum Project	4,706	-
Growing Orchids Project	1,000	-
Hermon Slade Foundation Grant	13,000	-
Living Learning Centre	351,000	-
Tasmanian Community Food Garden	127,549	-
IT Equipment	46,700	-
TOTAL	713,910	198,580

13 Operating Lease Commitments

Not later than 1 year	62,712	67,549
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	61,237	124,094
Later than 5 years	-	-
Total Lease Commitments	123,949	191,643

The operating lease commitments include electric vehicles, machinery and office equipment leases. All amounts are shown exclusive of GST. The RTBG currently has no other material commitments to disclose.

14 Contingent Assets & Liabilities

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position due to uncertainty regarding the amount or timing of the underlying claim or obligation. The RTBG currently has a contingent asset by way of an outstanding insurance claim settlement following a flood in the Visitor Centre in June 2013. The expected settlement is around \$40,000.

15 Economic Dependency

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens derives its revenue principally from Government funding.

16 Events Occuring After Balance Date

There have been no significant events subsequent to balance date which would materially alter the financial results shown in these financial statements.

17 Cash Flow Information

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<i>Reconciliations of Cash Flows from Ordinary Activities</i>		
Operations with Operating Result		
Net operating balance	240,310	(501,212)
Non Cash Flows in Operating Surplus		
Depreciation	423,743	498,159
Net (Profit) Loss on Disposal Non-Current Assets	-	-
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
(Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	(32,665)	(41,525)
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventories	(2,074)	7,558
Movement in Provisions	(161,592)	30,405
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments	3,000	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors & Accruals	(14,372)	33,659
Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	456,350	27,044

18 Financial Instruments

Risk management policies

The RTBG has exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments:

- credit risk;
- liquidity risk; and
- market risk.

The Director has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the RTBG's risk management framework. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse risks faced by the RTBG, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits.

(i) Credit risk exposures

"Credit risk is the financial loss to the RTBG if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations. The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the Financial Statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the RTBG's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking into account of any collateral or other security.

There has been no change to credit risk policy since the previous reporting period.

Based on historic payment behaviour and analysis of the underlying customers' credit ratings the RTBG currently believes that all debts due and payable at reporting date will be received, therefore no provision has been made for impairment.

The RTBG undertakes credit transactions with a large number of customers thereby avoiding the credit risk."

(ii) Liquidity risk

"Liquidity risk is the risk that the RTBG will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The RTBG's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due.

Financial liabilities comprising accounts payable amounting to \$58,454 (2012: \$204,840), as disclosed in the balance sheet, all have a maturity period of less than 1 year."

"The RTBG, analyses its liquidity requirements daily via reconciliation of its operating bank account and analysis of upcoming accounts payable transactions.

The RTBG expects that all payables accrued as at 30th June 2013 will be paid within 30 days."

(iii) Market Risk

"Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The primary market risk that the RTBG is exposed to is interest rate risk.

There has been no change to policies in relation to market risk since the previous reporting period.

At the reporting date, the interest rate profile of the RTBG's interest bearing financial instruments was:"

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Variable rate instruments		
Assets		
Cash	717,299	284,234
Total	717,299	284,234

Changes in the variable rates of 100 basis points at reporting date would have the following effect on the RTBG's profit or loss and equity:

Sensitivity analysis of the RTBG's exposure to possible changes in interest rates.

	Profit or Loss		Equity	
	100 Basis Point increase \$	100 Basis Point decrease \$	100 Basis Point increase \$	100 Basis Point decrease \$
30 June 2013				
Cash	7,172	(7,172)	7,172	(7,172)
Net sensitivity	7,172	(7,172)	7,172	(7,172)
30 June 2012				
Cash	2,842	(2,842)	2,842	(2,842)
Net sensitivity	2,842	(2,842)	2,842	(2,842)

All financial assets are unsecured.

The carrying amounts of financial assets included in the statement of financial position represent the RTBG's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to these assets. Where the RTBG has a right of set-off and intends to settle on a net basis, this set off has been reflected in the financial statements in accordance with accounting standards.

Net Fair Values

The net fair values for financial assets and liabilities approximates their carrying value. Financial assets consist of Cash and Trade and Other Receivables. Financial liabilities consist of Trade and other Payables.

19 Reserves

	Property & Infrastructure \$	Total \$
2013		
Asset Revaluation Reserve		
Balance at 1 July 2012	14,433,226	14,433,226
Revaluation Increments	(2,569,764)	(2,569,764)
Balance at 30 June 2013	11,863,462	11,863,462
2012		
Asset Revaluation Reserve		
Balance at 1 July 2011	14,524,223	14,524,223
Revaluation Increments	(90,997)	(90,997)
Balance at 30 June 2012	14,433,226	14,433,226

20 Additional Information

The principal place of business for the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens is located at Queens Domain, Hobart, Tasmania.

